

## HAMILTON NOTES

- New Zealand becomes the 12th different country to host the HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series.
  - All four teams who played in last year's Women's Fast Four Tournament in Hamilton return for the first Women's Sevens Series event to be played in New Zealand.
- Only two teams have won a Women's Series event on home soil, with Australia in Sydney in 2018 and USA in Glendale this season both claiming the Cup title as host nation.
- New Zealand won last year's Women's Fast Four Tournament in Hamilton, winning all four matches, and only conceding three tries and 19 points overall.
  - They held two of their three opponents scoreless, including France in the Cup final, with England the only team to restrict the Black Ferns Sevens to less than 20 points in a match.
- New Zealand have won the past two, and six of the past nine Women's Series events since the start of the 2019 Series.
  - They are one of only two teams in Women's Series history to win three or more consecutive Cup finals alongside Australia (2015-16).
  - They have achieved this on three separate occasions, winning six straight tournaments between 2013-14 and 2014-15, four consecutive in 2016-17, and six in a row between 2018 and 2019 series.
- No player has scored 10 or more tries at a single Women's Series event since Portia Woodman in Glendale last season, nine tournaments ago. This is the longest streak of Women's Series events without a double-digit total.

### Winning the inaugural event in a host country

SERIES	LOCATION	COUNTRY	CUP WINNER	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2020	Cape Town	RSA	New Zealand	Australia
2016-17	Kitakyushu	JPN	New Zealand	Canada
2016-17	Sydney	AUS	Canada	USA
2015-16	Clermont-Ferrand	FRA	Canada	Australia
2014-15	London	ENG	Australia	Canada
2014-15	Langford	CAN	New Zealand	Russia
2013-14	Sao Paulo	BRA	Australia	New Zealand
2012-13	Amsterdam	NED	New Zealand	South Africa
2012-13	China	CHN	New Zealand	England
2012-13	Houston	USA	England	USA
2012-13	Dubai	UAE	New Zealand	South Africa

## KEY TEAM STATS

- **Australia** have scored the second-most tries of any team so far this season with 76, 11 more than their total after the opening three events last season.
  - They have reached the Cup final in two of the three events so far this season, the same number as they did in the entire 2019 Series. They are one of only two teams alongside New Zealand to reach the Cup semi-finals in all three events this season.
  - They will be chasing their first Cup title since Sydney in 2018, earning six silver medals in their subsequent Cup final appearances since then, the most of any team in this period.
  - Australia are yet to concede more than 10 tries in a tournament this season, with 29 overall, the second least of any team.
  - They will look to improve their discipline after conceding the second-most penalties of any team in Cape Town with 24. They have now conceded 21 or more penalties in each of their past two events after only 16 in Glendale.
  - They made the most line-breaks of any team in Cape Town with 29, and are averaging a season-high 4.7 per game.
  - Australia ended a three-match losing streak against USA with a 19-14 victory in Cape Town. They will be chasing back-to-back wins against the Eagles Women's Sevens since they won six-straight between 2015-16 and 2018.
  - Australia are enjoying a 12-game winning streak against Russia dating back to Amsterdam in 2014-15. Their 38-0 win in their last meeting in Glendale was the largest in the history of this fixture.
  - Australia have restricted Brazil to one try or less in 11 of their previous 12 Women's Series matches. This will be their first meeting since Langford last season.
- **Brazil's** only victory from their 12 games this season came against Japan in Dubai.
  - They have scored at least one try in eight of their 12 games this season.
  - They will look to improve their discipline after conceding the most yellow-cards of any team this season with six.
  - They are conceding on average the second-most penalties per game of any core team this season with 4.3.
  - They are the only team this season to have kicked 100 per cent of their conversion attempts (10/10).
  - They have scored just one try in their past three matches against Australia.
  - They have won two of their past three matches against Russia, both by five points in Clermont-Ferrand in 2016-17 and Langford in 2018.
  - They have been held scoreless in six of their previous nine matches against USA. They have only crossed the USA try-line in Dubai (three occasions).

- **Canada** produced a much-improved defensive effort in Cape Town, conceding 11 tries compared to their average of 15.5 across their first two tournaments. They averaged the least missed tackles of any team, 3.3 per game, and restricted their opposition to 17 points or less in all six matches.
  - They have scored 20 or more tries in all three tournaments this season, scoring 65 tries overall their joint-second most after the opening three events in their history.
  - They have only scored 20 or more tries in the first four tournaments of a season once in their history (2014-15).
  - Canada have not topped their pool since Kitakyushu last season, six tournaments ago.
  - Canada played France twice in Cape Town, losing their pool match 14-12 ending a 14-game win streak in this fixture dating back to Langford in 2015-16, before winning the bronze final 22-17. Their past two, and five of their past six meetings have been close, decided by a converted try or less.
  - Canada have won 15 of their past 16 games against Spain, with their only loss in this period coming in the 5th-place play-off in Glendale this season.
  - Canada have won their past three, and seven of their past eight games against Ireland, with their last loss coming in Sydney in 2019.
- **China** are the invitational team this weekend, returning to Hamilton after competing in the Women's Fast Four Tournament last year, and drawn in the same pool as two of their three opponents they faced at FMG Stadium Waikato in 2019.
  - This will be their 19th Women's Series tournament overall.
  - There were only two events last season where China won more than one match, winning two games in Dubai and Biarritz.
    - They won their last pool match 15-14 against Fiji in Biarritz, ending a 17-game losing streak at this stage. They have never won consecutive pool matches in Women's Series history.
  - Their past two, and five of their past six matches against Fiji have been tightly contested, decided by a converted try or less.
  - China have never scored a Women's Series point against the Black Ferns Sevens, held scoreless in all eight previous meetings.
  - China are chasing their first Women's Series victory against England, and will be looking to end a two-game scoreless streak against them.
- **England** will look to improve their restart retention rate, after failing to win back possession from their own kick-off in two of the three tournaments so far this season (Glendale and Cape Town), with just 4.4 per cent overall.
  - After making 21 line-breaks in Glendale, they have only made 11 in each of the past two tournaments.
  - They are chasing two pool stage victories in a single tournament for the first time this season. Last year they achieved this on four occasions, in Glendale, Dubai, Kitakyushu, and Langford.

- They have not topped their pool in the past eight tournaments.
- England meet Fiji for the first time this season, after winning only one of their three meetings in the 2019 Series, 35-15 in Kitakyushu.
- England will be looking to end a 15-game Women's Series losing streak against Pool A opponents New Zealand.
  - They conceded a seven-point half-time lead against the Black Ferns Sevens in their last meeting in the Cup quarter-finals in Cape Town to lose 26-21 in extra-time. They have not won this fixture since the Cup final in Langford in 2015-16, and have only beaten New Zealand in the pool stages once in 15 previous meetings, in Houston in 2012-13.
- England have held China scoreless in their past two, and three of their past five meetings, outscoring them 203-17 in this period.
- **Fiji** are undefeated in four of their past five pool matches, with three wins and a draw since Dubai. Last season they won just two of their 18 pool games played.
  - Despite averaging the joint-most missed tackles per game Cape Town (7.5), their defence conceded the joint-fifth least tries of any team in the tournament (12). Since Glendale, they have conceded fewer tries at each event, with 18 at Infinity Park, 15 in Dubai and 12 in Cape Town.
  - They are 20 tries away from reaching 500 Women's Series tries, becoming the eighth team to reach this milestone.
  - They have made 30 or more offloads in each of their past two tournaments, and are averaging a season-high 7.7 per game.
- **France** were the top try-scoring team in Cape Town with 26, the first time in Women's Series history they scored the most of any team at a single event.
  - Their 26 tries set a new French record for most tries in a single tournament, two more than their previous best of 24 in Langford in 2018 and Sydney in 2019.
  - They enjoyed the best restart retention rate of any team in Cape Town with a tournament-high 29.6 per cent, an increase from 11.5 per cent in Glendale and 6.7 per cent in Dubai.
  - France have topped their pool in their past three events for the first time in Women's Series history. They have reached the Cup semi-finals in eight of the past 14 events, compared to seven times in the first 26 tournaments.
  - They were the most ill-disciplined team in Cape Town, conceding a tournament-high 25 penalties, the most of any team in a single event this season.
  - They made the most offloads (36) and second-most line-breaks (27) of any team in Cape Town. Their 36 offloads were the most by any team in a single tournament this season.
  - They enjoy the third-highest success rate in front of goal of any core team this season, kicking 67.2 per cent of their conversion attempts.

- **Ireland** need to increase their try-scoring rate after crossing for just eight in Dubai and five in Cape Town, compared to 10 in Glendale. This is the first time they have scored single figure totals in consecutive events since 2015-16.
  - They will look to improve their ball retention after averaging a joint tournament-high 9.8 errors per game in Cape Town.
  - They enjoy the second-highest success-rate in front of goal of any core team this season, kicking 69.6 per cent of their conversion attempts.
  - They are the most penalised team this season, conceding 58 in total at an average of 4.5 per game.
  - They have won just one of their nine pool games this season, defeating Brazil 28-7 in Glendale. Last season they won seven of their 18 pool matches played.
  - They have lost their past two matches against Pool C opponents Spain by exactly the same score-line (12-10). They have never lost three straight Women's Series games against Spain.
- **New Zealand** have scored the most tries of any team this season with 79, and are the only team to score more than 30 tries in a single tournament this series with 32 in Glendale.
  - They scored 19 tries in four games at last year's Women's Fast Four Tournament in Hamilton, only eight less than other three teams combined.
  - They are averaging the second-most line-breaks per game of any team this season with 4.3. Cape Town was the first tournament this season where they did not make the most line-breaks of any team, with 20 overall the fourth-most of any side.
  - They have conceded the least tries of any core team this season (27), including the joint-least of any team in Cape Town with seven.
  - New Zealand are the most disciplined core team this season, averaging a competition-low 2.8 penalties per game. However they were the third most penalised team in Cape Town conceding 23, only four less than Glendale and Dubai combined.
  - They have produced the joint-most half-time come-backs this season alongside Spain, winning three games when behind at the break. Last season they lost all three matches when behind at half-time.
  - They will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal, only kicking 60 per cent of their conversion attempts this season, the fifth lowest of any core team.
  - They have never lost a Women's Series match against two of their Pool A opposition, enjoying 100 per cent winning records against China and Fiji.
  - They have lost only one pool match this season, against France in Dubai, and have not lost more than one pool game in a single season since 2015-16 when they were defeated by Russia in Dubai and USA in Atlanta.
  - They have outscored England 76-12 across both meetings this season.

- **Russia** are one win away from their 100th Women's Series victory, becoming the seventh team to reach this milestone.
  - They have been held scoreless in each of their past two matches, and have never failed to score in three straight matches in Women's Series history.
  - They have conceded the third-most tries of any team this season with 49, 11 more than at the same stage last season.
  - After making 30 offloads in Glendale, they have made 31 combined across Dubai and Cape Town, but are still averaging the third-most of any team this season with 4.7.
  - They will be looking to end a five-game losing streak against Pool B opponents USA. They have not tasted victory against the Eagles Women's Sevens since the Cup quarter-finals in Sydney in 2018.
  - They meet Australia in the pool stages for the first time since Glendale last season, with the past three matches all knock-out fixtures. They have never beaten Australia in a pool game, with both Women's Series victories coming in Cup quarter-finals.
- **Spain** have made the joint-most half-time comebacks of any team this season alongside New Zealand, winning three games when trailing at the break.
  - They only won two matches when behind at half-time last season.
  - They have the lowest success-rate of any core team in front of goal this season, kicking just 53.1 per cent of their conversion attempts.
  - After making 23 line-breaks in Glendale, they have made just 17 combined across Dubai and Cape Town.
  - Their defence is improving with each tournament, conceding 13 tries in Cape Town compared to 19 in Glendale and 14 in Dubai. They have also improved their tackle completion from 61 per cent in Glendale to 68 per cent in Cape Town.
  - They were the least penalised team in Cape Town, conceding a tournament-low 13, and are averaging the third-least penalties of any core team this season with 3.2 per game.
- **USA** failed to reach the Cup semi-finals in Cape Town, ending their streak of eight consecutive events. They have not failed to reach this stage in back-to-back tournaments since Sydney and Kitakyushu in 2018.
  - They have lost their past two games, and are looking to avoid losing three in a row for the first time since the 2018 series when they lost six straight between Sydney and Kitakyushu.
  - They conceded the joint-least tries of any team in Cape Town with seven alongside New Zealand.
  - They are averaging the third most line-breaks of any team this season with 3.9 per game, but only made 13 in Cape Town, their least in a tournament this season.
  - Five of their eight previous pool matches against Australia have been closely contested, decided by a converted try or less.

## KEY PLAYER STATS

- Australia's **Emma Tonegato** and Canada's **Bianca Farella** have scored the joint-most doubles this season with five each. **Tonegato** has scored a double in each of her past two matches against Pool B opponents Russia.
- Captain **Sharni Williams** will become Australia's most capped Women's Series player in her 34<sup>th</sup> tournament.
- Australia's **Emilee Cherry** returns for the first time since Rugby World Cup Sevens in 2018, where she played her last match against Pool B opponents USA in the bronze final.
  - She was the series leading try-scorer in 2013-14 with 33, and has been Australia's top try-scorer in four of the past seven seasons.
- Brazil's **Thalia Costa** has scored five of her team's 11 tries this season.
- Brazil's **Raquel Kochhann** has not missed a conversion attempt this season, kicking all 10 shots at goal.
- Canada's **Bianca Farella** requires one more try to become only the second player after Portia Woodman to score 150 Women's Series tries.
- China's 13th player **Lyu Hewen** was their leading point (12) and try (2) scorer at last year's Women's Fast Four Tournament in Hamilton.
- **Deborah Fleming** needs two more tries to become only the second English player to reach 50 Women's Series tries after Joanne Watmore.
- France's **S raphine Okemba** was the joint-leading try-scorer in Cape Town with six. She was also named the DHL Impact Player, becoming only the second French player to receive this award after Camille Grassineau in Langford in 2018.
- New Zealand's **Stacey Fluhler** was the leading try-scorer at the Women's Fast Four tournament in Hamilton last year, scoring a hat-trick in both matches against France and making the most line-breaks of any player with seven.
  - She has scored the second-most tries of any player this season with 16, while also making the most line-breaks (22), and third most offloads (13) and carries (61) of any player.
  - She has scored four tries in her past three matches against Pool A opponents England, including a hat-trick in Dubai.
- **Tyla Nathan-Wong** requires 33 points to become New Zealand's all-time leading point scorer, surpassing Portia Woodman.
- USA's **Alev Kelter** scored the joint-most tries of any player in Cape Town with six. She has scored at least one try in her past five, and eight of her past nine games. She has never scored in six straight matches.
  - She enjoys a good strike rate against Pool B opponents Australia with five tries in her past four games against them.
  - She has made the most carries (77) and second-most line-breaks (16) of any player this season.