

## SYDNEY NOTES

- Bankwest Stadium becomes the fourth venue to be used in hosting the HSBC Sydney Sevens after Allianz Stadium in 2016-17 and 2018, Kippax Field in 2016-17, and Spotless Stadium at the Olympic precinct in 2019.
- There have been three different champions at each of the past three HSBC Sydney Sevens, with no team able to successfully defend their Cup title.
  - Australia and New Zealand have contested the past two Cup finals in Sydney. No single location in Women's Series history has featured the same two teams in three-straight Cup finals.
- New Zealand are the defending champions in Sydney, and will be looking to become the first time team to successfully defend their Cup title in Australia.
  - They have previously won back-to-back titles in Dubai, Langford, Atlanta, Guangzhou, Kitakyushu and Amsterdam.
  - New Zealand conceded just six tries in Sydney last year, the least by any team in a single tournament in 2019.
- Only three teams have won a Women's Series event on home soil, with Australia in Sydney in 2018, USA in Glendale and New Zealand in Hamilton this season claiming the Cup title as host nation.
- Australia hold the record for most tries in a single Women's Sevens Series event in Sydney, scoring 35 in 2018.
- The record for most tournament tries scored in Sydney is 199, set in 2018.
- No player has scored 10 or more tries at a single Women's Series event since Portia Woodman in Glendale last season, 10 tournaments ago. This is the longest streak of Women's Series events without a double-digit total.
  - Woodman holds the Women's Series record for most tries at a single HSBC Sydney Sevens event, scoring 13 in 2018.
- The Black Ferns Sevens lead the series standings by 12 points at the halfway mark. The number one ranked team at this point in the season has gone on to win the series title in each of the past seven HSBC Women's World Rugby Sevens Series.

### Past champions in Sydney

SERIES	LOCATION	CUP WINNER	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL	MARGIN
2019	Spotless Stadium	New Zealand	Australia (34-10)	24
2018	Allianz Stadium	Australia	New Zealand (31-0)	31
2016-17	Allianz Stadium/ Kippax Field	Canada	USA (21-17)	4

## KEY TEAM STATS

- **Australia** have not won a Women's Series event since Sydney in 2018, 14 tournaments ago, and their longest Cup title drought.
  - They have lost their past six Cup finals since their victory in Sydney, with New Zealand responsible for five of these defeats.
  - Australia conceded 13 tries in Hamilton, their most in a single tournament this season.
  - They are one of only two teams, alongside New Zealand, to reach the Cup semi-finals in all four tournaments this season.
    - Australia have topped their pool in all three previous tournaments on home soil, and are one of only two teams, alongside New Zealand, to have done so in all four events this season.
  - Australia's 24-match winning streak against France came to an end in Hamilton with a 19-14 loss in the bronze final, their first defeat in this fixture.
  - Australia have won their past three, and nine of their past 10 matches against Spain, restricting them to one try or less in seven of these nine victories. They have not conceded a point against Spain on home soil, outscoring them 77-0 across their past three meetings in Sydney.
  - Australia are enjoying a 15-game winning streak against Ireland dating back to Guangzhou in 2013-14. They have outscored them 67-5 across both meetings this season, and have not conceded more than one try in this fixture since Sydney last year, six games ago.
- **Brazil** scored eight tries in Hamilton, more than their combined total from Cape Town and Dubai (seven), and their most in any Women's Series event since Langford in 2018 (12).
  - They return to Australia for the first time since the inaugural HSBC Sydney Sevens in 2016-17, where they won the Challenge Trophy.
  - They will be looking to end an eight-game losing streak, with their only victory this season coming against Japan in the 11<sup>th</sup> place play-off in Dubai.
  - After averaging the second-most penalties per game of any core team this season (4.3) prior to Hamilton, they conceded a tournament-low five penalties in total last weekend.
  - They are yet to miss a conversion this season, timing out twice to keep their accuracy rate at 100 per cent when they have made an attempt.
  - They are chasing their first Women's Series win against two of their three Pool B opponents Canada and USA.
    - They are yet to score a point against Canada this season from two previous meetings in Dubai and Cape Town.
  - They will be looking to end a six-game losing streak against Fiji, with their only victory coming in Sao Paulo in 2014-15.

- **Canada** won the inaugural HSBC Sydney Sevens in 2016-17, defeating USA in the Cup final in one of only three in Women's Series history not to feature Australia or New Zealand.
  - Canada have played two Cup finals this season, and are looking to reach this stage in three tournaments for the first time since 2016-17, and just the second time in their history.
  - They will look to improve their accuracy with ball in hand after averaging the most handling errors of any team in Hamilton with nine per game, an increase of 32 per cent on their prior season average.
  - Canada enjoy the second-highest tackle completion of any team this season with 77.4 per cent. They have conceded just 23 tries across their past two tournaments, compared to 31 in Glendale and Dubai combined.
  - Canada made 26 offloads in Hamilton, their most in a single tournament this season, and the third-most of any team at the HSBC New Zealand Sevens.
  - Canada ended a three-game losing streak against USA in their last meeting in Cape Town, with a 15-14 victory in the Cup quarter-finals. This has been a closely fought fixture in recent times, with five of their past seven meetings decided by five points or less.
    - Their 34-10 loss against USA in the pool rounds in Dubai this season was their first against their North American rivals at this stage of a tournament, and their largest losing margin against any team in a pool match in Women's Series history.
  - They are enjoying an eight-game winning streak against Fiji dating back to the start of the 2018 Series, the longest in the history of this fixture.
- **England**, who failed to win back possession from their own kick-off in Cape Town, showed huge improvement in Hamilton with the second-highest success-rate of any team at 25 per cent.
  - After conceding 22 penalties in Cape Town, the joint-fourth most, they conceded the fourth-least of any team in Hamilton with 11.
  - England have won their past three, and four of their past five matches against Japan, with their only loss in the past two seasons in Sydney in 2018.
  - England will be looking to end a 16-game Women's Series losing streak against Pool A opponents New Zealand.
    - 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 16 previous meetings, in Houston in 2012-13.
  - England played out a high-scoring loss in their last meeting against Russia, with a 60-point combined total in their 38-22 defeat in Glendale this season, the highest in the history of this fixture.
- **Fiji** made a tournament-high 31 offloads in Hamilton, and are averaging a season-high 7.7 per game, including 30 or more in each of the past three tournaments.
  - They have earned more series points after four events (26) this season than they did across the entire 2019 Series (21).

- After conceding 19 or more penalties in each of the past two tournaments, they conceded just nine in Hamilton, the second-least of any team.
- Fiji made 16 line-breaks in Hamilton, their most in a single tournament this season.
- They have scored more tries in the past two events combined (26) than across the opening two events (17) of this season.
- Fiji will play Brazil for the first time this season. They have won the past six, and seven of their previous eight meetings, scoring 31 points or more in four of these seven victories.
- **France** finished third in Hamilton, earning their first Women's Series medal since silver in Kitakyushu in 2018, 13 tournaments ago.
  - They have made nearly twice as many offloads in the past two tournaments (64) than they did in Glendale and Dubai combined (36).
  - They have reached the Cup semi-finals in three of the four tournaments this season, and are chasing four appearances at this stage of an event in a single season for the first time.
    - They have never played a Cup semi-final in Australia.
  - They have been the most ill-disciplined team across the past three events, conceding the most penalties of any team in Dubai, Cape Town and Hamilton, including a season-high 26 last weekend.
  - After enjoying the highest restart retention rate of any team in Cape Town with 29.9 per cent, they won just 10.5 per cent of their kick-offs in Hamilton, the fourth-least of any team.
  - They enjoy the third-highest success rate in front of goal of any core team this season kicking 69.3 per cent of their conversion attempts.
  - France are enjoying a 13-game winning streak against Spain dating back to Amsterdam in 2014-15. All three victories this season have been by 19 points or more.
  - France have never lost a Women's Series game against Ireland, restricting them to one try or less in 10 of their 14 victories.
  - France recorded their first Women's Series victory against Australia in the bronze final in Hamilton. This has been a closely fought fixture in recent times, with the past two, and six of their past nine meetings since the start of the 2018 Series decided by a converted try or less.
- **Ireland** showed improvement in defence in Hamilton, conceding 14 tries, their least in a tournament this season, and increasing their tackle completion rate to 73.8 per cent from their season-average of 66.3 per cent prior to this event.
  - They will look to improve their strike-rate after scoring in only 50 per cent of their visits to the opposition-22 in Hamilton.
  - They enjoy the second-highest success-rate in front of goal of any core team this season, kicking 73.3 per cent of their conversion attempts. They have missed only one shot at goal in each of the past two events.

- They have won just one of their 12 pool games this season, with victory against Brazil in Glendale. Their nine consecutive losses at this stage of a tournament is their second longest streak in Women's Series history after losing 10-straight between Dubai and Langford in 2015-16.
- They produced their first half-time comeback of the season in Hamilton, defeating Brazil 26-19 after trailing 14-7 at the break.
- **Japan** are the invitational team in Sydney, playing only their second Women's Series event in Australia after making their last appearance in 2018.
  - This will be their 20th Women's Series tournament overall, and third this season after also playing in Glendale (10<sup>th</sup>) and Dubai (12<sup>th</sup>).
  - They have won just one of their nine matches this season, defeating Fiji 21-19 in the 9<sup>th</sup> place semi-final in Glendale.
    - They will be looking to end a 13-game losing streak in the pool stages.
  - Japan have been held scoreless in two of their past three matches against the Black Ferns Sevens, being outscored 131-7 since Kitakyushu last year.
  - Japan have lost their past three matches against England, with their last victory coming in Sydney in 2018.
- **New Zealand** are looking to successfully defend their Cup title at the same location for the second time this season after also going back-to-back in Dubai.
  - They scored a tournament-high 25 tries in Hamilton. They are the only team this season to have scored 20 or more tries at all four events.
  - They have been the leading try-scoring team in three of the four events this series (Glendale, Dubai and Hamilton).
  - After winning in Dubai, Cape Town and Hamilton, they are chasing their fourth straight Cup title. They have won four or more consecutive events on three previous occasions, but not in the same season since 2016-17.
  - They have conceded the least tries of any team this season with 34, and are the only side not to have conceded more than 10 tries in a single tournament.
    - They enjoy the best tackle completion rate of any team this season with 79.1 per cent.
    - They have restricted their opposition to one try or less in 12 of their 24 games this season.
  - They are one of only two teams this season, alongside Australia, to reach the Cup semi-finals in all four tournaments.
    - They are the only team to have medalled in all four tournaments this season. This is the first time they have achieved this inside the opening four events of a season since 2016-17, and the fourth time in Women's Series history.
    - They have reached the Cup semi-finals in all three events in Sydney.
  - New Zealand made a tournament-high 23 line-breaks in Hamilton, and are averaging the second-most per game of any team this season with 4.4.

- 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.
- **Russia** have not reached a Cup semi-final since Sydney in 2018, 14 tournaments ago, the last time they topped their pool at any Women's Series event.
  - They scored 12 tries in Hamilton, their most at an event this season since Glendale (16 tries).
  - They are undefeated in seven of their nine pool matches in Sydney, with six wins and a draw across their past three events on Australian soil.
  - They will be looking to end a 15-game winless streak against New Zealand dating back to Sao Paulo in 2015-16, with 14 losses and one draw in this period.
    - They have been held scoreless in four of their past eight games against the Black Ferns Sevens since the start of last season.
    - In their 27<sup>th</sup> Women's Series meeting, this will be the first time they have played each other in Australia.
- **Spain** will look to improve their try-scoring rate in Sydney after crossing for just four in Hamilton.
  - They were unable to retain possession from their own kick-off last weekend, the first tournament this season where they have failed to do so.
  - They face Ireland in Pool C, the only team they have defeated on multiple occasions this season, in Hamilton and Dubai. Their current three-game winning streak dates back to Biarritz, and is their longest in this fixture.
  - After defeating Australia 15-14 in the Cup quarter-finals in Biarritz, they have been unable to record another victory in this fixture, losing all three matches this season, and being outscored 90-10.
- After medalling in the first two events this season, **USA** have failed to reach the Cup semi-finals in each of the past two events.
  - They have medalled in two of their past three events in Sydney, earning silver in 2016-17 and bronze last year.
  - They have only topped their pool once this season, in Dubai, after achieving this on three occasions in 2019.
    - They have never topped their pool in Sydney.
  - They have conceded the second-least tries of any core team this season (38), including the joint-least in each of the past two tournaments with seven.
  - They won a tournament-high 45 per cent of their own restarts in Hamilton, the highest success-rate of any team at a single event this season. They have been the best team at retaining possession from their own kick-off in three of the four tournaments overall this season.
  - They made 26 offloads in Hamilton, their most in a tournament this season.

## KEY PLAYER STATS

- **Ellia Green** scored her sixth Women's Series hat-trick last weekend in Hamilton, equalling Emilee Cherry's Australian record.
  - She holds the Australian record for most tries in Sydney with 16, and is the only player from her country to score a hat-trick on home soil (twice).
- Brazil's **Thalia Costa** has scored eight of the team's 19 tries this season.
- Brazil's **Raquel Kochhann** has not missed a conversion attempt this season, kicking all 17 shots at goal.
- **Deborah Fleming** needs one more tries to become only the second English player to reach 50 Women's Series tries after Joanne Watmore.
- Ireland's **Amee-Leigh Murphy Crowe** was the leading try-scorer in Sydney last year with nine. She has struggled to recapture last season's form, not scoring more than four tries in a single tournament this series.
- New Zealand's **Stacey Fluhler** has been the leading or joint-leading try-scorer in two of the four events so far this season.
  - She is currently on a five-game try-scoring streak.
  - She has scored the most tries of any player this season with 25, while also making the most line-breaks (29), and third-most carries (80) of any player.
  - She has scored six tries in her past four matches against Pool A opponents England, including a hat-trick in Dubai.
  - She was named HSBC Player of the Final in Sydney last year, and has earned this award in two of the four Cup finals this season (Dubai and Hamilton).
- **Kelly Brazier** is leading New Zealand's tactical kicking this season, with a tournament-high 19 kicks in play. She has already made more kicks this season than the 2019 Series leader Daria Lushina (14 kicks) after just four events.
- New Zealand's **Michaela Blyde** is the Women's Series leading try-scorer in Sydney with 22, including a record five doubles and two hat-tricks.
  - She made the most carries (21), most line-breaks (nine), and scored the joint most tries (nine) of any player in Hamilton.
- USA's **Alev Kelter** is enjoying the longest try-scoring streak of her career, with at least one try in each of her past nine games. There are only four matches this season where she has not crossed the opposition try-line.
  - She enjoys a good strike rate against Pool B opponents Canada with six tries in her past four games against them.
  - She has made the joint-most carries (87) and joint second-most line-breaks (20) of any player this season.
  - Her 19 tries so far this season are career-best, surpassing her previous record of 18 tries in 2018. The Eagles Women's Sevens record for most tries in a Women's Series is 32, shared by Victoria Folayan in 2014-15 and Naya Tapper in 2016-17.