

## VANCOUVER NOTES

- This will be the fifth edition of the HSBC Canada Sevens after it was first played in Vancouver in 2016. There have been four different champions across the past four events, with no team able to successfully defend their Cup title at BC Place.
- Six nations have contested the Cup final in Canada (New Zealand, Fiji, South Africa, England, France and Kenya) but only Kenya and France have never lifted the trophy.
- South Africa have played the most Cup finals of any team in Canada, reaching this stage in three of the past four tournaments. They finished second in 2016 and 2017 before winning their maiden Cup title at this event last season.
  - Fiji and South Africa have contested the past two Cup finals in Sydney and Los Angeles; not since 2013-14 have the same two teams played in three-straight Cup finals with New Zealand and South Africa meeting in Port Elizabeth, Las Vegas and Wellington.
  - Since Vancouver joined the Sevens Series in 2016, no team has won both Cup titles across the North American leg. South Africa in 2017 are still the only team to have reached both Cup finals, but were unable to win each event.
- USA's **Perry Baker** and Australia's **John Porch** share the record for most individual tries in a tournament in Canada, with Baker scoring nine tries in 2017, and then Porch equalling this effort in 2018.
- USA's **Perry Baker** holds the record for most Sevens Series tries scored in Canada with 24, including a record eight doubles.
- South Africa's **Selvyn Davids** holds record for the most Sevens Series points in a single tournament in Canada, scoring 59 points at BC Place last season.
- Fiji hold the record for the most tries at a tournament in Canada, scoring 32 in 2018. They are the only team to have scored 30 or more tries at the HSBC Canada Sevens, also top scoring with 30 tries in 2016.
- No player has scored 10 or more tries in a single event for the past two seasons. This streak of 33 consecutive tournaments is the longest in Series history.
- At the halfway mark of the season, New Zealand hold top spot on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series standings by four points. However, this lead has been cut by South Africa from 15 points following Hamilton to just four points after Los Angeles.
  - Only four teams since 1999-2000 have failed to win the series title after leading at the mid-way point. Fiji in 1999-2000, New Zealand in 2009-10, South Africa in 2014-15, and USA last season all finished second despite leading the standings outright halfway through the series.

### Past champions in Canada

SERIES	LOCATION	CUP WINNER	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL	WINNING MARGIN
2019	Vancouver	South Africa	France (21-12)	9
2018	Vancouver	Fiji	Kenya (31-12)	19
2016-17	Vancouver	England	South Africa (19-7)	12
2015-16	Vancouver	New Zealand	South Africa (19-14)	5

## KEY TEAM STATS

- **Argentina** have reached the Cup quarter-finals at each of the past three HSBC Canada Sevens since 2017.
  - They scored 25 tries in Los Angeles, the second-most of any team, and their most in a single tournament since Cape Town last season.
  - They are retaining a competition-high 40.4 per cent of their restarts this season, including the most of any team in Dubai and Hamilton.
  - They are averaging the least offloads of any team this season with two per game, and were the only team to make less than 10 in Los Angeles (eight).
  - Argentina will meet England for the first time this season after winning two of their three matches in 2019, in Las Vegas and Paris. They have not won two consecutive games against England since 2014-15, on the Gold Coast and in Dubai.
  - They have won the past six, and are undefeated in 19 of the past 20 matches against Japan, with four draws and 15 victories since 2011-12.
    - They have restricted Japan to one try or less in each of their past six wins since Cape Town last season.
  - Argentina have been outscored 64-19 across their two matches against South Africa this season, including suffering their fourth largest defeat in this fixture in their last meeting in Sydney with a 52-14 loss.
- **Australia** finished fourth in Los Angeles, reaching a Cup semi-final for the second time this season, the same total as they played in 2019.
  - They conceded 13 tries in Los Angeles, the joint-third least of any team.
  - Australia are one of just four teams to score 20 or more tries in three tournaments this season, alongside Fiji, South Africa and New Zealand, while their 84 tries overall this series are the fourth most of any team.
    - They scored 27 tries in Vancouver last season, the second most of any team after Fiji, and their joint-most in a single tournament in 2019.
  - Australia will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal after kicking just 57 per cent of their conversion attempts in Los Angeles (13/23) compared to an average of 70 per cent prior to the event.
  - They made the second-most line-breaks of any team in Los Angeles (23).
  - Australia face the same pool opposition as they did in Los Angeles where they won all three games and enjoyed a points differential of +60, the second-highest of any team behind South Africa.
    - Australia have won all three matches against Scotland this season, and all by an average margin of 23 points.
    - Australia have won their past three, and six of their past eight matches against Samoa, with five of these victories by double-figure margins.
    - Australia bounced back from a record 36-point defeat against USA in Sydney, to win 17-7 in Los Angeles.

- **Canada** have only played one Cup quarter-final on home soil (2016-17).
  - They scored 22 tries in Vancouver last season, their second-most in a single tournament on the 2019 Series, and their most at their home tournament.
  - They have never lost more than one pool game at their home tournament, undefeated in eight of 12 games played, with seven wins and one draw.
  - They are averaging the second-most offloads of any core team this season with 5.5 per game.
  - They conceded the joint-second most penalties of any team in Los Angeles with 23. Their average of 4.6 per game was nearly double their season average of 2.8 per game prior to the event.
  - Canada will be looking to end a four-game winless streak against France dating back to Hong Kong last year, with three losses and one draw. Their past three games have all been decided by a converted try or less.
    - They have won both previous meetings on home soil.
  - Canada recorded their first victory at home against Fiji last year, upsetting the favourites 26-19 in the pool stages. Since then, they have lost their past two matches by an average margin of 31 points.
  - Canada have won their past three, and 11 of their past 12 matches against Wales since 2016-17, with their only loss in this period coming in Hong Kong last season.
- One of **England's** 19 Cup titles overall came in Vancouver in 2017, defeating South Africa 19-7. They have not lifted the Cup trophy at any event since, losing their past two appearances in London in 2017 and Paris in 2018.
  - They have topped their pool at each of the past two HSBC Canada Sevens events, and twice overall this season. They have not topped their pool in three tournaments in a single season since 2018.
    - They are the only team to win a Cup title in Vancouver without topping their pool.
  - England scored just 11 tries in Los Angeles, their least in a tournament this season, and their least in any tournament since Vancouver in 2016.
  - England will look to improve their restart-retention rate, averaging the second lowest of any core team this season with 14.8 per cent.
  - England will play Argentina for the first time this season, with both teams trading wins across all three meetings last year.
  - England have won their past two, and are undefeated in 25 of their 26 matches against Japan, with 24 wins and one draw. Their only loss in this fixture came in London last season, 29-14 in the 13th place play-off.
  - England ended a two-game losing streak against South Africa with a 21-19 win in their last meeting in Hamilton. Both games this season have been tight affairs, decided by five points or less.
    - This will be their first meeting in Canada since the 2017 Cup final.

- **Fiji** have climbed four places on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series standings since Hamilton after winning gold and silver medals in the past two events.
  - Fiji have medalled at each of the past three HSBC Canada Sevens, winning bronze in 2017 and 2019, and gold in 2018.
  - They are one of just two teams alongside South Africa to have reached the Cup semi-finals in all four previous tournaments at BC Place.
  - They made a tournament-high 27 line-breaks in Los Angeles, the most of any team at a single event this season.
  - They have topped their pool in each of the past two events after failing to do so in the first three tournaments this season.
  - They are averaging the most offloads of any team this season with 6.5 per game, including a season-high 64 in Hamilton, and a tournament-high 39 in Los Angeles.
  - They scored a tournament-high 33 tries in Los Angeles, the most of any team at a single event this season.
  - They were the most ill-disciplined team in Los Angeles, conceding a tournament-high 25 penalties.
  - Fiji are undefeated in their past nine, and in 23 of their past 24 matches against Wales, with 22 wins and one draw. Their only loss in this period came in the pool stages in Sydney in 2017.
    - They recorded their biggest winning margin (55 points) and highest score (55 points) in this fixture in their last meeting in Sydney.
  - Fiji have outscored Canada 90-29 in their past two meetings since their seven-point loss at BC Place last season.
  - Fiji have won two of their three matches against France this season. This has been a tight fixture in 2020, with all three games decided by an average margin of 6.6 points. Last season Fiji won all five games by an average margin of 29 points.
- After medalling in two of their opening three events this season, **France** have earned just 19 series points across the past two events compared to 48 between Dubai and Hamilton.
  - They won 11 of 15 games played between Dubai and Hamilton, but have gone on to win just three of nine matches since Sydney.
  - After reaching their first Cup final in six years here last season, they have gone on to reach a further two in the subsequent nine tournaments played.
    - They have never played multiple Cup finals at the same event.
  - They will look to improve their defence after conceding 20 tries in Los Angeles, double their total from Sydney with just one more game played.
  - France are undefeated in their past four, and six of their past seven games against Canada, with five wins and a draw since the start of last season.
  - France will play Wales for the first time since Hamilton last season. They won both matches on the 2019 Series by an average margin of 19 points.



- **Ireland** will play their first HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event in Canada.
  - They are enjoying the best accuracy of any team in front of goal this season, kicking 73 per cent of their conversion attempts. However, they kicked just nine of their 15 attempts in Los Angeles at 60 per cent, their lowest success-rate at a single tournament this season.
  - They were the most disciplined team in Los Angeles, conceding a tournament-low seven penalties.
  - Ireland enjoyed the highest restart retention rate of any team in Los Angeles with 41.2 per cent. This was a significant increase from Sydney, where they only retained 7.1 per cent of their own restarts, the second-lowest in the tournament.
  - Ireland played their second Cup quarter-final of the season in Los Angeles. They have never reached this stage on three occasions in the same series after also playing Cup quarter-finals in London and Paris in 2018 as the invitational team.
  - Ireland have won two of their three matches against Spain this season, with their only loss coming in the 11th place play-off in Dubai. All four of their Sevens Series victories in this fixture have come in the pool stages.
  - They are still chasing their first Sevens Series win against Kenya, with three losses and a draw from four previous meetings.
    - Their only victories against the Kenyans came at the 2001 and 2018 Rugby World Cup Sevens.
- **Japan** are the invitational team this weekend and will make their third appearance at the HSBC Canada Sevens after also playing in 2017 and 2019.
  - They are chasing their first pool victory of the season, with 10 losses and two draws from their four tournaments played.
    - They have never won a pool game in Canada, losing all six previous games.
  - They will be looking to end a 23-game losing streak against South Africa dating back to Wellington in 2000-01. Their only Sevens Series victory against the Blitzboks came in Tokyo in 1999-2000.
  - Japan's one and only Sevens Series victory against England came in London last season, winning the 13th place play-off (29-14). Since then, they have been restricted to just one try in each of their past two meetings.
  - Japan have lost their past six, and eight of their past nine matches against Argentina since 2016-17. They have been held to one try or less in their past six games, not scoring more than seven points since their 31-24 victory in the 13th place play-off in Singapore in 2018.
- **Kenya** won silver in Vancouver in 2018, losing the Cup final 31-12 against Fiji. They have not won a match at BC Place since this defeat, losing all five games in 2019.
  - They scored 18 tries in Los Angeles, their most in a single tournament since Cape Town last season.

- They made the joint-third most offloads of any team in Los Angeles with 30, one more than their previous two tournaments combined.
- After averaging a competition-high four penalties per game heading into Los Angeles, Kenya conceded the second least of any team last weekend with 14, at an average of 2.3 per game.
- Kenya showed improvement in retaining possession from their own kick-off in Los Angeles. Prior to the tournament they were averaging just 13.2 per cent, however last weekend they won 19 per cent of their restarts, their highest success-rate in a single tournament this season.
- Kenya have lost their past four, and 10 of their past 11 games against the All Blacks Sevens, with their last victory coming in Hong Kong in 2018.
- Kenya have won just one of their past four games against Spain since the start of last season. Two of these three losses have been narrow, by a converted try or less.
- Kenya have never lost to Ireland on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series, with three wins and a draw from four games played. Their 29-12 victory in Los Angeles was their biggest winning margin (17 points) against the Irish.
- **New Zealand** won the inaugural HSBC Canada Sevens in 2016, defeating South Africa in the Cup final. They have not played another Cup final at BC Place since that victory, losing their past three Cup quarter-finals.
  - Their one and only Cup final appearance in Canada is their least at any active country on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series calendar.
  - New Zealand have led the series standings since Cape Town, but have seen their lead diminish slowly since Hamilton. The only time they have lost the series title when leading at the halfway mark of the season was in 2009-10, when Samoa overturned a 14-point deficit after Las Vegas to win three of the remaining four events of the eight-round series.
  - They have been the leading, or joint-leading, try scoring team in three of five events this season, top-scoring in Dubai, Cape Town and Hamilton.
    - Their 110 tries in total this series are the most of any team, and they are one of two teams alongside South Africa to have scored 20 tries or more in at least four events.
    - They scored a tournament-high 28 tries in Vancouver last season.
  - They are the only team to have topped their pool in all four previous HSBC Canada Sevens tournaments.
  - They are averaging a competition-high 3.8 line-breaks per game this season. However, after making at least 21 or more line-breaks in the first three events this season, they have made 18 or less since Sydney.
  - New Zealand won their only match this season against Kenya 19-5 in Sydney. This will be only the third time in the past two seasons these two teams have played each other, after also winning their only meeting last season 36-0 in Hong Kong.

- New Zealand suffered their first Sevens Series loss against Spain at this event last season, 26-24 in the pool stages. Since this loss, they have outscored Spain 74-7 in their past two meetings.
- New Zealand won both matches against Ireland in London last season, outscoring them 69-21 overall. This was the first time they had played each other on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series since Cardiff in 2002.
- **Samoa** topped their pool in Vancouver last year for the first time in 17-straight events. They have won four of their past six pool games at BC Place since 2018 after winning just two of their first six across 2016 and 2017.
  - They ended a 12-game losing streak in the pool rounds this season in Los Angeles, with a five-point victory against Scotland. They will be chasing consecutive wins at this stage of a tournament for the first time since Dubai.
  - They have made the joint-most half-time comebacks of any team this season alongside South Africa winning five games when trailing at the break, one more than their total from 2019.
  - They enjoyed the best strike-rate of any team in Los Angeles, scoring in 93 per cent of their visits to the opposition-22.
  - Samoa will look to end a six-game losing streak against USA, their longest in the history of this fixture.
  - Samoa have lost their past three, and six of their past eight games against Australia. Their only two victories across the past three seasons have all been in Cup quarter-finals, losing their past five pool games.
    - This will be their first meeting at the HSBC Canada Sevens.
  - They are enjoying a four-game winning streak against Scotland dating back to Sydney last season, their longest in this fixture since 2012-13 when they won eight-straight matches.
- **Scotland** are chasing their first pool match victory since Hamilton, winless in their past seven games with six losses and a draw.
  - They have won their past two matches, the 13th place semi-final and play-off in Los Angeles, and are chasing three-straight victories for the first time since Hong Kong last season.
  - They scored 18 tries in Los Angeles, their most in a tournament this season, with their 40-point victory against Korea, their largest in nearly two years.
  - They made 31 offloads in Los Angeles, the third-most of any team.
  - They have lost their past ten pool matches against Australia, with their last victory at this stage coming in Tokyo in 2014-15. Their only two victories in the past 14 matches in this fixture have come in knock-out games, in Hamilton and Hong Kong last season.
  - They will be hoping to end an eight-game losing streak against USA, their longest in the history of this fixture. They have not tasted victory against the Eagles Sevens since the Cup semi-finals in London in 2017.
  - The winning margin in 11 of their past 12 pool matches against Samoa has been by a converted try or less.

- **South Africa** produced the joint-largest half-time comeback of the season in the Cup final in Los Angeles. Trailing by 12 points at the break, they outscored Fiji 22-5 in the second half and extra-time to win their fifth Cup title in the United States.
  - They are the defending HSBC Canada Sevens champions, and will be looking to become the first team to successfully defend their Cup title at this event. They last defended a Cup title at any Sevens Series round in Paris in 2017 and 2018.
  - They are the only team to have medalled at all four previous HSBC Canada Sevens, with silver in 2016 and 2017, bronze in 2018, and gold in 2019.
  - They conceded the least tries of any team in Los Angeles with 11, and the second least of any team overall this season with 47.
  - They have made the joint-most half-time comebacks of any team this season alongside Samoa, winning five matches when trailing at the break.
  - South Africa have been Cup finalists in the past two, and four of the five events this season. They have not played three-straight Cup finals since 2016-17 when they reached this stage at seven consecutive tournaments.
  - They are enjoying a 23-game winning streak against Japan dating back to Wellington in 2000-01. They have outscored Japan 80-5 across their two matches this season.
  - The Blitzboks have won their past three, and five of their past seven matches against Argentina since the start of last season. Their 52-14 victory in their last meeting in Sydney was their fourth-largest winning margin in Sevens Series history against Argentina (38 points).
  - England are one of only two teams to have defeated South Africa in a pool match this season, winning their last meeting 21-19 in Hamilton.
    - In a replay of the 2017 Cup final in Vancouver, South Africa will be chasing their first victory against England in Canada, after a 19-7 loss and a 12-12 draw from their only two previous meetings at this event.
- **Spain** will play their third HSBC Canada Sevens tournament after competing here in 2018 and last season.
  - They finished 11th in Los Angeles, their highest placing this season since Dubai. Their best result in Canada came in 2018, finishing 10th.
  - They will look to improve their strike-rate in the opposition-22 after scoring on just 12 occasions from 21 visits in Los Angeles at 57 per cent, the least of any team.
  - Spain scored 16 tries in Vancouver last season, their joint-second most in a single tournament in 2019.
  - Spain have won just one of their six pool matches in Vancouver, against New Zealand last season. Since that victory they have lost their past two matches against the All Blacks Sevens by an average margin of 34 points.
  - Spain have tasted victory against two of their three Pool C opponents this season, against Kenya in the pool stages, and Ireland in the 11th place play-off, both in Dubai.



- At the halfway mark of the season, **USA** have won one bronze medal in Sydney and sit seventh in the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series standings. At the same point last year, they had won four silver and one gold, and were ranked first.
  - Canada is one of three active locations on the Sevens Series, alongside Hong Kong and Paris, where they have never played a Cup final. They have lost their past three Cup semi-finals at BC Place since 2017.
    - In fact, they have never won a medal at the HSBC Canada Sevens, losing all three bronze finals played.
  - USA have only topped their pool once in Canada, winning all three matches in 2016-17.
  - They have scored more tries in the past two events (44) since Sydney, than did in Dubai, Cape Town and Hamilton combined (38).
  - They were the top try-scoring team in Vancouver in 2016-17 with 26.
  - They are the most disciplined team this season, conceding on average a competition-low 2.3 penalties per game.
  - They are averaging the third-most line-breaks per game of any team this season with 3.5, but fifth-highest success-rate of any core team in the opposition-22, scoring in 80.4 per cent of their visits made.
  - They enjoyed the second-highest restart retention rate of any team in Los Angeles, winning back possession from 40.9 per cent of their kick-offs.
  - They have won their past six matches against Samoa, their longest winning streak in this fixture.
  - They have won their past eight, and 10 of their past 11 matches against Scotland, including all four games this season by double-figure margins.
  - They have traded victories with Australia this season, with neither team able to win consecutive matches in this fixture. USA have not lost back-to-back games against Australia since 2015-16 in Cape Town and Wellington.
- After failing to win a pool game across the opening three events of the season, **Wales** have now won one in each of the past two tournaments, against Kenya in Sydney and Spain in Los Angeles.
  - They showed significant improvement in their restart retention success-rate in Los Angeles, winning 23.1 per cent at Dignity Health Sports Park after failing to win back possession from a single restart in Sydney.
  - They conceded the joint-second most penalties of any team in Los Angeles, with 23, and are averaging the most per game of any team this season (four).
  - They are yet to score a point against Fiji this season after losing their only previous meeting 55-0 in Sydney. They have not been held scoreless in this fixture in consecutive matches since 2001-02 in Wellington and Hong Kong.
  - Wales will play France for the first time this season after losing both matches in 2019, in Dubai and Hamilton, by an average margin of 19 points.
  - Wales have lost their past three, and 11 of their past 12 matches against hosts Canada. They won their only previous meeting in Vancouver 26-19 in 2015-16, one of seven victories in 18 games played since then.

## KEY PLAYER STATS

- **Lewis Holland** will become Australia's most capped Sevens Series player in his 53<sup>rd</sup> tournament, surpassing Ed Jenkins' record.
  - He is Australia's all-time leading try-scorer with 113, and their second all-time leading point-scorer (825) behind James Stannard (1239).
- Canada's **Connor Braid** made the most carries (29), the fifth most offloads (five) and scored the third most tries (six) of any player at BC Place last year.
- Canada's **Harry Jones** is their leading try-scorer on home soil with 12 tries, including two doubles.
- Canada's **Nathan Hirayama** is the all-time leading point-scorer at the HSBC Canada Sevens with 133, 11 more than the next best player Perry Baker.
- Canada's **Pat Kay** will play his 50th Series tournament.
- Fiji's **Napolioni Bolaca** has been the leading or joint-leading point-scorer in each of the past two events, and has scored a season-high 128 points.
  - He enjoys the best success-rate of any goal kicker this season who has made more than 20 attempts, converting 77 per cent of his shots.
- France's **Paulin Riva** has made the most tackles of any player this season with 51, including a competition-high 18 in Cape Town, the most of any player in a single tournament this series.
- Ireland's **Jordan Conroy** has made the most line-breaks of any player this season with 21, including the most of any player in Dubai (six) and Los Angeles (seven).
  - He has scored at least one try in 16 of his 22 games played this series, with a season-high 23 tries overall.
- New Zealand's **Tim Mikkelson** and South Africa's **JC Pretorius** have made the most steals of any player this season with eight.
- Scotland's **Alex Coombes** has scored seven tries in his past three matches. His four tries against Korea were the first by a Scottish player on the Sevens Series since Mark Robertson in Singapore in 2016-17, and the fifth overall.
- Spain's **Pol Pla** scored a team-high six tries in Los Angeles, becoming only the third for his country to score this total in a single tournament after Cesar Sempere in Glasgow in 2011-12 and Pedro Martin in Port Elizabeth in 2012-13.
  - He scored Spain's match winning try in the final play against New Zealand in Vancouver last season to secure their first Sevens Series win in this fixture.
  - He requires two more tries to become the first Spanish player to score 50 on the Sevens Series.
- South Africa's **Chris Dry** and **Branco du Preez** are both closing in on 100 Sevens Series tries, with Dry requiring three more and du Preez four more to become the seventh and eighth Blitzbok players respectively to reach this milestone.
- USA's **Perry Baker** has been the leading try-scorer in two of the past four HSBC Canada Sevens, with a tournament-high eight tries in 2016, and nine tries in 2017.