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Tárgy: RWC 2011 - THE VOTE



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Hot Topic

RWC 2011 - THE VOTE

A detailed picture of how the IRB's voting committee decision was made is slowly emerging. Only France, Italy and wider Europe have chosen so far not to declare (officially or otherwise) which way they voted.

South Africa were eliminated at the first ballot, receiving only four votes when they had expected at least six. They received two of their four votes from Argentina and wider Africa. The other two votes South Africa received in the first ballot are thought to be from France but are as yet undeclared.

Japan received seven votes in the first ballot. Six are accounted for, two from both England and Australia and one each from Asia and Canada. The undeclared one came from either Italy or wider Europe.

New Zealand received eight votes in the first ballot, two votes each from Wales, Ireland and Scotland plus one vote from Oceania and one other. That one other is either Italy or wider Europe depending on which of these voted for Japan.

When South Africa came back in with voting rights after being eliminated, their two votes in the second ballot went to New Zealand. Argentina and wider Africa both followed South Africa's lead once eliminated and transferred across to New Zealand's camp for the second ballot.

The other two votes originally for South Africa, thought to be from France, transferred to Japan, making the final tally New Zealand 12 Japan 9.

Reported acrimony between New Zealand and Australia seems now to have been made far too much of. South Africa's "SANZAR solidarity" in voting for New Zealand in the second ballot was a paper tiger because New Zealand did not promise any kind of reciprocation. The suggestion of any form of moral imperative is both



abhorrent and ridiculous, hence the need for ballots. It is obvious that Australia voted for Japan solely because they believed it was best for the growth of the game.

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PROMOTION

The INVESTEC RUGBY PLAYERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Rugby Union Players' Association invite those of you who will be in Sydney to join members of The Wallabies, The Reds, The Waratahs and The Brumbies at their annual Christmas Lunch.

Presentation of **The Rugby Medal for Excellence**, voted by the players.

Guest Presenter **Tony Shaw**, Wallaby captain 1978 - 1981.

Friday 9 December, 2005 - 12:00 for 12:30pm

The Grand Ballroom, The Westin Hotel, No 1 Martin Place, Sydney Corporate tables (of 10) \$1,850. Individual seats \$185. Funds raised will go to The Sri Lankan Tsunami Relief - Rugby Foundation to build houses and sporting facilities.

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News

GRAND SLAM LOOKS A CERTAINTY

The All Black selectors were certainly tempted to give every one of their 35 squad members a start on tour, but have probably decided after Scotland's strong finish against the physical Samoans that Murrayfield was not the place to risk what they'd already worked so hard for.

Scotland's gutsy 80 minutes in the face of some extremely hard Samoan tackling, in particular their ability to close out with a superb try for the win, mean that their strength must be respected and not just their heritage.

Before leaving New Zealand Graham Henry had said that all the squad would get "a start" but his words should not be taken literally to mean that there has now been a change of heart. Henry frequently lapses into the vernacular and "a start" could be taken to mean "game time", which, with the selection of Isaia Toeava at fullback against Scotland, is a goal that the selectors have now achieved.

The only two players not to be given starting positions on tour will be Andrew Hore and Jimmy Cowan, the third hooker and third halfback.

Scotland are yet to name a team.

NEW ZEALAND: 15-Isaia Toeava, 14-Rico Gear, 13-Conrad Smith, 12-Tana Umaga (c), 11-Joe Rokocoko, 10-Nick Evans, 9-Piri Weepu, 8-Sione Lauaki, 7-Richie McCaw, 6-Angus Macdonald, 5-James Ryan, 4-Chris Jack, 3-John Afoa, 2-Anton Oliver, 1-Saimone Taumoepeau.

RESERVES: 16-Andrew Hore, 17-Neemia Tialata, 18-Jason Eaton, 19-Mose Tuiali'i, 20-Jimmy Cowan, 21-Leon MacDonald, 22-Ma'a Nonu.

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HUGE SHOWDOWN IN PARIS

Of all the south versus north match-ups this weekend, the closest and therefore the most tantalising is in Paris where France host the Springboks.

French coach Bernard Laporte has once again adventurously changed a winning line-up. Only a handful of the team that beat Tonga 43-8 in Toulouse last weekend have

been retained, but the team he has named to face the Springboks must be regarded as one of the strongest he has fielded this year although Frederic Michalak and Jean-Baptiste Elissalde are preferred as the 9-10 combination over Yann Delaigue and Dimitri Yachvili.

Florian Fritz and Yannick Jauzion replace David Marty and Thomas Castaignede as the midfield combination, but Castaignede keeps his place in the first fifteen as fullback. Cedric Heymans returns on the wing in place of Vincent Clerc. Pieter de Villiers replaces Sylvain Marconnet at prop, Lionel Nallet takes Gregory Lambole's locking berth, Dimitri Szarzewski takes over from Raphael Ibanez at hooker, and Remy Martin returns to give Sebastien Chabal a rest from loose forward duty.

The Springboks are yet to decide on their starting line-up. They are giving players who picked up niggles against Wales every chance to back up, and had to wait until Tuesday night before finding out that fullback Percy Montgomery would be available. Montgomery was cleared at his judiciary hearing after receiving two yellow cards in Cardiff at the instigation of trigger-happy New Zealand touchjudge Bryce Lawrence.

FRANCE: 15-Thomas Castaignede, 14-Aurelien Rougerie, 13-Florian Fritz, 12-Yannick Jauzion, 11-Cedric Heymans, 10-Frederic Michalak, 9-Jean-Baptiste Elissalde, 8-Remy Martin, 7-Julien Bonnaire, 6-Yannick Nyanga, 5-Jerome Thion (c), 4-Lionel Nallet, 3-Pieter de Villiers, 2-Dimitri Szarzewski, 1-Olivier Milloud.

RESERVES: 16-Sebastien Bruno, 17-Sylvain Marconnet, 18-Gregory Lambole, 19-Thomas Lievreumont, 20-Pierre Mignoni, 21-Yann Delaigue, 22-Pepito Elhorga.

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EASIER WEEK FOR IRELAND

After a torrid fortnight taking big beatings from New Zealand and Australia, Ireland play Romania this weekend and should relish the opportunity to play with a lot more possession than the All Blacks and Wallabies allowed them. But they are taking nothing for granted.

"Romania are no mugs," said Irish coach Eddie O'Sullivan. "At least 12 of their team play regularly in France, and their whole pack plays at the top level there. We hoped to give some guys a go who weren't involved over the last two games but injuries limited that. I wanted to look again at the way Andrew Trimble and Gordon D'Arcy played together because they looked very good as a partnership against Australia. The back row have also been playing very well. Denis Leamy has been the success of the autumn internationals and his chemistry with Johnny O'Connor is good. We're trying to build for the Six Nations."

IRELAND: 15-Geordan Murphy, 14-Shane Horgan, 13-Andrew Trimble, 12-Gordon D'Arcy, 11-Tommy Bowe, 10-David Humphreys (c), 9-Kieran Campbell, 8-Denis Leamy, 7-Johnny O'Connor, 6-Neil Best, 5-Leo Cullen, 4-Donncha O'Callaghan, 3-Simon Best, 2-Shane Byrne, 1-Marcus Horan.

RESERVES: 16-Jerry Flannery, 17-John Hayes, 18-Mick O'Driscoll, 19-Simon Easterby, 20-Peter Stringer, 21-Ronan O'Gara, 22-Girvan Dempsey.

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LEEDS BREAK THEIR DUCK

Leeds overcame Northampton 28-25 to win their first English Premiership game of the season on Sunday.

"We can feel proud of ourselves because we have taken a lot of flak, and quite rightly so, but maybe we took our first step towards something positive," said Leeds director of rugby Phil Davies. "We have always had a great belief, team spirit and work ethic, and hopefully some of the new players will now realise what Leeds is all about. We have got to build on this now."

Northampton slipped to 10th place, joining Leeds (12th), Newcastle (11th), Bath (9th) and Bristol (8th) in relegation danger after five straight losses.

Jonny Wilkinson was yet again a late withdrawal for Newcastle, forced out with a groin strain before his team's 27-18 loss to Saracens.

In other games Sale (1st) beat Leicester (4th) 24-16, Wasps (2nd) beat Bath 28-20, Worcester beat Bristol 24-15, and London Irish (3rd) beat Gloucester (7th) 25-10.

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SIGNIFICANT RANKING SHIFTS

While New Zealand remain top of the IRB world ranking with a clear lead (93.32) and South Africa remain second (89.96), a little shuffle underneath saw Australia claw back two places and regain a spot in the top three with 84.98 points. Previously they were fifth, but their win over Ireland saw their grim slide down the rankings finally reversed.

France (84.90) dropped from third to fourth by eight hundredths of a point, the smallest of margins separating the top teams, and England's loss to New Zealand quickly halted the recent surge they'd made. They slid to fifth (83.27). From Wales in sixth (81.49) through Ireland (80.03), Argentina (78.16), Fiji (74.08), Scotland (73.60), Italy (71.44) and Samoa (70.97) in 12th, there were no changes.

But the USA jumped a place to 13th (68.31) at Canada's expense (67.42), and Romania went up three places to 15th (66.47). Uruguay stayed 16th (66.27), not slipping with Romania's jump because Portugal dropped two from 15th to 17th (65.93) while Japan went down one to 18th (65.93).

With 13 of the top twenty teams squaring off this weekend, there are bound to be further changes in the race to finish 2005 as high on the table as possible.

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COMPLICATED RWC QUALIFYING PICTURE IN EUROPE

Spain remain unbeaten in Round 3 of RWC qualifying, beating Moldova 40-7 in Chisinau by four tries to one.

Their forward dominance was obvious from the opening whistle and they led 19-0 at the interval. The Moldovans scored first after half-time, but three further tries to Spain saw them coast to a comfortable win with fly-half Esteban Roque kicking 22 of their points.

Spain go top of Europe's Pool A with two wins from two, ahead of Moldova and Poland who have won one match each and both lost to the Spaniards.

In Europe's Pool B, Germany are unbeaten after two wins, with Belgium also unbeaten after one match. Early 2006 will see competition resume.

The winners of Round 3 progress to a far tougher challenge, home and away against either Russia, Ukraine or the Czech Republic, but interestingly both Spain (27) and Germany (28) have moved ahead of Ukraine (31) in the IRB world rankings. Two winners from that group of four move into the final round of European qualifying with Italy, Romania, Portugal and Georgia, where three teams will qualify directly and one will go to repechage.

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NEW FACES IN FRANCE 2007?

In 2003 at the Rugby World Cup in Australia, the evenly-matched "minnows" provided some great late pool action. Uruguay and Romania were the two lowest ranked teams to record wins, Uruguay beating Georgia 24-12 and Romania thrashing Namibia 37-7.

In 2007 there may well be a couple of new names to make World Cup debuts, and neither may need to qualify via the repechages.

Morocco (currently ranked 21) appear to be well ahead of Namibia (26) for the African place in pool D, perhaps relegating Namibia to the repechage round against

the fourth-placed European team.

And with Portugal's star on the rise, making them early favourites along with Italy and Romania to progress automatically, that fourth European team in repechage may well be Georgia. Portugal have been steadily climbing the IRB world rankings, reaching their highest ever placing (15) before slipping two places this week. They remain ahead of Georgia (19) and have a slightly easier final round of qualifying matches.

The second African team and the fourth European team play off in repechage to decide who meets the fourth-placed Americas team out of Argentina and (probably) USA, Canada and Uruguay for a place in pool C at the World Cup.

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This Week

Saturday 26 November 2005

Competition

CAR Top 9	Morocco	Madagascar
ENC	Israel	Norway
ENC	Bulgaria	Slovenia
ENC	Latvia	Switzerland
RWC2007 Qualifier	Netherlands	Andorra
Test Match	England	Samoa
Test Match	France	South Africa
Test Match	Ireland	Romania
Test Match	Scotland	New Zealand
Test Match	Wales	Australia
Test Match	Italy	Fiji

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Last Week

Saturday 19 November 2005

Competition

RWC2007 Qualifier	Spain	40 d	Moldova	7
Test Match	New Zealand	23 d	England	19
Test Match	Australia	30 d	Ireland	14
Test Match	France	43 d	Tonga	8

Test Match	Scotland	18 d	Samoa	11
Test Match	South Africa	33 d	Wales	16
Test Match	Fiji	26 d	Portugal	17
Test Match	Argentina	39 d	Italy	22
Test Match	Romania	22 d	Canada	20

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IRB World Rankings

(as at Monday 21 November 2005)

Rank	Country
1	New Zealand
2	South Africa
3 (5)	Australia
4 (3)	France
5 (4)	England
6	Wales
7	Ireland
8	Argentina
9	Fiji
10	Scotland
11	Italy
12	Samoa
13 (14)	USA
14 (13)	Canada
15 (18)	Romania
16	Uruguay
17 (15)	Portugal
18 (17)	Japan
19	Georgia
20	Tonga
21	Morocco
22	Korea
23	Russia
24	Chile
25	Czech Republic

* IRB Rankings are updated each Monday. The number in brackets is the movement in a country's ranking from the previous week.

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