



International Rugby Academy

Newsletter of the International Rugby Academy

Players' Courses

Coaches' Courses

Managers' Courses

Customised Courses

Welcome to the October issue of the IRANZ Newsletter.

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Quote of the month:

"I hated every minute of training, but I said, "Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion." - Muhammad Ali



October 2008



Murray's Message

Is it to be or not to be, that is the question?" Unlike Shakespeare the IRB is moving forward - albeit carefully. Super Rugby and the Tri-Nations Series has identified that all ELVs implemented for this competition have been successful, with the exception of the ruck-maul tackle area where there have been even more penalties and free kicks. The better teams are able to handle the opportunity that the ELVs provide and the weaker teams are not, therefore the corresponding result is that there are some outstanding matches and there are some messy and untidy performances.

Fundamental requirements going forward are quicker thinking, better mobility skills, and referees. The latter of course is a personal focus



for me because I firmly believe referees should be accountable - just like coaches and players whose careers can be determined by the performance of the referee. ELVs have certainly highlighted the difference between our top referees. Unobtrusive referees are providing matches with greater flow and rhythm. The others are even more conspicuous than in the past and often determine the result of the match.

Breakdown turnovers! This is where the Tri-Nations series was won. For the coaches and selectors reading this intro, I would recommend, when selecting your next team, that you start with openside flanker and number 8 first. The essential attribute that you are looking for in this part of the game is anticipation. In comparison, shape and size is irrelevant but numbers to the ball is paramount!

The All Blacks have made quite a statement during this Tri-Nations and certainly have re-established themselves as the number one ranked team in the world. They comprehensively broke down South Africa and beat a Wallaby team on the rise. They achieved this after losing eight of their top-line test players from the World Cup. These were not ordinary players when you think of the likes of Carl Hayman, Anton Oliver, Chris Jack, Jerry Collins, Byron Kelleher, Aaron Mauer and Doug Howlett to name a few. Quite an achievement I would say for the team and their management/selector group.

RWC '07 Rivals at IRANZ – Eddie Jones & Brian Ashton

It was a great privilege to once again have Eddie Jones involved in our High Performance Programme in 2008. Eddie had an outstanding finish to his 2007 season as Technical Adviser/Assistant Coach for the Springbok RWC Winning Team and again worked tirelessly with our coaches on our most recent HP Course.

IRANZ is pleased to announce that England RWC Final Coach Brian Ashton has agreed to act as a Course Facilitator at our High Performance Programmes in 2009. We are extremely excited to have coaching personnel of this calibre involved in our courses. The opportunity for coaches to share ideas with the All Black coaches and other international specialist coaches of this level provides inspiration and an awesome learning environment for everybody involved in our programmes.

Course Calendar

Upcoming Coaches' courses

High Performance Coaches' Course

9 Feb – 19 Feb 2009
8 Jun – 19 Jun 2009

Advanced Coaches' Course

8 Dec – 14 Dec 2008
8 April – 14 April 2009
6 Dec – 12 Dec 2009

Development Coaches' Course

14 Dec – 21 Dec 2008
12 Dec – 19 Dec 2009

Junior Development Coaches' Course

13 July – 17 July 2009

Upcoming Players' courses

High Performance Players' Course

1 Feb – 20 Feb 2009
31 May – 19 Jun 2009

Advanced Players' Course

8 Dec – 14 Dec 2008
8 April – 14 April 2009
6 Dec – 12 Dec 2009

Development Players' Course

14 Dec – 21 Dec 2008
12 Dec – 19 Dec 2009

Junior Development Players' Course

13 July – 17 July 2009

Rudi Wulf achieves his dream

Congratulations to Rudi Wulf who made his debut for the All Blacks on the 1st June this year. Rudi was a graduate of our inaugural High Performance Players' Course in June 2002. He is a classic example of someone who has persevered and persisted through the ups and downs of being a professional player. Following a life-threatening neck injury in mid 2005, he has worked tirelessly to reach his goal of playing for the AB's in 2008. Well done Rudi!



Considering Changing Positions?

Just over 12 months ago Craig Burden (Natal Sharks) attended an IRANZ High Performance Course. He arrived as a wing three-quarter, prepared to look at the opportunity of converting to the hooking role. A tough ask for any player - particularly at 22 years of age! Craig was recently interviewed in the September issue of the Sharks Magazine from which the following extract was taken:



"IRANZ was an absolutely awesome experience.

Just the facilities that they have there are in a league of their own, and the depth that they have in the coaching staff over there is out of this world; you get to work under really high-profile people like Eddie Jones (structure), Ian Jones (lineouts), Richard Loe (front row), Paul Mitchell (hookers), Jeff Wilson (wingers), Christian Cullen (fullbacks) and the list just goes on".

For me that was the best and the quickest way to learn. What they do is, they take two players in each position and then work on those two guys individually for a week. For example, in my case, they went over the scrumming, lineouts, running lines of a hooker. You just get so much individual attention from these absolute experts in your specific position. They put so much emphasis on yourself as a player on and off the field. Until I'd been to IRANZ, I hadn't been that focused on mental preparation. But, they're really big into that over there and they taught me what an important role it plays. I benefited enormously from IRANZ. Most of all, though, it helped to fast-track me into the role of hooker."

At our most recent High Performance Course loose forward David Tait (Sale Sharks, United Kingdom) attended the players' course with an open mind to the possibilities of playing in the mid-field. At 20 years of age David received expert specialist tuition from Jeff Wilson and Jason O'Halloran during his time at IRANZ and has returned to the Northern Hemisphere to give it his best shot over the coming season. We look forward to watching his progress.

Locking Duo from Class of '04

It's not that long ago that Anthony Boric (adidas Scholarship) and Jeremy Thrush were locking the scrum at IRANZ! The duo received position-specific specialist coaching from Martin Johnson (England RWC winning Captain) and Ian Jones (All Black Lock Legend) on our June 2003 High Performance Players' Course. Four years on and Anthony has cemented a locking spot in the All Black Squad and Jeremy has had a stunning season for both the Hurricanes, and the Wellington Air New Zealand Cup team. It would not be surprising to see the duo reunited, swapping IRANZ jerseys for All Black jerseys on the end of year tour to the United Kingdom.



Coaches Achievements

Well done to IRANZ Coaches who are achieving great results in different corners of the world. Jamie Joseph (IRANZ loose forward specialist) and Andre Bell (IRANZ player course facilitator) have had a great season to date with the Wellington Air New Zealand Cup side and have finished as top qualifiers leading into the quarter finals this week. Jamie and Andre also managed to secure the coveted Ranfurly Shield for the summer following a comprehensive win over Auckland. Wellington supporters have not seen the Ranfurly Shield in the capital for over 26 years.

Natal Sharks coaches John Plumtree (IRANZ specialist coach) and Grant Bashford (IRANZ High Performance Course graduate '08) remain at the top of the table in the South African ABSA Currie Cup competition as they approach the finals.

Kingsley Jones (IRANZ High Performance Course graduate '07) has had an outstanding start to the season with his Sale team in the Guinness Premiership. They have broken a league record by completing the first four matches of their season without the opposition crossing their line.

It's great to see IRANZ Coaches' Course graduates and a variety of IRANZ Course tutors doing so well with their coaching in both hemispheres of the rugby world.



Best Wishes to Aaron Cruden

Everyone within the rugby community offers Aaron our best wishes as he battles cancer. Aaron received the top Player Award on our February 2008 High Performance Course and was a stand out performer.

Following his time at the course, he progressed through to represent the Manawatu Turbos in this year's Air New Zealand Cup team and has been showing his class in the pivotal role of 1st 5/8. For anyone who would like to contribute to the Aaron Cruden Trust Appeal you can make a donation at any branch of the Bank of New Zealand. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Aaron and his family during this challenging time.

IRANZ Development Course

The inaugural Development Courses for elite club coaches and players was a huge success in 2007. The course for 2008 has been confirmed from 8 – 14 December at the Sport & Rugby Institute in Palmerston North. The Player Course is designed for talented club players aged 18 years and older who will make a significant impact in their Club environments.

The Coaches' Course is for ambitious club coaches who have contributed to their local rugby environment and will continue to do so. We still have spaces available on both courses so if you are interested or require any further information please contact Catherine at our office on Catherine@iran.co.nz



Player Profile - Francois selected for South Africa Schools

We were pleased to hear the news that Francois Venter made the South Africa Under 18 Schools Team for 2008. Francois attended our Advanced Players' Course in April 2007 as a fifteen year old from Grey College, Bloemfontein. Francois played in the midfield as well as at 1st 5/8 and had a magnificent array of skills for a player of his age. Francois comments on his time at IRANZ.

"The knowledge and skills that I learned during the week at IRANZ definitely benefited my rugby. I did the course at the right time - at 15 years old I had two more years to apply what I learned."

We expect to see Francois achieving further representative honours in the future.



Customised Programmes at IRANZ

Recent coaching programmes have been completed with school 1st XV's from St Aloysius of Sydney, Australia and St Stithians of Johannesburg, South Africa. We are pleased to be hosting the Hong Kong Rugby Club U18 team returning to IRANZ for a Customised programme following their time with us in November 2006. Hong Kong will be at the Sport and Rugby Institute, Palmerston North for a specifically designed seven day programme at the end of October. For information regarding our [customised programmes](#) or any of our other courses please enquire at www.internationalrugbyacademy.com



International Rugby Academy

Glenwood - World Youth Tournament Champions

Congratulations to Sean Erasmus and his Glenwood High School 1st XV from Durban, South Africa. Glenwood recently returned from the prestigious World Rugby Youth Tournament in Japan as the 2008 champions. Sean was the first Glenwood coach graduate from our High Performance Course in 2005 and Glenwood have continued to send coaches to IRANZ programmes on an annual basis.



American Scholarships



Kevin Swiryn was the recipient of the US Rugby Football Foundation (USRFF) Scholarship which is kindly supported by ITI Design Pine. Kevin attended our High Performance Players' Course held in June and received the top performance award, which was selected by the coaches. To read more on Kevin's IRANZ experience [click here](#). ITI Design Pine were also supporters of a US Rugby scholarship for Anthony Lewis of Nebraska, USA, and a Chile Rugby Union scholarship for Manuel Gurruchaga of Concepcion, who attended our June '08 High Performance Players' Course. Successful recipients of further USRFF Scholarships for this year were: Hanno Dirksen, Kevin Kimble, and Cameron Dolan who all attended our August Advanced Players' Course. Their diaries can be viewed on the August 2008 edition of the USRFF newsletter.



IRANZ would like to acknowledge our sponsors Air New Zealand, Adidas and Summit for their ongoing support of our programmes.

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