

Australia in Ireland 1992 - Individual Players

Marty Roebuck - Full back - L;U;I

Goal-kicker, misses from right side of field. Restarts generally unsuccessful. Up and under takes were suspect against Ulster. Ability to kick long. Right footed kicker. Aggressor v Ulster.

David Campese - Wing - L;U;C(sub);I

Early mistakes v Leinster - missed tackle, poor quick throw, missed touch kicks. Big kicker. Appears everywhere - creative. Involved in moves - inside OH, outside IC. Right footed. Limited opportunities v Ulster, hands let him down on occasions. Sub against Connacht. Only real involvement in defence - kicked long and infield.

Jason Little - Centre - L;U;I

Phenomenal work rate - tackling, covering, support. Try against Ulster was testament to this. Right footed.

Tim Horan - Centre - L;U;I

Quiet tour to date, what he's done has been done well. Very quick, good vision, solid defence. Acts as second five-eighth. Right footed. Good distribution - Campese move.

Paul Carozza - Wing - L;U;I

Has had very few opportunities. Thought to be weak under the high ball but this has not been proven yet. Quick, good finisher. Loves the kick and chase. Kicking or direct running main options.

Michael Lynagh - Outside-half - L;U;I

Captaincy - added responsibility. Not playing well. Has relinquished both the goal-kicking and kick-off duties. Misses touch in open play and kicks are poor when under pressure. Good, long kicks from penalties. Good up and unders, excellent support play. Puts pressure on opposition OH. Right or left footed.

Peter Slattery - Scrum-half - L;U;I

Good, busy link. Service is not always the best. Makes a lot of tackles. Does not possess vision or control of Farr-Jones. Right footed. Occasional kicks. Covers well. No major threat to opposing back-row.

Cameron Lillicrap - Prop (Loose) - M;U

Scrummaging suspect against Munster. (1) at lineout. Tidies lineout ball. Mobility is o.k. Injured v Ulster. Has returned home.

Phil Kearns - Hooker - L;U;I

Accurate lineout throw. No strikes against the head. Main man on penalties. Driving runs are frequent. Very mobile.

Tony Daly - Prop (Tight) - L;

Played for only a brief period against Leinster. Injured - returned home.

the forwards to ensure that the ball is made having taken the ball into the ruck or maul. In every game on tour so far, they have suffered a number of turnovers of possession, both losing the put-in and being out-mailed.

BACK PLAY

Australia's back play revolves nearly totally around miss passes, loops, angles of running and support play. As soon as the players have passed or been missed they set-off in support of the ball carrier, who is constantly looking to give the short pass inside or outside. It is important that Australia's opposition give the Australian backs as little room as possible and that they put the ball carrier to the ground each time, so that he is unable to provide support after he passes the ball.

Campese is involved in a number of mover e.g. taking the ball inside Lynagh or Horan, or outside Horan after Lynagh has gone on a dummy loop.

Campese and Carozza are often found creating the overlap on the opposite wing.

The angles of running of Campese, Little and Roebuck must be noted.

Roebuck and Kelaher were good under the high ball in the summer but both have seemed a little insecure in Ireland. Kelaher in particular has struggled in the wet conditions and against Munster his positioning was too flat and was constantly being turned.

Both sets of backs are very secure in defence. Opposition teams find it very difficult to breach the centres' defence and the best prospect of beating the backs' defence is either close to the set-pieces or alternatively very wide, especially on Campese's wing (7 of last 12 tries conceded have been scored or created down the left flank).

Due to the number of forwards who stand-off, Lynagh has the option of either running up directly onto the inside centre or to drop back to cover the kick. Campese lies very deep in defence. Lynagh's kicking out of hand has been disappointing. Opposition half-backs should look to put pressure on him, whilst the back three should anticipate chances to counter-attack from missed touch kicks.

Ekert and Slattery are both fine scrum-halves, who keep the flow of the attack going and do a lot of work in defence, but they pose little threat to the opposition back-row on the evidence to date.

From line-outs (especially shortened), after setting up second or third phase ball quickly in midfield the set plan is to attack back down the channel of the lineout, where the inside centre and often one of the forwards is already waiting.

GENERAL

Throughout the summer Australia impressed as a very disciplined side that played with a great deal of controlled aggression. On the Irish tour to date, both the Australian first and second sides have shown a lack of composure under pressure, have conceded a number of penalties for foul play and their general play has subsequently suffered.

Ewen McKenzie - Prop (Tight) - L;M;U;I

Scrummaging good. Mobility - ever improving. (3) at lineout. Tackles. Aggressor v Munster.

Rod McCall - Lock - L;U;I

Front jumper. Always jumps in front of Eales. Left lock. Calls lineouts? Aggressor v Ulster.

John Eales - Lock - L;U;I

Normally middle jumper but also jumps at the back. Right lock. Good, tapped lineout ball. Mobile - excellent support and tackling.

Willie O'fahengau - Flanker - L;U;I

Blind-side. (5) at lineout. Not in shortened lines - used as a battering ram infield. Strong, driving runs off SH or OH. Big tackles.

Tim Gavin - No.8 - L;U;I

Picks up at scrum fives. Ball handling and decision making suspect? Back jumper normally - on variations acts as front jumper.

David Wilson - Flanker - L;U;C;I

Key player. Gets around the field and either secures own ball or kills opposition ball. Back of lineout. Sometimes indecisive when he has ball in hands.

Tim Kelahe - Full-back - M;C

Joined tour late - mother died. Takes goal-kicks (good) and restarts. Good touch kicks but does miss touch from penalties on right. Positioning, temperament and safety under high ball suspect against Munster. Aggressive. Solid tackler. Right footed.

Damien Smith - Wing - M;C

Impressive. Strong in tackle, fast. Covers well, good defence. Right footed. After both runs so far he has been penalised for holding the ball in the tackle. Misses tackles when chasing Australian kicks.

Anthony Herbert - Centre - M;C

Big, strong and powerful. Big tackles. Kicks well. Right/left footed. Aggressor v Munster. Out centre. Injured v Connacht. Returned home.

Richard Tombs - Centre - M;C

Inside centre. Right footed. Mistakes v Munster and Connacht (handling, losing ball in tackle, poor kicks). Good tackler. Used to set-up second phase ball and as a second five-eighth.

Darren Junee - Wing - M;C

Left wing. Covering o.k. Defence solid. Right footed player on the left wing. Moved to centre v Connacht - no opportunities.

Paul Kahl - Outside-half - M;C

Left footed. Not given opportunity to control game v Munster. Bigger role v Connacht. Willing to use right foot but looks awkward. Only options to date are kick or passes, no runs. good tackler.

Anthony Ekert - Scrum-half - M;C

Tall and thin but puts in a lot of big, hard tackles. Good, busy link. Energetic, pressurises opposition outside-half. Right footed - kicked well into the box from scrums against Connacht.

Matt Ryan - Prop (Loose) - C

Scrummaging is solid - note binding. Does little else. Thug. Should have been sent-off in Galway. (1) at lineout.

David Nucifora - Hooker - M;C

Captain v Munster - lost control. Delayed lineout throw, and has a half-dummy throw. No delay v Connacht. Defended the blindside well.

David Crowley - Prop (Loose or tight) - L;M;U;C;I

Impressive mobility. Head wound v Munster. Strong, driving runs. (3) at lineout. Ball handling very good. Played every game so far. Can play tight or loose head.

Warwick Waugh - Lock - M;C

(2) at normal lineouts. Right lock. Big, powerful. Mobility o.k. More dominant v Connacht. Clumsy when handling any low balls.

Garrick Morgan - Lock - M;C

Middle jumper at normal lineouts. Good catches at lineout. Good mobility and ball-handling. Strong and powerful. Lifted at lineout.

Sam Scott-Young - Flanker - M;C

Openside or blindside. Back of lineout. Sly, dirty player. Does a lot of the donkey work. Tidies ball on ground. Supports well. Plays well off Troy Coker.

Troy Coker - No.8 - M;C

Powerful, strong runs. Takes quick penalties. Driving runs from SH. Excellent v Munster. Undisciplined and over-aggressive. Picks up from scrums. Captain v Connacht - called lineouts.

Michael Brial - Flanker - M

(5) at lineouts. Blindside. Big tackles. Made little impact in his only game against Ireland.

Andrew Blades - Prop

Kim Wallace - Outside-half

KEY

L - Played v Leinster.

M - Played v Munster.

U - Played v Ulster.

C - Played v Connacht.

I - Played v Ireland.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Australia in Ireland

	Australia v Leinster 17.10.92	Australia v Munster 21.10.92	Australia v Ulster 24.10.92	Australia v Connacht 27.10.92
LINEOUT SHARE	13/31 42%	31/46 67%	32/50 64%	29/49 59%
LINEOUT SUCCESS	12/13 92%	16/31 52%	19/32 59%	16/29 55%
SCRUM SHARE	9/25 36%	6/18 33%	18/35 51%	17/31 55%
SCRUM SUCCESS	9/9 100%	6/6 100%	14/18 78%	13/17 76%
KICK-OFF SUCCESS	1/7 14%	4/9 44%	1/6 17%	2/5 40%
GOAL-KICK SUCCESS	5/10 50%	5/5 100%	5/8 63%	3/6 50%
TACKLING SUCCESS	42/46 91%	41/47 87%	79/89 89%	70/86 81%
PASSING SHARE	121/206 59%	54/92 59%	94/195 48%	63/139 45%
TERRITORIAL ADVANTAGE	55%	43%	53%	48%
PENALTIES CONCEDED	11/25 44%	17/40 43%	14/29 48%	16/31 52%

Leinster v Australia

Notes

Prominent play of the match was the rolling, driving or progressive maul - with Wilson controlling?

Back play - loops, attempted loops / wrong options.

Condensed 5-man lineout.

Roebuck - took all goal-kicks and kick-offs.

Lynagh - kicking from hand i.e. both tactical and touch, was suspect.

Slattery - busy, covers, link man but no threat to opposition back-row.

Positions

Eales - Right-hand lock, middle jumper.

McCall - Left-hand lock, front jumper.

Wilson - Open-side flanker.

Ofahengaue - Blind-side flanker.

Little - Outside centre.

Horan - Inside centre.

Campese - No.11 Right wing

Carozza - No.14 Left wing

Munster v Australia

Notes

In the hour before the match Australia trained on a nearby pitch - stretching, sprints, grid work.

Central scrums - overload the left, move wide to right first, move close to scrum to right later.

Scott-Young, Herbert, Coker, McKenzie intimidated, undisciplined.

Brial - big tackles.

Ekert - thin and tall.

Smith - impressive winger (sharp and strong in tackle).

Nucifora - delaying throw-in to line-outs. Also has a dummy throw.

Kelagher - 100% goal-kicking; 2nd half positioning was wrong - insecure under high-ball and ball put behind him.

Condensed 5-man lineouts with Coker at number two.

Injuries - Crowley (head), Ekert (head), Junee (left shoulder).

Positions

Waugh - Right-hand lock, front jumper.
Morgan - Left-hand lock, middle jumper.

Scott-Young - Open-side flanker.
Brial - Blind-side flanker.

Herbert - Outside centre.
Tombs - Inside centre.

Connacht v Australia

Notes

Troy Coker captain instead of Nucifora.

Campese replaced Herbert. Junee moved to centre.

Kelagher - missed touch from penalty kicks.

Waugh and Morgan had more control in the lineout. Lifting widespread.

4-man lineout used on 1 occasion.

Ryan - replacement prop is ineffective except for scrummaging. Thug.

Troy Coker called the lineouts.

Australia made many unforced errors - knock-ons, missed touch kicks, kicks out on the full.

There were only 5 shortened lineouts in the 29 Australian lineouts.

As in previous matches, Australia's opposition were constantly penalised at the lineout.

Positions

Waugh	-	Right-hand lock, front jumper.
Morgan	-	Left-hand lock, middle jumper.
Wilson	-	Open-side flanker.
Scot-Young	-	Blind-side flanker.
Herbert	-	Outside centre.
Tombs	-	Inside centre.

Australia in Ireland 1992 - Pattern of Play

LINEOUTS

Variations:	2 of 7-man	-	Most predominant lineout
	2 of 5-man	-	Predominant shortened lineout
	1 of 4-man	-	New variation (used once)
	2 of 3-man	-	New variation (used 6 times)

7-man:	Wilson Gavin Ofahengaue Eales McKenzie McCall Lillicrap Kearns	Wilson Eales Ofahengaue McCall McKenzie Gavin Lillicrap Kearns	Scott-Young Coker Brial Morgan Crowley Waugh Ryan Nucifora	Scott-Young Morgan Brial Waugh Crowley Coker Ryan Nucifora
5-man:	Gavin Eales McKenzie McCall Lillicrap Kearns	Eales McCall McKenzie Gavin Lillicrap Kearns	Coker Morgan Crowley Waugh Ryan Nucifora	Coker Morgan Crowley Coker Ryan Nucifora
3-man:	Gavin Eales McCall Kearns	Eales McCall Gavin Kearns	Coker Morgan Waugh Nucifora	Morgan Waugh Coker Nucifora

There is a tendency, particularly with Kearns, to look for the quick throw to the prop at position (1).

In the Munster match, Nucifora delayed the throw-in to the lineout to a great extent.

Nucifora possesses a half-dummy throw, which has been called illegal by the press in Ireland.

One weakness, which has been carried over from the Bledisloe Cup, is the opposition's ability to win good ball at the back of the lineout.

On the shortened lineouts, Australia regularly use Ofahengaue as a battering ram (taking the ball off Slattery, Lynagh or Horan), and then attack back down the channel where the lineout occurred. Both teams hardly ever throw to their third jumper. The second-rows are the source of the lineout possession.

SCRUMS

Tight-head props	:	Daly, Crowley, Ryan.
Loose-head props	:	McKenzie, Lillicrap, Crowley.
Right locks	:	Eales, Waugh.
Left locks	:	McCall, Morgan.
Blindside flankers	:	Ofahengaue, Brial.
Openside flankers	:	Wilson, Scott-Young.

Australia's own scrums have generally been solid but they have put little pressure on opposition scrums.

The Australian pack did have some trouble against both Munster and Ulster. The probable weakness was Lillicrap, who has since returned home with an injury.

The Australian back-row moves are to both the right and the left. They are very simple ones e.g. from scrum-half inside to the number eight or from the No.8 inside to the flanker.

At scrums, 5 metres out, Gavin looks to pick up and score.

The scrum-halves do not look to break from the base of the scrum. Both Ekert and Slattery act as links to their respective outside-halves. Both do, at times, look to pin back the opposition with little chip kicks into the box - from scrums on both sides of the field.

Scrums in the middle of the field - the Australians overload the left hand side and try to move the ball wide to the right or, having given that impression, move the ball close to the scrum on the right - normally the scrum-half faking the wide ball and passing back inside to the No.8.

FORWARD PLAY

The main characteristics of the Australian forward play have been:-

The progressive maul - where the ball is isolated from the opposition and then the driving or rolling maul is set in motion. The forwards use this maul from any situation but particularly from lineouts and opposition kickoffs.

The player at number (1) at the lineout does the tidying up. This job has so far been done by Daly, Lillicrap, McKenzie and Ryan. McKenzie will probably have the task in the test matches in the absence of Daly through injury.

Willie Ofahengaue is used to set-up second phase ball, especially when Australia call shortened lineouts. He receives the ball from any one of Slattery, Lynagh and Horan. His driving is also in evidence in other facets of play.

Tim Gavin has had the role of taking the back-peels from shortened and full lineouts when Eales has moves to the back.

Troy Coker has impressed on the tour to date with his driving runs and ability to stand up in the tackle. Picks up from the scrum frequently and either drives on or feeds inside to his flankers.

The other forward who has stood out is Dan Crowley. It is the runs of Coker, Kearns, Ofahengaue and Crowley that breaks the opposition defences and sets-up good ruck ball over the gain line. Phil Kearns' driving runs are a key factor, particularly from penalties and free-kicks. He normally takes a feed from Slattery and either drives on with a low body position or is more upright and turns on reaching the opposition to create quick second phase ball.

The setting up of maul ball at penalties has also been done by Lillicrap and Scott-Young. This Australian penalty move is the same as that which Wales attempted against Italy.

In defence, the Australians are exceptionally good at not committing too many players to opposition rucks and mauls. Four or even five players will stand-off and guard the fringes and put pressure on the opponents back-line close to the breakdown. Here may lie a weakness, exposed by Leinster on one occasion.

Another weakness in the Australian play has been the inability of