

Wales v United States
Two Test Matches
July 1997

First Test Match v United States of America 1997

Wilmington, North Carolina

5 July 1997

1. Time

The running clock and ball in play figures for this game were:

	Running Clock	Ball in Play	Ball in Play as % of Running Clock
First Half	41 mins 59 secs	10 mins 33 secs	25%
Second Half	46 mins 23 secs	13 mins 57 secs	30%
Game Total	88 mins 22 secs	24 mins 30 secs	28%

2. Game Elements

The game involved the following elements:

	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Conceded
First Half	44	74	16	10	12
Second Half	32	99	13	18	13
Game Total	76	173	29	28	25

Wales	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Con
First Half	18	45	7	7	7
Second Half	15	49	6	10	7
Game Total	33	94	13	17	14

USA	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Con
First Half	26	29	9	3	5
Second Half	17	50	7	8	6
Game Total	43	79	16	11	11

3. Possessions and Phase Play

3.1 Possessions

There were **sixty-three possessions** in the game that involved at least one pass.

	Wales	USA	Totals
First Half	14	14	28
Second Half	17	18	35
Game Total	31	32	63

W 4/14

N. 4/14
W

W 4/15/14
Mon.

Thursday W 4/15
Wed 4/14
2 hrs.

01A W 3/14
31/14

S 8/10 W 12/17
W

3 W 12/12 W

W 11/15
W 11/14
W

T.C.A. W 9/16
W 10/16

T. 04/22

W 1/14
W 1/14

11
12 (2)
12 (4)

Real Time Analysis

USA Eagles 20 Wales 30

International

05/07/97

Wilmington

Conditions : Evening,warm

Referee : Mr.K.McCartney (Sco)

Touch Judge 1 : Mr.C.Muir (Sco)

Touch Judge 2 :

USA Eagles v Wales (20 - 30)

05/07/97

Wilmington

Territorial Dominance

	USA Eagles	Wales
FIRST HALF	Mins Secs	Mins Secs
Match Time	18 : 01	18 : 01
Time in Opposition Half	22 : 34	40 : 35
Rate	-1.61%	101.61%
SECOND HALF		
Match Time	46 : 22	46 : 22
Time in Opposition Half	22 : 14	24 : 08
Rate	47.95%	52.05%
FULL TIME		
Match Time	1351 : 39	1351 : 39
Time in Opposition Half	44 : 48	1396 : 27
Rate	-3.31%	103.31%

Attack/Defence Efficiency

	USA Eagles	Wales
FIRST HALF		
No. Times in Opposition 22	5	4
No. Tries Scored	1	2
Try Time	20.00%	50.00%
Defence Time	50.00%	80.00%
SECOND HALF		
No. Times in Opposition 22	6	8
No. Tries Scored	1	2
Try Time	16.67%	25.00%
Defence Time	75.00%	83.33%
FULL TIME		
No. Times in Opposition 22	11	12
No. Tries Scored	2	4
Try Time	18.18%	33.33%
Defence Time	66.67%	81.82%

USA Eagles v Wales (20 - 30)

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Wilmington

Possession Time Base

	USA Eagles	Wales
FIRST HALF	Mins Secs	Mins Secs
Match Time	18 : 01	18 : 01
Ball in Play	10 : 41	10 : 41
Rate	-0.76%	-0.76%
Time in Possession	03 : 46	04 : 17
Rate	35.26%	40.09%
Activity Cycles		
Total Number	49	
Of which:		
	0-4 Secs 14	20-24 Secs 2
	5-9 Secs 7	25-29 Secs 2
	10-14 Secs 6	30-34 Secs 1
	15-19 Secs 14	35+ Secs 3
Average	13.08	
Longest	39	
SECOND HALF	Mins Secs	Mins Secs
Match Time	46 : 22	46 : 22
Ball in Play	14 : 15	14 : 15
Rate	30.73%	30.73%
Time in Possession	06 : 00	05 : 52
Rate	42.11%	41.17%
Activity Cycles		
Total Number	53	
Of which:		
	0-4 Secs 14	20-24 Secs 4
	5-9 Secs 14	25-29 Secs 4
	10-14 Secs 4	30-34 Secs 2
	15-19 Secs 6	35+ Secs 5
Average	16.13	
Longest	93	
FULL TIME	Mins Secs	Mins Secs
Match Time	1351 : 39	1351 : 39
Ball in Play	24 : 56	24 : 56
Rate	-1.84%	-1.84%
Time in Possession	09 : 46	10 : 09
Rate	39.17%	40.71%
Activity Cycles		
Total Number	102	
Of which:		
	0-4 Secs 28	20-24 Secs 6
	5-9 Secs 21	25-29 Secs 6
	10-14 Secs 10	30-34 Secs 3
	15-19 Secs 20	35+ Secs 8
Average	14.67	
Longest	93	

USA Eagles v Wales (20 - 30)

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Lineout Analysis

	USA Eagles	Wales
FIRST HALF		
Awarded	9	7
Won	6	6
Lost	1	1
Other	2	0
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	0	0
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	0	0
Free Kick Against	0	0
Not Straight	2	0
Not 5m	0	0
KO Own	0	0
KO Opposition	0	0
SECOND HALF		
Awarded	6	7
Won	5	5
Lost	0	1
Other	1	1
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	1	0
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	0	0
Free Kick Against	0	0
Not Straight	0	1
Not 5m	0	0
KO Own	0	0
KO Opposition	0	0
FULL TIME		
Awarded	15	14
Won	11	11
Lost	1	2
Other	3	1
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	1	0
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	0	0
Free Kick Against	0	0
Not Straight	2	1
Not 5m	0	0
KO Own	0	0
KO Opposition	0	0

USA Eagles v Wales (20 - 30)

05/07/97

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Scrummaging Analysis

	USA Eagles	Wales
FIRST HALF		
Awarded	3	7
Won	3	5
Lost	0	0
Other	0	2
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	0	0
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	0	0
Free Kick Against	0	1
Collapsed	0	1
Wheeled 90	0	0
Disengaged	0	0
SECOND HALF		
Awarded	7	10
Won	5	8
Lost	0	0
Other	2	2
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	1	1
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	0	0
Free Kick Against	0	0
Collapsed	1	1
Wheeled 90	0	0
Disengaged	0	0
FULL TIME		
Awarded	10	17
Won	8	13
Lost	0	0
Other	2	4
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	1	1
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	0	0
Free Kick Against	0	1
Collapsed	1	2
Wheeled 90	0	0
Disengaged	0	0

USA Eagles v Wales (20 - 30)

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Rucking and Mauling Analysis

	USA Eagles	Wales
FIRST HALF		
Formed	17	19
Won	13	12
Lost	1	1
Other	3	6
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	1	3
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	1	2
Free Kick Against	0	0
Own Scrum	1	1
Opposition Scrum	0	0
Turned Over	1	1
SECOND HALF		
Formed	27	22
Won	20	19
Lost	2	1
Other	5	2
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	2	0
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	1	0
Free Kick Against	0	0
Own Scrum	1	2
Opposition Scrum	1	0
Turned Over	3	1
FULL TIME		
Formed	44	41
Won	33	31
Lost	3	2
Other	8	8
Of Which :-		
Penalty For	3	3
Free Kick For	0	0
Penalty Against	2	2
Free Kick Against	0	0
Own Scrum	2	3
Opposition Scrum	1	0
Turned Over	4	2

USA Eagles v Wales (20 - 30)

05/07/97

Wilmington

Penalties Conceded

	USA Eagles	Wales
FIRST HALF		
In Own 22	1	0
In Own 22 to H-W	2	2
In Opp H-W to 22	1	6
In Opp 22	1	0
Total	5	8
SECOND HALF		
In Own 22	1	1
In Own 22 to H-W	2	3
In Opp H-W to 22	2	3
In Opp 22	1	1
Total	6	8
FULL TIME		
In Own 22	2	1
In Own 22 to H-W	4	5
In Opp H-W to 22	3	9
In Opp 22	2	1
Total	11	16

Kicking Analysis

	USA Eagles			Wales		
	Successful	Unsuccessful	%	Successful	Unsuccessful	%
FIRST HALF						
Goal	3	2	60.00%	3	1	75.00%
Touch	8	0	100.00%	5	1	83.33%
Restart	2	3	40.00%	3	2	60.00%
Other	3	3	50.00%	2	2	50.00%
Total	16	8	66.67%	13	6	68.42%
SECOND HALF						
Goal	1	2	33.33%	1	2	33.33%
Touch	6	1	85.71%	2	0	100.00%
Restart	2	2	50.00%	1	3	25.00%
Other	0	3	0.00%	6	3	66.67%
Total	9	8	52.94%	10	8	55.56%
FULL TIME						
Goal	4	4	50.00%	4	3	57.14%
Touch	14	1	93.33%	7	1	87.50%
Restart	4	5	44.44%	4	5	44.44%
Other	3	6	33.33%	8	5	61.54%
Total	25	16	60.98%	23	14	62.16%

3.2 Phase Play

The **phase play** developed by the teams was:

Phase(s)	Wales			USA		
	First Half	Second	Game	First Half	Second	Game
One	5	4	9	2	6	8
Two	6	10	16	11	10	21
Three	3	5	8	2	4	6
Four	0	2	2	0	1	1
Five	2	0	2	0	0	0
Six	0	0	0	1	0	1
Eleven	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	16	21	37	16	22	38

3.3 Activity Cycles

There were **101 activity cycles in the game**. Their durations were:

Duration	First Half	Second Half	Game Total
0 - 4 seconds	15	16	31
5 - 9 seconds	7	11	18
10-14 seconds	6	5	11
15-19 seconds	12	5	17
20-24 seconds	3	4	7
25-29 seconds	2	5	7
30-39 seconds	4	3	7
40+ seconds	0	3	3
Totals	49	52	101

3.4 Percentage of Activity Cycles Less than Fifteen Seconds

The **percentages of activity cycles less than fifteen seconds** were:

First Half	Second Half	Game Total
57%	62%	59%

Second Test Match v United States of America 1997

San Francisco, California

12 July 1997

1. Time

The running clock and ball in play figures for this game were:

	Running Clock	Ball in Play	Ball in Play as % of Running Clock
First Half	40 mins 12 secs	13 mins 32 secs	34%
Second Half	43 mins 58 secs	13 mins 35 secs	31%
Game Total	84 mins 10 secs	27 mins 07 secs	32%

2. Game Elements

The game involved the following elements:

	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrumms	P/Fks Conceded
First Half	37	101	13	11	13
Second Half	40	109	14	9	6
Game Total	77	210	27	20	19

Wales	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrumms	P/Fks Con
First Half	18	42	9	5	5
Second Half	19	54	7	5	1
Game Total	37	96	16	10	6

USA	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrumms	P/Fks Con
First Half	19	59	4	6	8
Second Half	21	55	7	4	5
Game Total	40	114	11	10	13

3. Possessions and Phase Play

3.1 Possessions

There were **seventy-seven possessions** in the game that involved at least one pass.

	Wales	USA	Totals
First Half	17	22	39
Second Half	17	21	38
Game Total	34	43	77

3.2 Phase Play

The **phase play** developed by the teams was:

Phase(s)	Wales			USA		
	First Half	Second	Game	First Half	Second	Game
One	7	5	12	2	3	5
Two	5	10	15	11	9	20
Three	4	2	6	4	6	10
Four	1	3	4	3	1	4
Five	0	0	0	0	2	2
Ten	0	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	17	20	37	21	21	42

3.3 Activity Cycles

There were **84 activity cycles in the game**. Their durations were:

Duration	First Half	Second Half	Game Total
0 - 4 seconds	11	5	16
5 - 9 seconds	4	4	8
10-14 seconds	4	5	9
15-19 seconds	9	4	13
20-24 seconds	3	9	12
25-29 seconds	7	4	11
30-39 seconds	2	4	6
40+ seconds	5	4	9
Totals	45	39	84

3.4 Percentage of Activity Cycles Less than Fifteen Seconds

The **percentages of activity cycles less than fifteen seconds** were:

First Half	Second Half	Game Total
42%	36%	38%

IH	Wales		KOR	USA	
	USA	Wales		USA	Wales
KOR	5(15) 5(20)		KOR		
K	14(5) 9(4) 9(5) 15(5) 10(4) 10(7) 10(9) 10(13)	10(14) 10(16) 9(11) 10(20) 15(21) 9(23) 10(23)	K	11(6) 5(7) 5(10) 5(11) 5(16)	10(6) 10(11) 10(11) 15(5) 10(6) 10(10) 10(12) 10(13)
i			i		10(14) 10(16) 10(17) 10(18) 10(20) 10(21) 11(23)
c			c		10(24) 10(32) 10(32) 10(37)
k			k		
P	1K(1) 1/2FF(2) 0/1P(8) 1P(8) 2/70(11) 1P(13) 2/3/1K	1K(1) 1/2FF(2) 0/1P(8) 1P(8) 2/70(11) 1P(13) 2/3/1K	P	0/1/2/1K(6) 1K(1) 1/0/3/0(4) 11/5R(7) 0/2FF(10) 3/P(11)	0/1/2/1K(6) 1K(1) 1/0/3/0(4) 11/5R(7) 0/2FF(10) 3/P(11)
a	n/2/70(17) 2K(11) 1K(11) 1K(19) 1K(21) 1K(23)	1K(1) 1/2FF(2) 0/1P(8) 1P(8) 2/70(11) 1P(13) 2/3/1K	a	0/1K(13) 3/70(15) 0/0/1K 11(15) 1/1K 1/0(22) 11/2K(23)	0/1K(13) 3/70(15) 0/0/1K 11(15) 1/1K 1/0(22) 11/2K(23)
s	1/2/2/5/6(30) 2/1K(32) 1/0(34) 4P(35)	1/2/2/5/6(30) 2/1K(32) 1/0(34) 4P(35)	s	1/1K(24) 0/0/3/0/1/0/1/0/2/0(24) 2/2/1/1(27) 1/1/0/3/1/0(27) 0/2/1/0(30) 2/1/1K(32) 0/2K(32) 3/1/3/	1/1K(24) 0/0/3/0/1/0/1/0/2/0(24) 2/2/1/1(27) 1/1/0/3/1/0(27) 0/2/1/0(30) 2/1/1K(32) 0/2K(32) 3/1/3/
L	2(27) 2 3(4) 4(4) 4(7) 5(7) 6(7) 6(7) 8(27) 24	2(27) 2 3(4) 4(4) 4(7) 5(7) 6(7) 6(7) 8(27) 24	L	1(4) 7(7) 24(11) 31 1K(37) 33 () ()	1(4) 7(7) 24(11) 31 1K(37) 33 () ()
i	9(24) 24 10(24) 12(24) 32 () () ()	9(24) 24 10(24) 12(24) 32 () () ()	i	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()
n	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()	n	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()
e	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()	e	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()
o	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()	o	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()
u	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()	u	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()
t	3(4) 4(11) 7(22) 8(23) 11(34) () ()	3(4) 4(11) 7(22) 8(23) 11(34) () ()	t	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()
S	() () () () () () () ()	() () () () () () () ()	S	1(2) 2(3) 5(17) 6(19) 9(26) 10(29)	1(2) 2(3) 5(17) 6(19) 9(26) 10(29)
c			c		
r			r		
PFk	1 2 3 4 5(11) 6 7 8 9(12) 10(27) 11 12	1 2 3 4 5(11) 6 7 8 9(12) 10(27) 11 12	PFk	1(5) 2(7) 3(8) 4(15) 6(19) 7(19) 8 9 10 11(24) 12(36)	1(5) 2(7) 3(8) 4(15) 6(19) 7(19) 8 9 10 11(24) 12(36)
Inj	5(33)	5(33)	Inj	3(29)	3(29)

Scoring Sequence: 3-0(9), 3-3(12), 8-3(13), 13-3(30) 13-6(38).

47. 38-30

610 13-32

11-30 0/1/1

Centre for Notational Analysis

12 July 1997

Facsimile message for

**Mr Alun Carter
Welsh Rugby Team**

From:

Keith Lyons

Dear Alun

Test Match and Comparative Data

Please find appended the Test match details and a comparison with other games. I am a little tired and so have not summarised the data - I will do that tomorrow.

Well done!

Best wishes

Keith

Centre for Notational Analysis

4 July 1997

Facsimile message for: **Mr Alun Carter**
Welsh Rugby Union
c/o Wilmington Hilton Hotel

From: Keith Lyons

Dear Alun

Please find appended some information for your use. I am off to Middlesborough this evening with Sam to his first Divion One event.

Give me a call on the mobile.

I hope you have had a good independence day!

Best wishes

Keith



team info

playing for the usa

staff roster

team roster

Pacific Rim Rugby Championship Roster

Name	Position	Caps	Club
Alexander, Matt	flyhalf	16	Denver Barbarians
Allen, Sean	hooker	3	OMBAC (San Diego)
Anitoni, Vaea	wing	20	San Mateo (San Mateo, CA)
Bachelet, Andre	halfback	23	Reading (Reading, England)
Billups, Tom	hooker	21	Harlequins (London)
Dalzell, Kevin	halfback	1	Univ. of California (Berkeley)
Gross, Luke	lock	14	Harlequins (London)
Hightower, Brian	wing	3	Gentlemen of Aspen (Aspen, CO)
Hodges, Dave	lock	1	OMBAC (San Diego, CA)
LeClerc, Bill	prop	5	Gentlemen of Aspen (Aspen, CO)
Lehner, Ray	prop	15	Hamilton (Cape Town, South Africa)
Lippert, Chris	prop	30	OMBAC (San Diego)
Lyle, Dan (c)	flanker	14	Bath (Bath, England)
McLeod, Mika	flanker	2	OMBAC (San Diego)
Morrow, Chris	fullback	3	Gentlemen of Aspen (Aspen, CO)
Saulala, Alatini	center	2	San Mateo (San Mateo, CA)
Scharrenberg, Mark	center	20	Reading (Reading, England)
Shuman, Kurt	flyhalf	3	Penn State University (State College, PA)
Sika, Maika	fullback	16	Dallas Reds
Stanaway, Mike	prop	3	OMBAC (San Diego)
Takau, Tomasi	center	10	Gentlemen of Aspen (Aspen, CO)
Tardits, Richard	flanker	14	Life College (Marietta, GA)
Vogl, Cliff	lock	7	Bridgend (Bridgend, Wales)
Walker, Jason	number 8	9	Gentlemen of Aspen (Aspen, CO)
Wilkerson, Jay	flanker	10	Belmont Shore (Long Beach, CA)

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Contact [Kurt Oeler](#), Media Relations





news updates
1996 press releases

Canada Downs US 22-11 in Pacific Rim Finale

(San Francisco, California) 28 June 1997 -- Three penalty goals from Bob Ross and a late try by Winston Stanley broke a 8-8 halftime deadlock and lifted visiting Canada to a 22-11 victory over the United States in both teams' final Canterbury of New Zealand Pacific Rim Rugby Championship match Saturday at Balboa Park's Boxer Stadium.

Trailing 14-11, the US were crippled when referee Shin-ichi Iwashita ejected prop Bill LeClerc from the game at 69 minutes for punching, acting on the advice of touch judge Giles Wilson. Television replays did not make the sending-off offense clear, in as much as Canadians Richard Bice and Mike James were also shown punching in a relatively minor dustup. However, Iwashita had apparently issued a general warning to the US after Canadian Gareth Rees left the field with a broken nose at 46 minutes.

Stanley's try and the third of Ross's penalty goals came after LeClerc left the field.

"We were very surprised by the sending off," US manager Michael de Jong said after the match. "There was a lot of physical play going in both directions. It was odd to see."

Canada jumped to a 3-0 lead on an early penalty goal from flyhalf Rees. The US quickly responded with an unconverted try from center Alatini Saulala, set up by fullback Chris Morrow's penetrating strike. Flyhalf Matt Alexander extended the American lead to 8-3 with an easy penalty goal at the end of the first quarter, but Rees struck back with a burrowing, unconverted scoring run at 33 minutes to tie the match.

Though the US enjoyed a bit more first-half possession, neither team developed any continuity because the two archrivals hit each other hard. The pattern continued in the second half.

Having moved to flyhalf for the temporarily injured Rees, Ross slotted penalty goals at 51 and 55 minutes, while Alexander countered at 58 minutes. Then came Iwashita's fateful decision.

"Although it was an improvement on our first match with Canada, we're certainly disappointed to lose," US coach Jack Clark said after the match. "It was an odd game that never really got started."

The win drops the USA's final record to 3-3, while Canada goes to 5-1 and underlines its second Pacific Rim title in the two-year-old competition. The Eagles await the result of tomorrow's Japan-Hong Kong match to learn their final standing.

United States: Try: Saulala
Penalty goals: Alexander (2)
Canada: Tries: Rees, Stanley
Penalty goals: Rees, Ross (3)



playing for the usa

staff roster

team roster

Eagle standouts like Vaea Anitoni, Andre Bachelet, and captain Dan Lyle talk about life as an international rugby player.

Q: What are the biggest differences between a top-class club game, say an OMBAC-PAC contest, and an international game?

Vaea Anitoni: The level of competitiveness is much higher and the speed of the game is more intense. Players' motivation accelerates because they are representing their country.

Mark Williams: The biggest difference is in international games you have less time. Also the tempo of the game is higher, and the athletes are of a higher standard.

Vaea Anitoni

- Position: Wing
- Club: San Mateo
- 5'8", 170 lbs.
- Born: September 20, 1970
- Caps: 20



Q: How do you put aside normal competitive rivalries when you join the Eagle squad?

Andre Bachelet: You put aside rivalries, family, and careers when you join the team. The squad is its own family.

Dan Lyle: There's such a big jump from club to international competition that those rivalries must be forgotten or else they hamstring you.

Dan Lyle

- Position: Number eight
- Club: Bath
- 6'5", 250 lbs.
- Born: September 28, 1970
- Caps: 14



Q: Name the most important personal and professional sacrifices you've made to become a test player and represent the United States.

Andre Bachelet: Personal and professional falls into the same category. Not accepting job opportunities is a financial burden. My wife works 50 hours/week and I work when I can, which makes it hard to fulfill our dreams of having a family.

Tom Billups: There has been and continues to be only one sacrifice . . . my family. I haven't been there for them during many tough challenges or to help celebrate happy occasions. You can only do a little over a phone call. Professionally, I'm doing what I have always dreamed . . . be a professional, international athlete.

Luke Gross: I have a masters degree but no professional experience: I've put aside my career.

Andre Bachelet

- Position: Halfback
- Club: Reading
- 5'7", 184 lbs.
- Born: March 11, 1970
- Caps: 23



Q: What's the most rewarding aspect of being an Eagle?

Vaea Anitoni: Knowing you are one of the few who are picked to represent the United States of America in rugby.

Andre Bachelet: Being able to travel throughout the world and meet talented athletes is awesome, but most rewarding is playing for your country.

Tom Billups: Representing our country . . . there are very few situations in this world that offer you the chance to stand in front of thousands with your hand on your heart, singing the country's anthem on foreign soil.

Tom Billups

- Position: Hooker
- Club: Blackheath
- 5'8", 205 lbs.
- Born: December 26, 1964
- Caps: 21



Q: What's the most exciting part about playing for the United States right now, in an era when international rugby is changing dramatically?

Dan Lyle: We are pioneers, able to influence the game for the United States in a positive building process.

Mark Williams: The fact that we have more games now. I think you'll see the Eagles gaining on the likes of Ireland and Wales.

Mark Williams

- Position: Flyhalf / fullback
- Club: Gentlemen of Aspen
- 5'11", 190 lbs.
- Born: June 26, 1961
- Caps: 28



Q: What kinds of things can fans expect from the Eagles in the next few years, and how do you hope to contribute?

Andre Bachelet: A running game and a physical, hardworking team that is excited to lift the Eagle program to a new level.

Tom Billups: I think our fans can expect this: dynamic rugby with a tactically sound pattern. We aim to play entertaining matches with players who run hard and forwards who work hard for 80 minutes. Personally, I have no comfort in my test selection. I have to show up and work extremely hard at all aspects.

Luke Gross: Continual improvement and excitement are in the future. I feel fans can expect my play to continually get better.

Luke Gross

- Position: Lock
- Club: Harlequins
- 6'9", 250 lbs.
- Born: November 21, 1969
- Caps: 14



Q: After you've finished your career as an international player, what comes next?

Vaea Anitoni: I'll stay home and barbecue every day. I hope someday to have a wife and raise a family.

Tom Billups: When I've played my last test, I'll try to continue to be active in financially supporting emerging international US players. It would seem a good use of my efforts to help a young player do the things that I was fortunate enough to do, but with more financial help. That's how I plan to give back to the game that's offered me so much.

Mark Williams: Coaching: I want to give back a little of what I've learned to someone else, whether it be college, club, or country.

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Jack Clark

Head Coach and General Manager ... took charge of the US National Team in June 1993 after guiding the University All-American program from its birth in 1987 ... after operating his first National Team training camp in October 1993, Clark steered the Eagles to a narrow 26-22 loss to then-world champion Australia ... in 1994 Clark's charges missed qualifying for the World Cup by a single try, and traveled overseas, to Ireland, for the first time since the Eagles went to Australia in 1990 ... his 1995 edition posted the first-ever US victory over Canada on Canadian soil ... 1996 opened with a close loss to Ireland, 25-18, in Marietta, Georgia ... his US team finished second in the springtime Pacific Rim competition, and a narrow third in September's Pan American Championship, failing to become the unbeaten titlists by just nine points ... finished 4-6 on the year ... has logged a 9-15 test-match record, but ten of these losses have been decided by a try or less ... as General Manager, has secured unprecedented sponsorship, significantly boosting player compensation levels ... since 1984 head coach at the University of California at Berkeley, where he has piled up nine national championships in twelve years ... as a lock forward, capped for the US and appeared for an Overseas XV in 1980 in Cardiff, Wales, before a career-ending injury



Michael de Jong

Team Manager ... 1996 saw Michael begin as Assistant Manager of the US National Team, backing up the long-serving Ed Schram ... following Schram's retirement, Mike became Manager of the US squad ... also serves as coach of the Denver Barbarians, traditionally a Western RFU power and founding members of the American Premier League that is to debut in March 1997 ... coached the "White" squad at December's US National Team trials match ... a Western RFU Selector and Convenor of Selectors for the Collegiate All-American program ... as a player, Mike totaled 9 caps at flyhalf, including two at the 1991 World Cup ... Mike is the owner-operator of a Denver travel agency

Dan Porter ... Assistant Coach

Eddie O'Sullivan ... Assistant Coach

Warren King, MD ... Physician

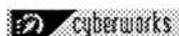
John Hisamoto ... Physiotherapist

Kurt Oeler ... Media Relations

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US Announces Development XV Squad

(Berkeley, California) 3 July 1997 -- The US National Team today announced the 26-man roster of a Developmental XV that's to face touring Wales on July 8 in San Francisco.

Life College backrow Jon Holtzman and Penn State flyhalf Kurt Shuman head up a group of players that's mostly 24 years old or younger. Seven are collegians, and 15 have earned All-American honors.

Other players to watch include lock / flanker Glenn Gawronski and fullback Dan Kennedy, teammates on New York's Old Blue, Chicago Lions flanker Paul Vogel and Seattle center Boydy Wikeepa, who have traveled with the National Team but not yet won a cap, and Life College wing Chip Curtis. All but Kennedy performed well at the National Team's December 1996 trials camp in Las Vegas. Kennedy didn't play in the trials match.

Holtzman won two caps and Shuman three (two as a fullback and one as a center) during the Eagles' recently completed Pacific Rim season, but face competition in trying to hold down places in the starting lineup. The recently graduated Shuman also collected the 1997 Woodley Award last month, becoming the second straight winner (following Development XV Kevin Dalzell) to be selected by the National Team before becoming the college player of the year.

OMBAC head man Bing Dawson will guide a five-day training camp prior to the Tuesday night match, along with US assistant coach Dan Porter. Though 13 players come from Harp League sides, the squad is far too youthful and inexperienced to be considered an Eagle 'B' team, and could struggle to organize its pattern against a Welsh outfit that looked skillful and speedy in a tour-opening 94-3 win over the outgunned South on July 1 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"In some ways, an incoming tour match like this would be a great fixture for a territorial team, but in our current state, the opportunity falls to this developmental side," US General Manager Jack Clark commented from Wilmington, North Carolina, where the full National Team is preparing for Saturday's opening test with Wales. "Certainly they'll be challenged, but over time they'll be better for the chance."

Backs: Chip Curtis (Life College), Kevin Dalzell (Univ. of California), Eric Fleckton (OMBAC), Dan Kennedy (Old Blue), C.D. LaBounty (Bayside), Mike Ortiz (UC Davis), Pablo Perez (OMBAC), Kurt Shuman (Penn State Univ.), Soane Tau (San Mateo), Wayne Whitko (OMBAC), Boydy Wikeepa (Seattle).

Forwards: Mike Calcagno (Villagers), Glenn Gawronski (Old Blue), Todd Giuntini (UC Davis), Dave Hodges (OMBAC), Jon Holtzman (Life), Travis Kelsey (Denver Barbarians), Kirk Khasigian (Univ. of California), Tim Kluempers (Kansas City Blues), John McBride (St. Louis Bombers), Mas Morimoto (Olympic Club), Kyle Quinn (Belmont Shore), Eric Reed (Miami Univ.), Paul Vogel (Chicago Lions), Don Younger (Indiana Univ.), Scott Yungling (Univ. of California).



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Looking Back on the 1997 Pacific Rim Season

(Berkeley, California) 2 July 1997 -- Winning all but one of its last four games, the US National Team finished the 1997 Canterbury of New Zealand Pacific Rim Rugby Championship with a 3-3 record, a mark identical to its 1996 showing.

Facing the Pacific Rim's most difficult schedule--consecutive road matches in Vancouver and Asia opened the season--the US dropped its initial matches to Canada and Hong Kong by surprisingly large margins. But the injury-riddled Eagle tour squad then registered an equally improbable victory over a Japanese outfit coming off a victory over Canada to begin a three-game win streak.

Looking in the season finale against its archrival to catch Canada at four wins each, the US was very much in the hunt until a controversial send-off left the hosts a player short and allowed the Maple Leafs to escape with a win.

Commenting on the 1997 season, US coach Jack Clark got right to the point. "We don't want to sidestep the fact that we played poorly in our first two matches. Although there are extenuating circumstances which led to this performance, it's enough for now to say we played badly.

"On the other hand, I was very proud of the team in the last four games of the competition. 4-0 would have been better than 3-1, but we competed hard in each of these matches."

Now two years old, the four-team Pacific Rim proved a much stronger competition this season, as well a conference in which road wins are still hard to come by. Taking advantage of relaxed eligibility regulations, Hong Kong and Japan utilized players like former Wallaby Chris Gordon and former All Black Steve Gordon, respectively, to improve their starting XVs. For the first time in recent years Canada was able to get all of its top players home from Europe and Japan, and showed itself the side the world knows Canada can be.

Though fewer of its players are based overseas, the US too was able to bring home stars like number eight Dan Lyle and halfback Andre Bachelet, part of a group beginning to make a name for America in the larger world of rugby. But unavailability continued to play a role: Some of America's best and most promising players simply can't commit to almost 10 straight weeks away from work (the eight-week Pacific Rim campaign plus two more weeks preparing for the upcoming Welsh tests).

Thirty players were capped during the course of six games, and another nine were part of the team's nearly continuous training regime. Injuries cost the Eagles the services of stalwarts Rob Lumkong and Alec Parker for the entire season, and Tom Billups, Brian Hightower, and several others for at least two games.

Eight of the 30 appeared in their first internationals, coming to the National Team from every sector of US rugby: Chip Curtis and Alatini Saulala from the 1996 Las Vegas trials camp, Jon Holtzman, Dan Kennedy, and Mike Stanaway from the Harp League, Mika McLeod from the US club championships, and 1997 Woodley award-winner Kurt Shuman and Scott Yungling from the

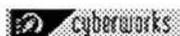
collegiate ranks. Shuman, who joined the US squad last September, is the second straight Woodley winner (following Kevin Dalzell) to have trained with the National Team before becoming the college player of the year.

After assembling the team and getting everybody back on the same page, the US clearly benefited from the British playing experience of Lyle and company, and also got improved mileage out of those competing for the 14 Harp League teams, which finally gives the country an adequate club competition. On the whole, however, American players remain less prepared for the test level than their Pacific Rim rivals because they get fewer "hard and fast" club or select-side matches, something that could be alleviated by the continuation of the Harp League and also December's resumption of the Inter-Territorial Tournament (ITT), which the National Team long pushed for.

"Looking ahead," coach Clark continued, "our European-based professional players played well, and our new caps showed good promise." Speaking of America's most prominent overseas player, Bath and USA number eight Dan Lyle, Clark noted that "Dan performed especially well, and did a superb job of captaining the team through the competition. In a community where we build people up so we can tear them down, he left the critics little to complain about."

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Contact [Kurt Oeler](#), Media Relations





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US Offense Spreads Wings in 51-29 Win over Japan

(San Francisco, California) 7 June 1997 -- Winger Brian Hightower marked his return to action with four tries as the US National Rugby Team beat Japan 51-29 in a Canterbury Pacific Rim Rugby Championship match Saturday at Balboa Park's Boxer Stadium.

Hightower, who had been sidelined with a fractured cheekbone, equalled the Eagles' single-game scoring record as the US backline outgunned their Japanese opponents, scoring eight tries to three. Two of Hightower's tries came practically from the kickoff: at 1 and 41 minutes.

"Having a good start in both the first and second halves was key to our victory," US coach Jack Clark noted. But Hightower, who comes from the Gentlemen of Aspen club in Colorado, downplayed his contribution: "We thought we could have some success running the ball wide," he said after the game, "and I was just doing my job."

The winger's efforts kept the Japanese from their defensive assignments. Japanese coach Seiji Hirao praised Hightower's skills and said his team simply could not stop the 185-lb speedster, who refused to go down in the tackle.

With the wind at their backs, the Cherry Blossoms matched the US in the first half, going into the break tied 22-22. Two tries from Hightower paced the hosts, while Japanese halfback Wataru Murata answered with a try, a conversion, and a penalty goal.

The game was still close midway through the second period at 34-29, but the Eagles' defense stiffened, allowing the team to pull away in the closing minutes through tries by Andre Bachelet, Hightower, and Mark Scharrenberg. The sending off of Japanese lock Hiroyuki Tanuma for stamping prop Bill LeClerc on the head was also a factor, leaving the Japanese side playing a man short.

"We had some bad luck but were basically outplayed," noted Japanese coach Seiji Hirao. "I don't understand why we didn't play better defense."

The US pulls to 2-2 in the Pacific Rim standings and faces Hong Kong next Saturday, again in San Francisco.

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Contact [Kurt Oeler](#), Media Relations





US Announces Roster for First Part of Test Series '97

(Berkeley, California) 5 June 1997 -- The US National Team yesterday confirmed its roster for the opening portion of Test Series '97, comprising this Saturday's Canterbury Pacific Rim Rugby Championship match against Japan and next week's contest against Hong Kong. Both games will be played at Balboa Park's Boxer Stadium in San Francisco, and broadcast that (Saturday) night on FOX Sports Net (showings on the *Championship Rugby* will be delayed a week).

With 32 players in camp down in Palo Alto, the squad is significantly bigger than the crew which battled to a 1-2 record on the road portion of the Pacific Rim schedule. Several players who were injured or otherwise unavailable have returned, while several Harp League and national championship standouts and some promising collegians have played their way into the mix.

Most uplifting is the return of Tom Billups, whose scary neck injury against Hong Kong forced him to leave the tour early. With a negative MRI and full medical clearance, the USA's most-capped hooker is keen to resume. Meanwhile, wing Brian Hightower has recovered remarkably quickly from a pre-Canada training accident that fractured his cheekbone (Hightower helped the Gentlemen of Aspen to its national championship win this past weekend), but although center Alatini Saulala has started practicing again, he's still hobbling from the severe ankle sprain picked up while earning his first cap in Vancouver. Lock Alec Parker (knee) and Mike Stanaway (elbow) are struggling to prove their fitness, and have not yet come into camp.

Several players have shrugged off professional commitments. Fresh from capturing the US title in San Diego, Aspen prop Bill LeClerc and number eight Jason Walker rejoin the team for the first time since its January trip to Wales. High-scoring San Mateo wing Vaea Anitoni, who was available only for the Canadian match, is another welcome addition.

Sidelined during recent National Team assemblies by injuries and other concerns, Old Blue fullback Dan Kennedy and Belmont Shore lock Kyle Quinn earned their roster spots following strong Harp League showings and good performances during the national championship playoffs.

St. Louis Bombers prop John McBride and OMBAC flanker Mika McLeod join the US for the first time, as do three of the five collegians in Palo Alto. While flyhalf / fullback Kurt Shuman and halfback Kevin Dalzell are both capped players who have toured abroad with the National Team and also the All-Americans, hooker Kirk Khasigian and backrowers Don Younger and Scott Yungling are getting their first look at the program. It's likely, however, that the latter three will be released next week to attend the All-American trials camp in Colorado.

Among the veterans, lock Cliff Vogl, captain and number eight Dan Lyle, and wing Chip Curtis emerged from the road swing with the best grades. Much of the earlier group is here, but faces added competition for test spots. On the road last month, the US suffered two lopsided losses before posting an unlikely win over Japan, and now looks to take advantage of the Pacific Rim's notorious homefield advantage. The US victory in Osaka is one of just two away wins this season; last year, there were just two during the entire competition, neither of them by the US.

"Providing the previously injured players can prove their fitness, this will be a stronger squad than the one which was assembled for the Asian portion of the season," US head coach Jack Clark commented. "I believe it's critical that our home stand gets off to a good start."

[Test Series '97 Player Roster](#)

End of facsimile message to:

Alun Carter

4 July 1997

Centre for Notational Analysis

University of Wales Institute Cardiff

6 July 1997

Facsimile Message for: **Mr Alun Carter**
Welsh Rugby Union Team
Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel

From: Keith Lyons

Dear Alun

Welcome to the West Coast! I hope you have not had too long a day. I am still working on the involvement and outcome data. I have Emailed Kevin with the files I am faxing to you.

I will give you a call.

Speak to you soon

Keith

First Test Match v United States of America 1997

Wilmington, North Carolina

5 July 1997

1. Time

The running clock and ball in play figures for this game were:

	Running Clock	Ball in Play	Ball in Play as % of Running Clock
First Half	41 mins 59 secs	10 mins 33 secs	25%
Second Half	46 mins 23 secs	13 mins 57 secs	30%
Game Total	88 mins 22 secs	24 mins 30 secs	28%

2. Game Elements

The game involved the following elements:

	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Conceded
First Half	44	74	16	10	12
Second Half	32	99	13	18	13
Game Total	76	173	29	28	25

Wales	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Con
First Half	18	45	7	7	7
Second Half	15	49	6	10	7
Game Total	33	94	13	17	14

USA	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Con
First Half	26	29	9	3	5
Second Half	17	50	7	8	6
Game Total	43	79	16	11	11

3. Possessions and Phase Play

3.1 Possessions

There were **sixty-three possessions** in the game that involved at least one pass.

	Wales	USA	Totals
First Half	14	14	28
Second Half	17	18	35

Game Total	31	32	63
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3.2 Phase Play

The **phase play** developed by the teams was:

Phase(s)	Wales			USA		
	First Half	Second	Game	First Half	Second	Game
One	5	4	9	2	6	8
Two	6	10	16	11	10	21
Three	3	5	8	2	4	6
Four	0	2	2	0	1	1
Five	2	0	2	0	0	0
Six	0	0	0	1	0	1
Eleven	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	16	21	37	16	22	38

3.3 Activity Cycles

There were **101 activity cycles in the game**. Their durations were:

Duration	First Half	Second Half	Game Total
0 - 4 seconds	15	16	31
5 - 9 seconds	7	11	18
10-14 seconds	6	5	11
15-19 seconds	12	5	17
20-24 seconds	3	4	7
25-29 seconds	2	5	7
30-39 seconds	4	3	7
40+ seconds	0	3	3
Totals	49	52	101

3.4 Percentage of Activity Cycles Less than Fifteen Seconds

The percentages of activity cycles less than fifteen seconds were:

First Half	Second Half	Game Total
57%	62%	59%

A Comparison of Performance

Emerging Wales v Romania and Wales v USA (First Test) 1997

1. Time

The running clock and ball in play times for these match were:

	Running Clock	Ball in Play	Ball in Play as % of Running Clock
v Romania	92 mins 52 secs	26 mins 34 secs	29%
v USA	88 mins 22 secs	24 mins 30 secs	28%

2. Game Elements

The game involved the following elements:

	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Conceded
v Romania	94	205	32	25	35
v USA	76	173	29	28	25

of these:

Wales	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Con
v Romania	46	96	18	14	16
v USA	33	94	13	17	14

and:

Opponents	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Con
Romania	38	109	17	11	19
USA	43	79	16	11	11

3. Possessions and Phase Play

3.1 Possessions

There were **85 possessions** in the Romania game and **63 possessions** in the USA game that involved at least one pass.

Game	Wales	Romania	Totals
Romania	40	45	85
USA	31	32	63

3.2 Phase Play

The phase play developed by the teams was:

Phase(s)	Wales			Opponents		
	v Romania	v USA	Totals	Romania	USA	Totals
One	20	9	29	14	8	22
Two	17	16	33	24	21	45
Three	6	8	14	7	6	13
Four	3	2	5	2	1	3
Five	0	2	2	3	0	3
Six	0	0	0	0	1	1
Eleven	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	46	37	83	50	38	88

Note: these figures relate to the total number of phases in each possession.

3.3 Activity Cycles

There were **114** activity cycles in the Romania game and **101** in the USA game. Their durations were:

Duration	v Romania	v USA	Totals
0 - 4 seconds	19	31	40
5 - 9 seconds	26	18	44
10-14 seconds	22	11	33
15-19 seconds	17	17	34
20-24 seconds	15	7	22
25-29 seconds	6	7	13
30-39 seconds	4	3	7
40+ seconds	5	3	8
Totals	114	101	215

Note: an activity cycle is defined as the time when the ball is in play

3.4 Percentage of Activity Cycles Less than Fifteen Seconds

The percentages of activity cycles less than fifteen seconds in the game were:

	Wales v Romania	Wales v USA
Game Average	59%	59%

Emerging Wales v Romania 1997

Bucharest, June

1. Time

The running clock and ball in play times for this match were:

	Running Clock	Ball in Play	Ball in Play as % of Running Clock
First Half	43 mins 45 secs	12 mins 33 secs	29%
Second Half	49 mins 07 secs	14 mins 01 secs	29%
Game Total	92 mins 52 secs	26 mins 34 secs	29%

Observations: This is a low ball in play time from a very high total game time. The second half involved nine minutes extra time!

2. Game Elements

The game involved the following elements:

	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Conceded
First Half	40	113	15	13	15
Second Half	44	92	17	12	20
Game Total	94	205	32	25	35

of these:

Wales	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Con
First Half	21	45	8	6	7
Second Half	25	51	10	8	9
Game Total	46	96	18	14	16

and:

Romania	Kicks	Passes	Lineouts	Scrum	P/Fks Con
First Half	19	68	7	7	8
Second Half	19	41	10	4	11
Game Total	38	109	17	11	19

Observations: Emerging Wales put the ball into more lineouts and scrums than Romania and were also penalised less than Romania (despite being penalised five times in the last six minutes of the game). Emerging Wales passed more than Romania in the second half.

3. Possessions and Phase Play

3.1 Possessions

There were **eighty-five possessions** in the game that involved at least one pass.

	Wales	Romania	Totals
First Half	17	25	42
Second Half	23	20	43
Game Total	40	45	85

***Observations:** Note Emerging Wales's success in the second half compared to the first half. In the game Emerging Wales had at least one pass in 40 of the 46 possessions in the game.*

3.2 Phase Play

The **phase play** developed by the teams was:

Phase(s)	Emerging Wales			Romania		
	First Half	Second	Game	First Half	Second	Game
One	9	11	20	6	8	14
Two	5	12	17	14	10	24
Three	3	3	6	3	4	7
Four	2	1	3	2	0	2
Five	0	0	0	2	1	3
Totals	19	27	46	27	23	50

Note: these figures relate to the total number of phases in each possession.

***Observations:** Eighty percent of all Emerging Wales' possessions in this game were two phases or less (compared to Romania's 76%). There were thirty five penalties in the game and these limited continuity possibilities.*

3.3 Activity Cycles

There were **114 activity cycles** in the game. Their durations were:

Duration	First Half	Second Half	Game Total
0-4 seconds	8	11	19
5-9 seconds	16	10	26
10-14 seconds	11	11	22
15-19 seconds	5	12	17
20-24 seconds	6	9	15
25-29 seconds	3	3	6
30-39 seconds	1	3	4
40+ seconds	4	1	5
Totals	54	60	114

Note: an activity cycle is defined as the time when the ball is in play

Observations: *There was a relatively small number of activity cycles that exceeded forty seconds. The longest activity cycle in the whole game was forty six seconds. Emerging Wales scored tries off: three phases (27 minute first half); two phases (16 minute second half); first phase (23 minute second half); two phases (38 minute second half); and first phase (44 minute second half). Romania scored three of their four tries from first phase possession.*

3.4 Percentage of Activity Cycles Less than Fifteen Seconds

The percentages of activity cycles less than fifteen seconds in the game were:

First Half	Second Half	Game Total
65%	53%	59%

Observations: *Note the relatively high percentage in the first half. Although both teams were trying to play expansive rugby, lost possession and unforced errors reduced the opportunities for extended play.*

Wales v USA
First Test, Wimpington 5 July 1997

Kevin

Some thoughts on aspects of play in the first game.

1. The American 6 man lineout

I thought they used this to good effect but they limited their own potential by the quality of their throw. Once Lyle went off they also only had two options.

The coverage of the game was not very good over here but if you have the chance to check out their organisation it seems to me that the American prop that stood at three gives a very clear, early indication of where the ball is going. His body position is different for his lineout 2 and his support of a ball thrown deeper.

2. The Blondies

Tours always throw up some trend. With the four players having blond hair (all friends) there must be a lot of comments but there is a very important game playing issue here.

Red shirts are a trigger colour for referees - they seem to notice us more! Early on in the game Wales were penalised by the referee for offside at the rear of a ruck. At that moment in time all three blondies 10, 12, 13 were together and McCartney pointed to Arwel. From my picture none of them were offside but they had alerted the referee to their presence just by their look!

Given they can trigger referees I think it is important they actively stay onside! Interestingly all three of our referees come from countries where the people have dark hair!!

The same will apply to Nathan and it may be even more important for him to stay onside!

3. Gate Defence

Our performance 'in the gate' was mixed. The US try scored in the first half by the centre came through a big hole after a five metre scrum. Our back row were tied up by a narrow channel attack and we were left with Garin and Lyndon in the hole that the Americans used. The gate is a physical space and a communication space. Were we using a zone defence here? The try came from the most dangerous first phase situation: a 5m scrum of attacking team's right hand side in 15 m channel.

4. Discipline

This has to be a priority for our players. We were penalised more than USA. Chris loader was warned for foul play when we had just stolen a US lineout ball through Andrew Gibbs and were going forward dynamically. At the moment Chris jumped in we had quick ball ready to go off our right hand: our potential try time was turned into a US penalty at goal (following an offence at the US penalty lineout).

Centre for Notational Analysis

7 July 1997

Facsimile Message for:

Mr. Alun Carter
Welsh Rugby Team
c/o Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel

From:

Keith Lyons

Dear Alun

Involvement and Outcome Profiles

It is half past midnight and have managed to complete backs and replacements! I am faxing these and a general summary to you.

I have sent these files to Kevin by Email. You have the only hard copy.

I hope you are having a productive afternoon. It is still very hot here fans are working overtime.

Speak to you soon.

Keith

Wales v USA
First Test, Wimpington 5 July 1997

Kevin

Some thoughts on aspects of play in the first game.

1. The American 6 Man Lineout

I thought they used this to good effect but they limited their own potential by the quality of their throw. Once Lyle went off they also only had two options.

The coverage of the game was not very good over here but if you have the chance to check out their organisation it seems to me that the American prop that stood at three gives a very clear, early indication of where the ball is going. His body position is different for his lift on 2 to that of his support of a ball thrown deeper.

I think we may have had 7 men on one occasion. On two other occasions Mike Voyle hooked Gross's arm (once in our 22 and once in their 22).

2. The Blondies

Tours always throw up some trend. With the four players having blond hair (all friends) there must be a lot of comments but there is a very important game playing issue here.

Red shirts are a trigger colour for referees - they seem to notice us more! Early on in the game Wales were penalised by the referee for offside at the rear of a ruck. At that moment in time all three blondies 10, 12, 13 were together and McCartney pointed to Arwel. From my picture none of them were offside but they had alerted the referee to their presence just by their look! The same happened in the second half.

Given they can trigger referees I think it is important they actively stay onside! Interestingly all three of our referees come from countries where the people have dark hair!!

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a 5m scrum of attacking team's right hand side in 15 m channel. In the second half Gwyn closed the gate beautifully against the same move.

4. Discipline

This has to be a priority for our players. We were penalised more than USA. Chris Loader was warned for foul play when we had just stolen a US lineout ball through Andrew Gibbs and were going forward dynamically. At the moment Chris jumped in we had quick ball ready to go off our right hand: our potential try time was turned into a US penalty at goal (following an offence at the US penalty lineout).

Charles Muir is refereeing the next game. As a touch judge he will already have formed a view about how we (and the USA) play. I wonder if it is worth clarifying with him any aspects of the game?

5. Final Ball and Control of Ball in Contact

I thought we worked really hard to develop a dynamic game. I thought at times we let go of the quality of the final pass.

The US were very keen to follow the ball in at contact. We can clear them (Bachelet and Billups in particular).

6. Kicking Game

Neil provided a very sound platform for the Lions in South Africa. Arwel can do the same in the US and Canada. It appeared that his concentration drifted at times in the first test. With your guidance he can move to a much more complete game that is precise and focused.

These are some general points that arose from the individual player profiles.

Player Involvement and Outcome Profile

15. Kevin Morgan

This was Kevin's international debut in the senior team. He had very limited opportunities in the game but all his actions were precise. He looked extremely quick with the ball in hand at channel moves and used his pace to excellent effect late in the game (42 mins 2H) when he had to cover back to prevent a US try. He also demonstrated his resilience when he was trapped at the wrong side of a ruck (30 mins 2H) and received a kicking from Hodges and Billups in particular.

He covered Alexander's long diagonal kick (2 mins 1H) and caught a long clearance kick in a position to play a quick throw (5 mins 1H). He made a good mark against an elevated US kick (9 mins 1H) and kicked safely to touch from the mark from a narrow angle. He received a deep kick and set off to counter attack but his running pass off his left hand to Leigh was low (35 mins 1H). He made a good catch of an Alexander kick in the second half and ran left to link with Paul. He passed off his right hand and Paul was under pressure in 5m channel. Caught a long clearance kick first bounce and carried it into contact running the ball back (30 mins 2H). He caught one further high ball and retained the ball in contact (44 mins 2H).

He ran intelligently in attack as a decoy. His straight run pulled in two defenders for Leigh to pass to Nigel for Wales's first try (7 mins 1H). Ran as a dummy in a miss 1/3 move (24 mins 1H). Gave Arwel a short pass option (28 mins 1H). He received a low pass from Gwyn (end of 1H). Ran as a dummy in a right channel scrum move (16 mins 2H). He supported a right channel attack and his quick hands kept ball alive (20 mins 2H). He received an excellent pass off Paul for a right channel move deep in Welsh half and hit the line at pace to penetrate. He was able to kick accurately to the US posts and created pressure.

Player Involvement and Outcome Profile

14. Wayne Proctor

This was Wayne's first game on the wing for the national team for some time.

He received his first pass in the twelfth minute of the game when he was brought into play from the blind side wing on a set play from a Welsh lineout on the Welsh 10m. He skillfully ran into the hole created by Leigh's scissors run. He broke the line and passed to Gwyn. The next pass Wayne received followed five minutes later but this time the attempt to place Wayne into a hole had him running into contact. Wales did retain the ball. He received a miss 3 ball but this was low (25 mins 1H) and he could not develop the play. He received a right channel attack ball (28 mins 1H) and was able to retain ball in contact. Wayne was the infield option when Gareth passed to Gwyn for his try. Wayne received a pass from Mike Voyle at a US DO22 and was elusive before passing to Chris Loader. He was a decoy runner at set play from a Welsh lineout (4 mins 2H). He received a ball in continuity and passed back inside to Paul (8 mins 2H) and later in the half (20 mins 2H) linked with Kevin. He ran well in a right channel attack and ran outside his winger and tried to link back inside with Kevin (24 mins 2H). Received a pass from Gwyn and linked well with Chris Anthony (44 mins 2H).

Wayne tidied a US clearance and kicked back for a chase into the US dead ball area (36 mins 1H). Made a good catch of an up and under in the dead ball area (22 mins 2H)

Wayne made a standing tackle (-) on US fullback into touch (19 mins 1H); a step up (+) tackle forced a US handling error (1 mins 2H); forced a loose ball with a step up tackle (+) on US left wing (3 mins 2H); he chased a box kick and made a good (+) tackle (11 mins 2H); he chased Kevin's kick ahead and made an excellent low tackle (+) at the US posts; chased well to make good (+) tackle from an Arwel kick (42 mins 2H).

Player Involvement and Outcome Profile

13. Leigh Davies

It looked as if Leigh enjoyed this game! He seemed to have some of his former arrogance and confidence back. His creative pass gave Nigel space for the first try of the game. Leigh seemed comfortable in the Blondies midfield and worked well with Arwel and Gareth. There were occasional misunderstandings and these tended to occur when all three were running lines that either obstructed vision or put them in difficult positions to receive a pass.

Leigh received his first pass in the second minute of the game from a ball at a set play from a Welsh scrum. He came short on Arwel and stood strong in contact. Wales retained the ball at the ruck his run established. His next touch led to Nigel's try (7 mins 1H) when he skilfully chose not to use Kevin coming short and put the ball wide instead. He produced a hole for Wayne to attack with a well timed and well worked scissors from a Welsh lineout play (12 mins 1H). Leigh went into contact with his next pass but we lost the ball at the ruck (13 mins 1H). He retained the ball the next time he received a pass (27 mins 1H) and was also able to avoid knocking on a very low ball just after this. He received his first pass in the second half after three minutes and he accelerated on an outside break. He was ankle tapped but worked hard to retain ball. His next pass (8 mins 2H) came from a short ball off Paul at a Welsh scrum and Leigh offloaded excellently to Gwyn (8 mins 2H). He received a ball off Arwel in right channel at continuity and linked immediately with Wayne (20 mins 2H). He moved on miss 1 ball to a miss 3 to Wayne (24 mins 2H).

Leigh tackled dynamically during the game and also looked to follow the ball into the tackle if the chance arose. He made his first tackle (+) in the tenth minute of the game. The next tackle was in the first minute of the second half when he put the US right wing to ground. He pressed up dynamically with Arwel at a US continuity phase (2 mins 2H) and tackled the US centre without the ball the pass was almost on its way! He made a strong standing tackle (+) on the US centre with Gareth (11 mins 2H). He worked hard with Wayne to press an Arwel midfield kick to make a strong tackle (+).

He was very alert to his role as the first support player at ruck and with Gwyn cleared the ball well for a Welsh turnover of US (19 mins 1H). He and Gareth worked well on one occasion in the second half to clear a ruck ball as the first support players there. He was 2nd Welsh player at a ruck (41 mins 2H) and was the first Welsh player to the tackle Kevin made on Welsh try line (42 mins 2H).

Player Involvement and Outcome Profile

12. Gareth Thomas

Gareth looked strong and dynamic in this game. He demonstrated his athleticism throughout and seemed very happy to be playing in the centre again. His new hair style makes him very visible and on two occasions the Welsh midfield defence were penalised for offside even though objectively they appeared onside!

Gareth has an instinctive response at the breakdown. He uses his considerable physical presence to drive dynamically as the first support player at a ruck. He did this at a set piece play from a scrum when Leigh came short and was the first Welsh player there (2 mins 1H). He was first again at a ruck (17 mins 1H). At another set play that had him missed out he was the second Welsh player there (27 mins 1H). He had a good body position to work on the ball after Leigh's tackle on US wing (1 min 2H). He had an excellent hit as the first Welsh player to support Leigh's outside break and tap tackle (4 mins 2H). He was the first player to support Mike when he took a deep kick off restart (18 mins 2H).

He tackled low for most of the evening. He brought the US centre to ground in his first tackle (10 mins 1H) and the other centre with his second (19 mins 1H). Worked with Gwyn to make low tackle (-) on US12 to ground (37 mins 1H). He supported Mike in a tackle (-) on a driving US forward (2 mins 2H). He chased well with Wayne to make a tackle (+) from a Paul John kick (11 mins 2H). He made a strong double tackle with Leigh on US centre (12 mins 2H). He made an excellent low double tackle with Gwyn (+) on a driving US centre (22 mins 2H). He made an excellent step up tackle (+) on US19 (24 mins 2H). A low tackle (-) on US13. A good low tackle (+) (42 mins 2H). a strong tackle (+) (44 mins 2H).

Gareth worked hard to support a right channel attack and was able to retain possession in contact (7 mins 1H). He ran dummies to create space for others (12 mins 1H). He received a pass and moved ball immediately to Wayne (17 mins 1H). The next ball went astray off left hand (25 mins 1H): was it intended to be a miss 3? He broke the line at a strike scrum and was alert enough to provide a scoring pass to Gwyn after a strong run (29 mins 1H). He received his next pass into contact and retained the ball (37 mins 1H). He ran strongly for a short ball off Arwel at a lineout set play but lost the ball on the ground (2 mins 2H). He also lost the next ball in contact after a good strong elusive run in support of a quick tap penalty (3 mins 2H). Gareth was strong in contact for the next ball and Wales developed continuity from him (8 mins 2H) He managed the ball in contact on his next possession (8 mins 2H).

He worked back very well to support Kevin at a chip into the dead ball. he caught the ball going back into dead ball and was very strong in contact (25 mins 1H).

Player Involvement and Outcome Profile

11. Nigel Walker

This was Nigel's first game back in the national team for some time. He had comparatively fewer opportunities with the ball than Wayne. He scored with his first touch of the ball after 7 minutes. He received Leigh's pass with some space to move and ran outside the US defence to score near the corner. The narrow dead ball made it difficult for Nigel to get any closer to the posts.

Nigel's next on the ball activity was a brave attempt to get to the US centre breaking through our gate defence. Nigel was able to tackle (-) him but the momentum took US13 through to score (26 mins 1H). He almost got his hands on a ball that came out of the US scrum after 5 minutes (2H) but this was a difficult ball to take under pressure. Nigel received his second pass of the game 41 minutes into the second half when he stepped in off his left wing and retained the ball in contact. The final US try came down Nigel's wing but he was confronted by a US overlap and had no chance to prevent his winger scoring.

Nigel was an active chaser at Welsh long left kick offs. What was his role here? Logically if his speed got him to the catcher first he would be obliged to tackle a forward. He also chased up an Arwel Thomas grubber kick in left channel (17 mins 2H) and jumped for another Arwel kick wide left (26 mins 2H) but was judged to have knocked on.

Player Involvement and Outcome Profile

10. Arwel Thomas

This was Arwel's first game back in the national team after his knee injury. He scored twenty points in the game.

He varied his kick off and restart game. He started the game with a long left kick off (0 mins 1H) from which Wales had a put in at the next lineout. His next kick off restart was a split right kick (12 mins 1H) from which Wales had a put in at the next lineout. Kicked long left at kick off restart (27 mins 1H) and again (35 mins 1H) and Wales gather clearance kick infield for counter. Long left DO 22 reached US10 on both occasions and almost exact same spot (14 mins, 22 mins 2H). Tried quick drop out (?) to Gwyn (15 mins 2H). Elevated kick off restart to US22/10 (44 mins 2H) Wales recover long kick for counter.

He kicked his first penalty at goal after 3 minutes from the US22 to right of posts. His second kick at goal was from the left touchline after Nigel's try (8 mins 1H) this missed to the right of the posts. Next kick at goal 40 mins (1H) successful from left side of US22. Missed conversion of his first try (9 mins 2H). Converts his second try (19 mins 2H). Missed penalty from 40 metres (32 mins 2H).

He kicked out of hand on 12 occasions. His first kick, a right footed kick to touch from a penalty was mishit and went dead for a scrum back to US (1 min 1H). His next kick (4 mins 1H) was a clearance from a US kick off restart a long kick from 22 to 22. He kicked a penalty to touch right foot to right touchline from W10 to US10 (17 mins 1H). Kicked long diagonal kick right footed from W22 to US10 from left to right (19 mins 1H). Kicked left footed down left channel (21 mins 1H). Cleared ball right footed to right touchline W22 to HW. First kick of second half a short penalty to touch right footed to left touchline: short but safe (2 mins 2H). Tries left footed grubber for Nigel in left channel (17 mins 2H). Takes quick tap on own 22 and passes to Leigh (20 mins 2H). Tries wide kick for Nigel. Elevated (and flat?) (26 mins 2H). Penalty to touch (33 mins 2H). grubber kick into midfield (44 mins 2H).

Arwel received his first pass after two minutes from a scrum ball and he ran a set move with Leigh short (2 mins 1H). His second pass came after 12 minutes when he ran a set play from a Welsh lineout to produce a blind side wing play off right wing. Received a pass (13 mins 1H) and passed flat to Leigh from ruck ball. Moved ruck ball (17 mins 1H) to Gareth. Moves scrum ball to Gareth (24 mins 1H). Moved 4 man lineout ball on miss 1 (27 mins 1H). Ran right channel move off scrum missed Kevin to Wayne (28 mins 1H). Moved scrum ball miss 1. Next ball from continuity not precise and there was some confusion (36 mins 1H) with running patterns of Gareth and Leigh - who was supposed to get the ball? Moved next ball from lineout to Gareth (40 mins 1H) and then ruck ball to Leigh. First pass of second half came from untidy lineout ball Arwel dummied to tidy and straighten (2 mins 2H) and broke line to pop to Gareth. Moved lineout ball with miss 1 (3 mins 2H). Receives ruck ball and passes to Gareth (7 mins 2H). Dummies Leigh short and puts ball out wide to Gareth from scrum (8 mins 2H) in same movement receives ruck ball, hands off opponent and steps inside wing to

score try (8 mins 2H). Receives ball from Gwyn at DO22 play and takes into contact to retain it (16 mins 2H). Scores from flat pass at pace at gain line moving onto ball (18 mins 2H). Receives lineout ball and miss1 pass (27 mins 2H). passed continuity ball to Nigel (41 mins 2H). Moved continuity ball but behind Gareth L1 after dummyming inside to Lyndon (41 mins 2H). Receives last pass of game dummies into contact and pops to Lyndon (44 mins 2H).

Arwel and/or midfield were penalised twice for offside at scrum defence. He was onside but his appearance may have triggered referee's premature response. He made his first tackle (+) after 22 mins of 1H. He pressed up on Alexander in W22 when US centre came back through hole inside Arwel (26 mins 1H). What communication at the gate? Tackled (-) US13 (1 min 2H). Then low tackle (-) on US8 (1 min 2H). Good step up defence (+) at ruck (2 mins 2H). Wrestles US player to ground (+) (23 mins 2H). Step up tackle (+) on own try line.

Player Involvement and Outcome Profile

9. Paul John

This was the first occasion Paul started a game at scrum half for Wales since his debut against Tonga. Paul had a characteristically busy evening. Bachelet, the US scrum half, put him under pressure at scrummage. Paul dealt with this pressure and other pressure by improvising passes when required. This involved pivots and dives. He worked effectively with Steve Williams at the base of the scrum despite occasional surprise ball. Paul reversed the pressure on Bachelet and Lyle at scrummage and was able to disrupt their possession.

Passes made:

	First Half	Second Half	Game Total
Right to left	9	7	16
Left to right	8	14	22
Totals	17	21	38

First lineout ball he received missed him! (1 min 1H).

Ran in right channel to attack US and improvised pass (7 mins 1H). Ran laterally from ruck and was open to hit (17 mins 1H). Takes quick tap penalty and runs before pass (2 mins 2H). Carried ball into contact at last activity phase of the game retained ball.

Tidied ball from US kick off restart elevated kick from inside W22 to US10 box left footed (9 mins 1H). Box kick from US kick off restart (11 mins 2H) elevated left foot kick to Welsh right on US10 for good pressure on catcher by Wayne and Gareth. Receives pass from Kevin under pressure and kicks left footed to left touchline infield (14 mins 2H). Elevated kick from lineout right foot to right touchline out on full one metre outside Welsh 22 (35 mins 2H). Accurate box kick right foot to right channel between 15 and 11 (40 mins 2H).

Step up tackle (+) on US9 (21 mins 1H). Follows ball round at scrum (+) to pressure US9 (24 mins 1H). Low tackle (-) to ground on US9 (2 mins 2H). Pressures US9 (+) and forces error (5 mins 2H). Good pressure on US8 (+) at back of scrum (6 mins 2H). Tackles (+) US8 at 5 metre scrum.

Paul acted as pivot at tap penalty set up (18 mins 2H) pops to Chris Loader

Centre for Notational Analysis

9 July 1997

Facsimile message for

**Mr Alun Carter
Welsh Rugby Team**

From:

Keith Lyons

Dear Alun

Forward Profiles

These are the remaining profiles. I hope they come through on the fax.

Best wishes

Keith

Performance Profiles

Involvement and Outcome for Welsh Forwards: First Test v USA 1997

1. Introduction

The TV coverage was not sufficiently good to provide the usual detail of performance. It was difficult to identify players at continuity phases and rather than spend considerable time on this I have only noted arrivals when clearly visible.

2. Primary Possession

2.1 Kick Off and Restart

We kicked off and restarted nine times in the game (5 in 1H and 4 in 2H). USA kicked off and restarted nine times in the game (5 in 1H and 4 in 2H).

2.1.1 Our kicks

Arwel's kick off and restart game involved the following: kick off long left (1H); split right kick off restart (12 mins 1H); long left kick off restart(27 mins 1H, 35 mins 1H); long left drop out (14 mins, 22 mins 2H); quick drop out (15 mins 2H); elevated kick off restart middle left (44 mins 2H). We regained possession at the next stoppage at a number of these.

2.1.2 Our reception

For our kick off reception game I was not sure whether Alexander was kicking off and restarting inaccurately or whether he was targeting specific players: Garin and Andy both received kicks and took them well. Mike seemed to take most responsibility for and short kicks and was paired as the inside lock with Lyndon. He took one excellent catch running back into the twenty two without a lift and was strong in contact. It appeared that because the ball was going deeper than him and Lyndon they were always running away from the ball which made the lift more difficult. I wonder whether they need to think about their starting point?

2.2 Scrummage

There were 28 scrums in the game (10 in 1H and 18 in 2H). We put the ball into 17 scrums (7 in 1H and 10 in 2H) and USA into 11 scrums (3 in 1H and 8 in 2H).

2.2.1 Our ball

From what I could see I thought the scrummage went well. I could not make out the reason for so many collapses but I assumed that Lyndon was progressively working on his prop. The US front row seemed to have difficulties and although we were penalised for going down on the hit I thought they were standing up. The front row looked low at the hit. One or two scrums did not chase the hit and led to readjustment. With Steve in the slot (one over) there were occasions when either the ball bobbed for Paul or he was put under pressure by Bachelet. Lyndon played loose head for the final twenty minutes. I thought Chris Anthony's body position looked good. We worked a number of 8-9 right channel plays with Steve passing before contact.

2.2.2 Their ball

In defence I thought we did try to move the scrum and early preparation seemed to help us. I could not see any many signs of body position change for a dip and drive and wonder given our tighter scrummaging whether we could be selective about this? I thought Andrew Gibbs defended well at the first man round on their ball and Paul worked hard to follow the ball round as well. We must continue to stay bound at the back of the scrum and have the discipline to observe and communicate to overcome the delay a whole arm bind creates and the requirement that 8 stays inside flanker.

2.3 Lineout Play

There were 29 lineouts in the game (16 in 1H and 13 in 2H). We put the ball into 13 lineouts (7 in 1H and 6 in 2H) and USA into 16 (9 in 1H and 7 in 2H).

2.3.1 Our ball

In the first half we set up 6 seven man lineouts and 1 four man. In the second half 5 seven man and 1 three man. We lost two of these throws and the three man lineout walk back was not straight. We threw 4 balls to Steve, 6 balls to Gareth and 3 balls to Mike.

The ball to Steve at 6 is a really powerful source of possession but I think we are losing a dynamic opportunity here to vary the possession this gives us. Although it is a favourite move of ours it can lead to static play.

2.3.2 Their ball

The pictures of the USA lineout were not always complete but it looked as if they used a six man lineout throughout the game. I wrote about this in my previous note to you.

I think it is very important that we scan early to monitor their formation: the threats are Gross (at 4); Lyle (at 5) and Hodges (at 2). Given their ability to win ball I think we must actively consider what we can do legally about this. I do not think we will be allowed to pull the driving maul down in the Second Test. The key may be to monitor the USA prop's body position at 3: he was turning early for the ball to 4 or beyond. Although Gross does turn to lift Lyle, Gross himself received 7 throws.

3. Player Profiles

Chris Loader

Chris did not seem as active in this Test match as in other tests. He received treatment in the second half and left the game after approximately sixty two minutes of the game. He tidied the ball from our first lineout (1 min 1H) and stood up well in contact to provide a platform for a maul from the continuity that developed he was the second Welsh player to the ruck and stepped on a US player going into the ruck. He was first to a ruck (13 mins 1H) in a passage of continuity and cleared the ball with his dynamic hit. He was penalised for collapsing a maul (22 mins 1H). He made a step up tackle (+) on US9. He was penalised for stamping on a US player at a ruck when we were going forward after Andrew stole a US lineout ball (32 mins 1H). Received a pass (36 mins 1H) and retained the ball in contact. He acted as a link at the rear of ruck to pass ball back to Paul (3 mins 2H). He was the first up to tackle (-) at a charging US free kick. He was outside Arwel when Arwel scored his first try (8 mins 2H). He was the first receiver at our set piece tap penalty move (18 mins 2H) and retained the ball in contact. He received treatment for an injury (20 mins 2H) and left the field two minutes later.

Garin Jenkins

This was Garin's first test match for some time. He threw two handed into the lineout and hit Steve accurately with his first throw (1 min 1H). His throw to the three man lineout in the second half (12 mins) was the only one to ruled not straight. Garin was keen to get in on the ball at maul and retained possession when he broke (17 mins 1H). He made a high tackle (-) on US15 coming back inside (10 mins 1H). He tidied ground ball (17 mins 1H, 1 min 2H). Made a step up tackle (+) on US10 (21 mins 1H). Called clearly for long left US kick off restart, caught well on 22 and went to ground to retain the ball (11 mins 2H). He was the scrum half at the set piece tap penalty and passed to Paul at pivot (18 mins 2H). He was working hard in continuity in the final minutes of the game. A US player broke from his grasp on US22 but as Wales regained possession he was back in the movement to drive forward and go to ground with the ball to provide secure ball (44 mins).

Lyndon Mustoe

This was Lyndon's first start in the test team for some time. He played tight head for three quarters of the game and then moved to loose head to accommodate Chris Anthony for the final quarter. He was quick to respond to help secure maul ball (1 min 1H). He had a strong body position at our second scrum (6 mins 1H) and had his prop in the air. He was paired with Mike for lift at kick off and restart and it may be worth looking carefully at the aim of this role and the starting point for it: particularly for deeper kicks going back towards the 15m line. Made a gain line tackle on US prop at fringe of maul (1 min 1H). He had his opposing prop in some difficulty at US scrum (5 mins 2H) but was penalised (?) for angling in. At the next scrum he chased the hit and had his prop out of the scrum (8 mins 2H). Made a scrum half pass from base of ruck in Welsh 22 to Arwel (20 mins 2H). He was penalised (?) at a US lineout for going through on Gross at 4 (22 mins 2H). Made cover tackle (-) on Gross (44 mins) and in the same passage of play was able to support Arwel's run, receive a pass and link with Paul (45 mins 2H).

Gareth Llewellyn

Gareth chased long left kicks offs and was first up to make a tackle (35 mins 1H). Gareth received six lineout throws (12 mins, 17 mins, 27 mins 1H; 2 mins, 32 mins, 34 mins 2H). He used his strength throughout the game to clear or release ball on the ground (Lyle 12 mins 1H, 8 mins 2H) and was first to ruck ball on five occasions. He has a good awareness of when he needs to invest energy in this role. He worked as a runner from the ball to Steve at 6 in lineout (1 min 1H). Combined well with Leigh for tackle on US12 (10 mins 1H) then made good tackle on gain line as US forward came through gate (13 mins 1H). He tidied turnover ball and passed to Paul (20 mins 1H). Received treatment for knock to head (27 mins 1H). He was available to receive a pass off Paul (40 mins 1H) and linked with Gareth Thomas. Made tackle (-) on US9 (1 min 2H) and then was available to make a second tackle (-) (1 min 2H) on US9 this was an opportunity to hit up and through a player. A similar chance to hit up and through arose on US17 (14 mins 2H). Both these tackles were relatively weak but his next tackle was a good step up tackle (+) (23 mins 2H). He was alert to getting ball back for quick tap penalty (2 mins 2H) and was available for quick drop out chance (22 mins 2H).

Mike Voyle

Mike returned to the test team after extended absence through injury. He received three lineout throws two at four in a seven man (19 mins (lost), 40 mins 1H); and one at two in three man lineout (12 mins 2H) that was not straight. Mike was paired up as the front receiver at kick off restart reception with Lyndon (this is a good pairing but needs to be developed). Mike seems an athletic jumper and his take in the second half of a deep kick (20 mins 2H) indicates how good his hands can be. He got his hands to a US restart but ball went back in challenge for ground ball (9 mins 1H). He was beaten on the lift by US at 2H kick off. Throughout the game he took risks with infringements and his transition to the next level of performance may require him to channel his energies more constructively: for example, he was prepared to collapse/pull down a driving maul (5 mins 1H) or hook Gross's arm at lineout (22, 26 mins 2H) or run obstruction after getting up from a losing ruck (1 min 2H) to block pass. He worked at right on the split right Welsh restart (12 mins 1H) and made a strong tackle (+) on the catcher. He made a step up tackle (+) on US10 (22 mins 1H). Good low tackle (-) on US 13 in midfield broken play (1 min 2H). Good stand up tackle (-) on US forward. Good support tackle (-) with Andrew (12 mins 2H) to stop narrow channel counter. He was penalised for a high tackle (14 mins 2H). Then made a strong step up tackle (+) (22 mins 2H). Final tackle was a good support tackle (+) with Gareth Thomas (44 mins 2H).

Andrew Gibbs

Andrew returned to the test team after injury. He appeared to be in good physical shape and showed glimpses of dynamic powerful play through the game. He worked with Steve at for a lift at 6 in a full lineout (1 min 1H) and shortly after worked with him in a good truck and trailer move as the trailer (1 min 1H). He worked hard at his channel defence at scrum and took the first player round (2 mins, 22 mins, 26 mins 1H). He was the first Welsh player to a ruck on four occasions. He caught one US kick off restart on 15m and secured ball in contact (1H). Was he a target for their kicks as a second kick at the end of the 1H went to him? He made a good steal of a US lineout ball and drove on with the ball to set up a ruck platform (32 mins) and generally was a threat through the US lineout. Andrew had disciplined defence in a narrow channel move and made a strong step up tackle (+) on U8 (8 mins 2H). Andrew received a pass in support of an attack down right side and ran strongly he passed infield with no support available (to avoid going into touch?) (8 mins 2H). Made good low channel tackle (-) to stop US counter (11 mins 2H). His next tackle (+) on US13 was broken. He ran a good support line in support of Wayne in a right channel attack from scrum but received a high pass and knocked on (16 mins 2H). Receives a pass and drives strongly to US line into contact retains ball (18 mins 2H) to provide try opportunity for Arwel.. Works well with Gareth Thomas to set up turnover at step up tackle (+) on US9 (24 mins 2H). Step up tackle on US6 (33 mins 2H). Step up tackle (+) (44 mins).

Gwyn Jones

A return to the team after injury and his first game as Welsh captain. He scored on his debut as captain (29 mins 1H) in support of Gareth Thomas! After a quiet ten minutes at the start of the game Gwyn became actively involved in Welsh play. He worked to get to Wayne from a lineout play for quick hands and retained ball in contact on floor (12 mins 1H). He was first Welsh player to ruck to free ball for continuity (17 mins 1H) and was first to ruck on four other occasions. He was the second Welsh player to ruck on four occasions one of which was an very dynamic drive (20 mins 2H). Made a support tackle (+) with Arwel (21 mins 1H). Good cover tackle (-) on US12 to ground (34 mins 1H) and an excellent low tackle on the same player (-) towards the end of the half. Started the second half with an excellent low tackle in the gate (+) against US13 coming back (1 min 2H). Works well to get quick hands on Leigh at scrum move and retains ball in contact (8 mins 2H). He was available for Arwel's quick drop out (15 mins 2H) and passed back to Arwel to continue the move. Made very good double tackle with Gareth Thomas against strong run by US centre (+) (22 mins 2H). Then made low tackle (+) to ground of runner from US 6 man lineout. Gwyn then made an excellent driving cover tackle (-) on US attacker on W22 and then got up immediately to win ball and set off on counter (33 mins 2H). Late on in the game Gwyn linked with Chris Anthony to develop an attack in US22 and passed inside to Wayne.

Steve Williams

Steve received three lineout balls in this game, the first at our first lineout (1 min 1H) the ball was won cleanly but fell between Gareth and Paul. The second ball was caught and driven (3 mins 2H) and the third off the top to Gareth Ll (26 mins 2H). Steve worked well with Paul at the base of the scrum although there were a couple of instances where it came out of the scrum unexpectedly, for example 17 mins 2H. If Steve is going to pack in the slot (one over) we need to confirm channel for ball and his binding. He developed some precise right channel moves from scrum (8 mins, 16 mins, 26 mins 2H). He also tried to drive from the base. On one occasion with Steve running into midfield from scrum on left he changed hands before contact and the pass was not as controlled as it might have been (24 mins 1H). Steve was particularly active in the early part of the game when he was first to ruck on three occasions (2 mins, 26 mins, 28 mins 1H) and second on four more (7 mins, 19 mins, 40 mins, 41 mins 1H). He made his first tackle (+) on US6 (10 mins 1H) and then a support tackle (-) with Gareth Ll (13 mins 1H). He started the second half with two tackles in the same US attack cover tackles (-) on US9 and 10 (1min 1H). He was first to a ruck with Gwyn (2 mins 2H) and then follows up with a hack through. He was able to cut the line in support of a Welsh continuity phase and got his pass away one handed (16 mins 2H). Steve left the field after seventy four minutes to be replaced by Nathan.