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USA Development Tour Squad Announced

NSW Country Rugby Union has announced the tour squad to undertake the USA Development Tour during October & November this year.

A squad of twenty six players and nine officials will participate in the sixteen day tour to the west coast of the United States, where they will play four matches against two leading club teams, a regional representative team and a state representative team.

The match schedule for the tour is:

- 1 November v San Francisco – San Francisco
- 5 November v Los Angeles – Santa Monica
- 8 November v OMBAC – San Diego
- 9 November v Arizona – San Diego

NSWCRU President Barry Ruddy said “the tour was a very important part of the Union’s program, which continued to provide a quality representative pathway for Country based players, officials, coaches and support staff”.

“The intention is for a tour of this nature to be undertaken every four years, which would provide players with something to strive and aim for, as the four year period is the normal term for a Country representative player” added Ruddy.

He went on to say “the tour was not just for the players, but would provide experience for the coaches and support staff, together with a Country referee who would also participate on the tour”.

The twenty six players selected to undertake the tour comprise of seventeen who are capped Cockatoos, four current Cockatoo Colts and five uncapped senior players who have represented their zones at this year’s Country Championships.

Cockatoo Coaches Shannon Fraser and Stacey Sykes are pleased with the composition of the touring squad, which has a good cross section of Cockatoo experience, players who have been on the cusp of Cockatoo selection, together with up and coming talent from the Colts.

Fraser said “it was a great opportunity for the touring party as a group, as it would provide everyone with exposure to Rugby at another level, which would be beneficial to their respective developments.

USA Touring Squad

- Ollie Bartlett – St Alberts College – New England +
- Scott Burgess – Dubbo Roos – Central West
- Ben Damen – Wollongbar Alstonville – Far North Coast
- Jake Douglas – Tamworth Pirates – Central North #
- Mahe Fangupo – Parkes – Central West
- Ben Greentree – Camden – Illawarra
- Andre Itula – Avondale – Illawarra
- Matt King – Ourimbah – Central Coast +
- Steve Lamont – Hamilton – Newcastle Hunter
- Matt Lee – Woonona Shamrocks – Illawarra #
- Mark Minter – Camden – Illawarra
- Steve Mison – Wollongbar Alstonville – Far North Coast #
- Peter Nau – Dubbo Roos – Central West
- Filisone Patua – Dubbo Roos – Central West
- MacKenzie Rae – Merewether Carlton – Newcastle Hunter +
- Robert Richardson – Terrigal – Central Coast #
- Lee Russell – Camden – Illawarra
- Dan Ryan – Parkes – Central West
- Bradd Sheridan – Ourimbah – Central Coast
- Eli Sinoti – Avondale – Illawarra
- Josh Stewart – Tamworth Pirates – Central North
- Joe Taylor – Terrigal – Central Coast
- Paul Tuala – Wollongong University – Illawarra
- Amoni Vea – Parkes – Central West
- Blake Walsh – Newcastle Wanderers – Newcastle Hunter +
- Benn Wright – Lennox Head – Far North Coast #

Key

+ Cockatoo Colt

Uncapped

ENDS