AUSTRALIA VS IRELAND | BUNDABERG RUM RUGBY SERIES MATCH

LANSDOWNE CUP TEST | SUBIACO OVAL, PERTH | SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2003

The first Test match in the Bundaberg Rum Rugby Series kicked off with the Vodafone Wallabies defeating Ireland 45-16 at Perth's Subiaco Oval.

Despite injury robbing Ireland of the brilliant Brian O'Driscoll and skipper Keith Wood, they went into the match full of confidence having won 10 of their past 11 matches.

NSW Waratah Morgan Turinui earned his first cap running on alongside Steve Kefu who started in a Test match for the first time.

Wallaby Skipper George Gregan opened the scoring when he darted from the breakdown through a gaping hole in the Irish defence.

After sustained pressure, Ireland hit back with their only try of the game going to John Kelly. Elton Flatley replied almost immediately putting the Wallabies ahead 14-13 at the break.

With two tries in six minutes early in the second half, the Wallabies broke open the match, the first going to Kefu who scored his first try in Wallaby colours.

The second went to Bundaberg Rum Man of the Match Gregan who chipped ahead and regathered the ball after it bounced away from the Irish defence and into Gregan's hands.

Chris Latham capped off a great game capitalising on a stray pass from the Irish to race away for the match-sealing try.

Flatley ended a great game by earning the Wallabies a penalty try late in the game, after he was judged to have been tripped without the ball as he was racing after the ball as it was bouncing in the in-goal area. He converted the try finishing the game with 20 points including a try, six out of six conversions and a penalty goal.

AUSTRALIA 45 (George Gregan 2, Chris Latham, Steve Kefu, Elton Flatley, penalty tries; Elton Flatley 6 cons, pen)
defeated IRELAND 16 (John Kelly try; David Humphreys con; David Humphreys 2, Ronan O'Gara pens)
Half-time: Australia 14-13
Referee: Nigel Williams (Wales)
Crowd: 39,787
Bundaberg Rum Man of the Match: George Gregan (Australia)
Yellow Card: Girvan Dempsey (Ireland)

Australia: Chris Latham, Wendell Sailor, Morgan Turinui, Steve Kefu, Joe Roff, Elton Flatley, George Gregan (c), Toutai Kefu, George Smith, David Lyons, David Giffin, Nathan Sharpe, Patricio Noriega, Jeremy Paul, Bill Young. **Replacements:** Brendan Cannon for Paul, Ben Darwin for Noriega, Daniel Vickerman for Sharpe, Phil Waugh for Smith, Chris Whitaker for Gregan, Nathan Grey for S. Kefu, Lote Tuqiri for Sailor.

Ireland: Girvan Dempsey, James Topping, Geordan Murphy, Kevin Maggs, John Kelly, David Humphreys (c), Peter Stringer, Victor Costello, Keith Gleeson, Alan Quinlan, Malcolm O'Kelly, Gary Longwell, Reggie Corrigan, Shane Byrne, Marcus Horan. **Replacements:** Emmet Byrne for Corrigan, Paul O'Connell for Longwell, Ronan O'Gara for Humphreys.
Not Used: Paul Shields, Eric Miller, Guy Easterby, Tyrone Howe.

New Caps: Morgan Turinui became the 782nd capped Wallaby in this Test. Lote Tuqiri became the 783rd capped Wallaby in this Test.

AUSTRALIA VS WALES | BUNDABERG RUM RUGBY SERIES MATCH

TELSTRA STADIUM, SYDNEY | SATURDAY 14 JUNE 2003

The Vodafone Wallabies picked up where they left off a week earlier in Perth, scoring an impressive 30-10 win over Wales at Telstra Stadium.

After Wales dominated territory early in the match, they lost the ball near the Australian try line resulting in the ball flicking out into the hands of Wendell Sailor who raced the length of the field to score the first try of the match.

It was a scintillating run from Sailor who stepped three defenders to score. Only three minutes later, Chris Latham sliced down the right wing and chipped ahead for Sailor to gather and score his second of the match.

After Stephen Jones kicked a penalty to get Wales on the scoreboard, Latham then once again found a gap in the Welsh defence and went all the way himself to score and setup an 18-3 lead at half time.

Wales put themselves back into the game shortly after half time when Jamie Robinson scored after a good build up by the Welsh forwards. With Jones' conversion, the Welsh were within eight.

Jeremy Paul answered almost straight away driving the ball over after picking it up at the breakdown near the goal posts. Elton Flatley, who had an off night with boot, handed over the kicking duties to Joe Roff who saw his attempt rebound off the post.

Roff made no mistake the next time he had a shot at goal, converting Nathan Grey's try after the replacement centre powered through the Welsh defence to score under the cross bar to seal a 30-10 win.

AUSTRALIA 30 (Wendell Sailor 2, Chris Latham, Jeremy Paul, Nathan Grey tries; Joe Roff con; Elton Flatley pen)
defeated WALES 10 (Jamie Robinson try; Stephen Jones con, pen)
Half-time: Australia 18-3
Referee: Mark Lawrence (South Africa)
Crowd: 63,688
Bundaberg Rum Man of the Match: Nathan Sharpe (Australia)

Australia: Chris Latham, Wendell Sailor, Morgan Turinui, Steve Kefu, Joe Roff, Elton Flatley, George Gregan (c), Toutai Kefu, Phil Waugh, David Lyons, David Giffin, Nathan Sharpe, Patricio Noriega, Jeremy Paul, Bill Young. **Replacements:** Brendan Cannon for Paul, Ben Darwin for Noriega, Daniel Vickerman for Giffin, Daniel Heenan for Lyons, Chris Whitaker for Gregan, Nathan Grey for S. Kefu, Lote Tuqiri for Roff.

Ireland: Rhys Williams, Mark Jones, Jamie Robinson, Mark Taylor, Tom Shanklin, Stephen Jones, Gareth Cooper, Colin Charvis, Martyn Williams (c), Jonathan Thomas, Robert Sidoli, Gareth Llewellyn, Gethin Jenkins, Robin McBryde, Iestyn Thomas. **Replacements:** Mefin Davies for McBryde, Chris Wyatt for Llewellyn, Alix Popham for Thomas. **Not Used:** Ben Evans, Dwayne Peel, Ceri Sweeney, Gavin Henson.

New Cap: Daniel Heenan became the 784th capped Wallaby in this Test.

AUSTRALIA VS ENGLAND | BUNDABERG RUM RUGBY SERIES MATCH

COOK CUP TEST | TELSTRA DOME, MELBOURNE | SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2003

England came to Australia the hottest team in world Rugby fresh off completing a grand slam of the Six Nations and a one-off Test match win over New Zealand in Wellington.

A sell-out crowd was on hand as the Wallabies attempted to keep their undefeated record at Telstra Dome alive.

The visitors were first to strike with centre Will Greenwood crashing over after only five minutes and with sharp shooter Jonny Wilkinson on target the English held an early 7-nil lead.

Joe Roff reduced the deficit with a penalty but in the 30th minute the English players produced some quick passing through their backline resulting in Mike Tindall scoring the second try of the match near the corner, setting up a 12-3 half time lead.

With Roff adding two penalties early in the second half, the deficit was 12-9, but Wilkinson fed a beautiful inside pass to put Ben Cohen through a hole and score England's third try under the posts.

With Mat Rogers' emergence off the bench, the Wallabies mounted a comeback with Rogers going close to scoring after racing down the sideline only to be denied by the English defence who forced him into touch.

With two minutes left, Wendell Sailor scored a brilliant try after a Wallaby lineout to give the Wallabies some hope down 22-14, but with Roff's difficult conversion going wide, England recorded their first-ever Test win over the Wallabies on Australian soil.

ENGLAND 25 (Will Greenwood, Mike Tindall, Ben Cohen tries; Jonny Wilkinson 2 cons, 2 pens)
defeated AUSTRALIA 14 (Wendell Sailor try; Joe Roff 3 pens)
Half-time: England 12-3
Referee: David McHugh (Ireland)
Crowd: 54,868
Bundaberg Rum Man of the Match: Martin Johnson (England)

Australia: Chris Latham, Wendell Sailor, Morgan Turinui, Steve Kefu, Joe Roff, Nathan Grey, George Gregan (c), Toutai Kefu, Phil Waugh, David Lyons, Nathan Sharpe, David Giffin, Patricio Noriega, Jeremy Paul, Bill Young. **Replacements:** Brendan Cannon for Paul, Ben Darwin for Noriega, Daniel Vickerman for Sharpe, Mat Rogers for Turinui, Lote Tuqiri for Grey. **Not Used:** Daniel Heenan, Chris Whitaker.

England: Josh Lewsey, Jason Robinson, Will Greenwood, Mike Tindall, Ben Cohen, Jonny Wilkinson, Kyran Bracken, Lawrence Dallaglio, Neil Back, Richard Hill, Ben Kay, Martin Johnson (c), Phil Vickery, Steve Thompson, Trevor Woodman. **Replacements:** Matt Dawson for Bracken, Joe Worsley for Hill, Steve Borthwick for Kay (temp). **Not Used:** Mark Regan, Jason Leonard, Alex King, Dan Luger.

AUSTRALIA VS SOUTH AFRICA | BUNDABERG RUM RUGBY SERIES MATCH

TRI NATIONS TROPHY TEST | NEWLANDS STADIUM, CAPE TOWN | SATURDAY 12 JULY 2003

The opening match of the 2003 Tri Nations saw South Africa get off to a good start with a thrilling 26-22 win over Australia.

After coming on as a replacement early in the game when Jaco van der Westhuyzen limped off the field, Brent Russell scored a brilliant try after being on the field for just two minutes.

Flyhalf Louis Koen added the conversion and the Springboks held a handy 7-3 lead – after an early Matthew Burke drop goal.

Russell then had a hand in a brilliant team try for Victor Matfield. After Wendell Sailor made a run down the right touchline, he chipped in field, but Russell gathered the ball and the resultant counter-attack resulted in the South African's second try.

Wendell Sailor added a try to the Wallabies scoreline in the first half to leave the visitors down 20-10 at the break.

The Wallabies gave it everything they had in the second half with Joe Roff scoring in the corner but causing himself an injury and Phil Waugh fought his way over the line.

SOUTH AFRICA 26 (Brent Russell, Victor Matfield tries; Louis Koen 2 cons, 4 pens)
defeated AUSTRALIA 22 (Wendell Sailor, Joe Roff, Phil Waugh tries; Matthew Burke 2 cons, drop goal)
Half-time: South Africa 20-10
Referee: Steve Walsh (New Zealand)
Crowd: 45,000

Australia: Matthew Burke, Wendell Sailor, Mat Rogers, Steve Kefu, Joe Roff; Elton Flatley, George Gregan (c), Toutai Kefu, Phil Waugh, David Lyons, Daniel Vickerman, David Giffin, Patricio Noriega, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young. **Replacements:** Adam Freier for Cannon, Ben Darwin for Noriega, Nathan Sharpe for Vickerman, Stephen Larkham for S. Kefu, Lote Tuqiri for Roff, Owen Finegan for Lyons. **Not Used:** Chris Whitaker.

South Africa: Jaco van der Westhuyzen, Stefan Terblanche, Marius Joubert, De Wet Barry, Thinus Delport, Louis Koen, Joost van der Westhuizen, Juan Smith, Wikus van Heerden, Corne Krige (c), Victor Matfield, Bakkies Botha, Richard Bands, Danie Coetzee, Lawrence Sephaka. **Replacements:** Brent Russell for van der Westhuyzen, Gcobani Bobo for Joubert, Pedrie Wannenburg for Smith, Selborne Boome for Botha, Rob Kempson for Bands, Dale Santon for Coetzee. **Not Used:** Craig Davidson.

AUSTRALIA VS NEW ZEALAND | BUNDABERG RUM RUGBY SERIES MATCH

BLEDISLOE CUP & TRI NATIONS TROPHY TEST | TELSTRA STADIUM, SYDNEY | SATURDAY 26 JULY 2003

This season saw the 100-year anniversary of Test matches between Australia and New Zealand and it was celebrated in style at Telstra Stadium with a spectacular pre-match entertainment spectacle featuring a parade of Wallabies from the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

The Wallabies were unable to continue their recent winning form over their Trans Tasman rivals, with the All Blacks posting their highest points total ever against Australia to set up a Bledisloe Cup decider to be played three weeks later in Auckland.

After conceding the opening try of the match to Matthew Burke, New Zealand hit back and with Joe Rokocoko grabbing a double and Doug Howlett also crossing over for a five-pointer, the All Blacks set up a stunning 23-11 lead at half-time.

Any chance the Wallabies had of a comeback was snuffed out early in the second half when Tana Umaga touched down and Daniel Carter scored his first Test try.

Brilliant individual tries to Wendell Sailor and Mat Rogers late in the game reduced the deficit, but a try on full-time to Aaron Mauger and the conversion from Carter brought up 50 points for first time ever by the All Blacks against the Wallabies.

NEW ZEALAND 50 (Joe Rokocoko 3, Doug Howlett, Tana Umaga, Daniel Carter, Aaron Mauger tries; Carlos Spencer 2, Daniel Carter cons; Carlos Spencer 3 pens)
defeated AUSTRALIA 21 (Matthew Burke, Mat Rogers, Wendell Sailor tries; Matthew Burke 2 pens)
Half-time: New Zealand 23-11
Referee: Tony Spreadbury (England)
Crowd: 82,096
Bundaberg Rum Man of the Match: Carlos Spencer (New Zealand)
Yellow Card: Wendell Sailor (Australia)

Australia: Matthew Burke, Wendell Sailor, Mat Rogers, Elton Flatley, Lote Tuqiri, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), Toutai Kefu, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Daniel Vickerman, David Giffin, Patricio Noriega, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young. **Replacements:** Adam Freier for Cannon, Ben Darwin for Noriega, Nathan Sharpe for Vickerman, Steve Kefu for Flatley, Chris Latham for Burke, Owen Finegan for Smith. **Not Used:** Chris Whitaker.

New Zealand: Mils Muliaina, Joe Rokocoko, Tana Umaga, Aaron Mauger, Doug Howlett, Carlos Spencer, Justin Marshall, Jerry Collins, Richard McCaw, Reuben Thorne (c), Ali Williams, Chris Jack; David Hewett, Keven Mealamu, Greg Somerville. **Replacements:** Daniel Carter for Spencer, Steve Devine for Howlett, Marty Holah for McCaw, Brad Thorn for Williams, Mark Hammett for Mealamu, Kees Meeuws for Somerville, Caleb Ralph for Muliaina.

AUSTRALIA VS SOUTH AFRICA | BUNDABERG RUM RUGBY SERIES MATCH

TRI NATIONS TROPHY TEST | SUNCORP STADIUM, BRISBANE | SATURDAY 2 AUGUST 2003

Test match Rugby returned to the reconstructed Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane for the Wallabies final home match before Rugby World Cup 2003.

The 51,188 people who witnessed the match set a new record for a Rugby match in Queensland and they were treated to an entertaining first half which ended with the scores tied at 6-all thanks to two penalties apiece to Elton Flatley of Australia and the Springboks' Louis Koen.

The Wallabies scored the first try of the match early in the second half when Mat Rogers swooped on a loose pass from Koen to score next to the posts.

Some ill disciplined play from South Africa allowed the Wallabies to edge further ahead with Flatley kicking three more penalty goals to extend the lead out to 22-9.

In the final play of the Test, Bundaberg Rum Man of the Match, Phil Waugh, finished off some good passing to score unopposed in the corner.

Flatley's conversion saw him finish the match with a perfect seven out of seven shots on goal and gave Australia their first win in the 2003 Tri Nations.

AUSTRALIA 29 (Mat Rogers, Phil Waugh tries; Elton Flatley 2 cons, 5 pens)
defeated SOUTH AFRICA 9 (Louis Koen 3 pens)
Half-time: Tied 6-6
Referee: Paddy O'Brien (New Zealand)
Crowd: 51,188
Bundaberg Rum Man of the Match: Phil Waugh (Australia)
Yellow Card: Robbie Kempson (South Africa), Danie Coetzee (South Africa)

Australia: Chris Latham, Wendell Sailor, Mat Rogers, Elton Flatley, Lote Tuqiri, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), Toutai Kefu, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Daniel Vickerman, David Giffin, Patricio Noriega, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young. **Replacements:** Jeremy Paul for Cannon, Glenn Panoho for Noriega, Nathan Sharpe for Vickerman, Chris Whitaker for Gregan, Matt Giteau for Kefu, Owen Finegan for Smith, Matthew Burke for Rogers.

South Africa: Andre Pretorius, Stefan Terblanche, Jorrie Muller, De Wet Barry, Ashwin Willemse, Louis Koen, Craig Davidson, Juan Smith, Joe van Niekerk, Corne Krige (c), Victor Matfield, Selborne Boome, Richard Bands, Danie Coetzee, Robbie Kempson. **Replacements:** Dale Santon for Danie Coetzee, Joost van der Westhuizen for Davidson, Bakkies Botha for Selborne Boome, Brent Russell for Terblanche, Wikus van Heerden for Krige (temp), Lawrence Sephaka for Krige (temp). **Not Used:** Gcobani Bobo.

AUSTRALIA VS NEW ZEALAND | BUNDABERG RUM RUGBY SERIES MATCH

BLEDISLOE CUP & TRI NATIONS TROPHY TEST | EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND | SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 2003

For the first time in six years, the Bledisloe Cup returned to New Zealand after the All Blacks recorded a 21-17 victory over the Vodafone Wallabies in Auckland.

It was a night of celebration for New Zealand Rugby who celebrated their 100th anniversary as a Test match playing nation. Before the match, a host of former All Blacks and Wallabies was paraded to the crowd.

Alastair Baxter, who had an outstanding year for the New South Wales Waratahs in the Vodafone Super 12, made his international debut after replacing the injured Patricio Noriega.

Doug Howlett scored two tries in the first half as the Kiwis threatened to break the game open as they did in Sydney a few weeks earlier, but the accurate goal kicking of Elton Flatley kept Australia in the match going into the break down 15-9.

Leading 21-12 with five minutes to go, New Zealand looked safe, but a clever piece of work from George Gregan put George Smith down the left touchline and in for the Wallabies only try of the match.

In a frantic finish, Flatley almost broke through the New Zealand defence, but the ball broke loose leaving New Zealand to lift the Bledisloe Cup for the first time since 1997.

NEW ZEALAND 21 (Doug Howlett 2 tries; Carlos Spencer con; Carlos Spencer 3 pens)
defeated AUSTRALIA 17 (George Smith try; Elton Flatley 4 pens)
Half-time: New Zealand 15-9
Referee: Jonathan Kaplan (South Africa)
Crowd: 43,000

Australia: Chris Latham, Wendell Sailor, Mat Rogers, Elton Flatley, Lote Tuqiri, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), Toutai Kefu, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Daniel Vickerman, David Giffin, Glenn Panoho, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young.
Replacements: Alastair Baxter for Panoho, Matthew Burke for Sailor, Matt Giteau for Larkham, Owen Finegan for Kefu, Nathan Sharpe for Vickerman, Jeremy Paul for Cannon.
Not Used: Chris Whitaker.

New Zealand: Mils Muliaina, Doug Howlett, Tana Umaga, Aaron Mauger, Joe Rokocoko, Carlos Spencer, Justin Marshall, Jerry Collins, Richard McCaw, Reuben Thorne (c), Ali Williams, Chris Jack, David Hewett, Keven Mealamu, Greg Somerville.
Replacements: Leon MacDonald for Muliaina.
Not Used: Mark Hammett, Kees Meeuws, Brad Thorn, Marty Holah, Steve Devine, Daniel Carter.

New Cap: Alastair Baxter became the 785th capped Wallaby in this Test.

AUSTRALIA VS ARGENTINA | RUGBY WORLD CUP 2003

POOL MATCH | TELSTRA STADIUM, SYDNEY | FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2003

Rugby World Cup 2003 got off to a spectacular start with the Opening Ceremony followed by the Opening Match of the Tournament between the Wallabies and the Pumas.

A full house of 81,350 people attended and saw the defending champions record a solid win over a dangerous Argentinean side.

Whilst the match saw the Wallabies put in a strong defensive performance that subdued the highly-fancied Pumas pack, it was the strong attacking display by number eight David Lyons who ensured the Wallabies had territorial advantage.

A first-half try from Wendell Sailor, who powered through two defenders to score in the corner, was the first of the Tournament and three penalty goals from Elton Flatley set up a 14-3 half-time lead to Australia.

Argentine goal kicker, Felipe Contepomi, didn't have much luck with the boot landing one from five attempts.

Any chance that Argentina had of causing an upset were crushed during the second half when Joe Roff found a gap and scored under the posts.

Puma fullback Ignacio Corletto scored a late consolation try after racing down the left sideline.

AUSTRALIA 24 (Wendell Sailor, Joe Roff tries; Elton Flatley con, 4 pens)
defeated ARGENTINA 8 (Ignacio Corleto try; Felipe Contepomi pen)
Half-time: Australia 14-3
Referee: Paul Honiss (New Zealand)
Crowd: 81,350

Australia: Mat Rogers, Wendell Sailor, Matthew Burke, Elton Flatley, Joe Roff, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), David Lyons, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Nathan Sharpe, David Giffin, Al Baxter, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young.
Replacements: Daniel Vickerman for Giffin, Ben Darwin for Baxter, Matt Cockbain for Smith, Matt Giteau for Larkham, Jeremy Paul for Cannon, Chris Whitaker for Gregan, Lote Tuqiri for Roff.

Argentina: Ignacio Corletto, Jose Maria Nunez Piossek, Manuel Contepomi, Jose Orengo, Diego Albanese, Felipe Contepomi, Agustin Pichot (c), Gonzalo Longo, Rolando Martin, Santiago Phelan, Patricio Albacete, Ignacio Fernandez Lobbe, Omar Hasan, Mario Ledesma, Roberto Grau.
Replacements: Juan Hernandez (temp) for Corleto, Mauricio Reggiardo for Hasan, Martin Durand for Phelan.
Not Used: Federico Mendez, Rimas Alvarez, Nicolas Fernandez Miranda, Gonzalo Quesada.

AUSTRALIA VS ROMANIA | RUGBY WORLD CUP 2003

POOL MATCH | SUNCORP STADIUM, BRISBANE | SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2003

Australia had a convincing 90-8 win over Romania in their second pool match of Rugby World Cup 2003.

It didn't take long for the Wallabies to get on the scoreboard when Elton Flatley crossed for the fastest try in World Cup history after just 18 seconds.

After kicking off, Australia retained possession and shortly after Flatley was over for the first try of the match. He finished with a new personal best of 30 points for the match.

Mat Rogers scored his first hat-trick of tries for Australia, while Matt Giteau and Lote Tuqiri claimed their first tries in Wallaby colours.

Matthew Burke and Stephen Larkham grabbed a double as most of the backline got their name on the scoresheet.

Romania battled hard and were rewarded in the second half with a try to prop Petrisor Toderasc and a penalty goal to Ionut Tofan.

AUSTRALIA 90 (Mat Rogers 3, Matthew Burke 2, Stephen Larkham 2, Elton Flatley, Stirling Mortlock, Joe Roff, Matt Giteau, Lote Tuqiri, George Smith tries; Elton Flatley 11 cons, pen)
defeated ROMANIA 8 (Petrisor Todersac try, Ionut Tofan pen)
Half-time: Australia 38-0
Referee: Pablo Deluca (Argentina)
Crowd: 48,778

Australia: Mat Rogers, Wendell Sailor, Matthew Burke, Elton Flatley, Joe Roff, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), David Lyons, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Nathan Sharpe, Daniel Vickerman, Al Baxter, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young.
Replacements: Matt Giteau for Gregan, Ben Darwin for Baxter, Stirling Mortlock for Burke, Justin Harrison for Vickerman, Jeremy Paul for Cannon, Matt Cockbain for Lyons, Lote Tuqiri for Waugh.

Romania: Danut Dumbrava, Gabriel Brezoianu, Valentin Maftei, Romeo Gontineac (c), Cristian Sauan, Ionut Tofan, Lucian Sirbu, George Chiriac, Ovidiu Tonita, Marius Niculai, Cristian Petre, Sorin Socol, Silviu Florea, Razvan Mavrodin, Petrisor Toderasc.
Replacements: Marian Tudori for Niculai, Mihai Vioreanu for Tofan, Cezar Popescu for Florea, Marcel Socaciu for Mavrodin, Ioan Teodorescu for Sauan, Bogdan Tudor for Ovidiu Tonita, Cristian Podea for Sirbu.

AUSTRALIA VS NAMIBIA | RUGBY WORLD CUP 2003

POOL MATCH | ADELAIDE OVAL, ADELAIDE | SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2003

It was a day full of records for the Wallabies as they defeated Namibia 142-0 in the first Test match between the two nations.

The spirit of the match was the big success with Adelaide hosting their first-ever Test and seeing the Wallaby jersey for the first time.

Chris Whitaker had the honour of being named captain of the team for the first time with George Gregan rested.

Not only was it the most points that Australia had ever scored in a Test match, but it was also the highest winning margin.

Chris Latham played his first match of the Tournament and responded with five tries to set a new record for a Wallaby in a Test.

Mat Rogers continued his good form with a 42-point haul that included two tries and 16 conversions. The total is the most a Wallaby has ever recorded in a Test.

Lote Tuqiri and Matt Giteau who both scored their first tries for the Wallabies the previous week followed up with a hat-trick each.

Matt Dunning started at loose head prop to make his international debut and John Roe came off the bench to also win his first cap and score his first try for the Wallabies.

AUSTRALIA 142 (Chris Latham 5, Lote Tuqiri 3, Matt Giteau 3, Mat Rogers 2, Morgan Turinui 2, David Lyons, Stirling Mortlock, Jeremy Paul, Nathan Grey, Matthew Burke, John Roe, penalty tries; Mat Rogers 16 cons)
defeated NAMIBIA 0
Half-time: Australia 69-0
Referee: Joel Jutge (France)
Crowd: 28,196

Australia: Chris Latham, Lote Tuqiri, Stirling Mortlock, Nathan Grey, Mat Rogers, Matt Giteau, Chris Whitaker (c), David Lyons, David Croft, George Smith, Nathan Sharpe, Justin Harrison, Ben Darwin, Jeremy Paul, Matt Dunning.
Replacements: David Giffin for Sharpe, John Roe for Lyons, Matt Cockbain for Smith, Morgan Turinui for Grey, Matthew Burke for Mortlock. **Not Used:** Brendan Cannon, Bill Young.

Namibia: Ronaldo Pedro, Deon Mouton, Du Preez Grobler, Emile Wessels, Jurie Booysen, Morne Schreuder, Hakkies Husselman (c), Jurgens van Lill, Herman Lintvelt, Shaun van Rooi, Eben Isaacs, Heino Senekal, Neil du Toit, Cor van Tonder, Kees Lensing. **Replacements:** Melrick Africa for Booysen, Schalk van der Merwe for Mouton, Neil Swanepoel for Husselman, Deon Grunschloss for Africa, Andries Blaauw for du Toit, Sean Furter for Pedro, Phillipus Isaacs for Grobler.

New Caps: Matthew Dunning became the 786th capped Wallaby in this Test. John Roe became the 787th capped Wallaby in this Test.

AUSTRALIA VS IRELAND | RUGBY WORLD CUP 2003

POOL MATCH | TELSTRA DOME, MELBOURNE | SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2003

With both Australia and Ireland having already cemented their place in the Quarter Finals of Rugby World Cup 2003, this match was to decide which team would finish top of Pool A.

It was a sporting bonanza in Melbourne during the week with the Spring Racing Carnival in full flight and Australia defeating Ireland in the International Rules match the night before at the MCG.

A packed house at Telstra Dome saw the Wallabies take the early advantage with a try in the corner to George Smith pushing Australia ahead 11-6 at half-time.

Ireland hit back hard in the second half and a brilliant try to Brian O'Driscoll in the corner and a sideline conversion from Ronan O'Gara gave the Irish hope.

A drop goal from O'Driscoll brought Ireland back to within a point and set up a frantic finish.

Replacement flyhalf David Humphreys had a chance to put the Irish ahead but his drop goal attempt with only a couple of minutes remaining narrowly missed.

The result set up a Quarter Final between Pool A winners Australia and Pool B runners-up Scotland in Brisbane, while Ireland as Pool A runners-up next faced France, the Pool B winners, in Melbourne the following week.

AUSTRALIA 17 (George Smith try; Elton Flatley 3 pens; George Gregan drop goal)
defeated IRELAND 16 (Brian O'Driscoll try; Ronan O'Gara con, 2 pens; Brian O'Driscoll drop goal)
Half-time: Australia 11-6
Referee: Paddy O'Brien (New Zealand)
Crowd: 54,206

Australia: Mat Rogers, Wendell Sailor, Matthew Burke, Elton Flatley, Joe Roff, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), David Lyons, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Nathan Sharpe, David Giffin, Ben Darwin, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young. **Replacements:** Al Baxter for Darwin, Matt Cockbain for Lyons, Lote Tuqiri for Burke, Daniel Vickerman for Giffin, Matt Giteau for Larkham, Jeremy Paul for Cannon. **Not Used:** Chris Whitaker.

Ireland: Girvan Dempsey, Shane Horgan, Brian O'Driscoll, Kevin Maggs, Simon Best, Ronan O'Gara, Peter Stringer, Anthony Foley, Keith Gleeson, Simon Easterby, Paul O'Connell, Malcolm O'Kelly, John Hayes, Keith Wood (c), Reggie Corrigan. **Replacements:** John Kelly for Best, Donnacha O'Callaghan for O'Connell, Eric Miller for Foley, Marcus Horan for Corrigan, David Humphreys for O'Gara. **Not Used:** Shane Byrne, Guy Easterby.

AUSTRALIA VS SCOTLAND | RUGBY WORLD CUP 2003

QUARTER FINAL | SUNCORP STADIUM, BRISBANE | SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2003

Australia moved into the Semi Finals of Rugby World Cup 2003 with a hard fought 33-16 win over Scotland at Suncorp Stadium.

In a very even first half, Elton Flatley landed three penalty goals for the Wallabies while Chris Paterson kicked two penalties and a drop goal to leave the two nations locked together at 9-all at the break.

Stirling Mortlock busted the game open early in the second half when he stormed 50m to score under the posts.

Skipper George Gregan added the second try when he cleverly kicked the ball into the in-goal area and was the first to get there and place it down.

David Lyons was rewarded for another solid game with a late try and Scotland's Rob Russell came off the bench to also touch down.

It was the end of the Tournament for Scotland and the last Test for centre Gregor Townsend who retired after 82 internationals. The Wallabies qualified to face New Zealand in the first Semi Final.

AUSTRALIA 33 (Stirling Mortlock, George Gregan, David Lyons tries; Elton Flatley 3 cons, 4 pens)
defeated SCOTLAND 16 (Rob Russell try; Chris Paterson con, 2 pens, drop goal)
Half-time: 9-all
Referee: Steve Walsh (New Zealand)
Crowd: 45,412

Australia: Mat Rogers, Wendell Sailor, Stirling Mortlock, Elton Flatley, Lote Tuqiri, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), David Lyons, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Nathan Sharpe, David Giffin, Ben Darwin, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young. **Replacements:** Matt Cockbain for Smith, Matt Giteau for Larkham, Joe Roff for Rogers, Jeremy Paul for Cannon, Al Baxter for Darwin, Chris Whitaker for Gregan, Daniel Vickerman for Giteau.

Scotland: Glenn Metcalfe, Simon Danielli, Gregor Townsend, Andrew Henderson, Kenny Logan, Chris Paterson, Bryan Redpath (c), Simon Taylor, Cameron Mather, Jason White, Stuart Grimes, Nathan Hines, Bruce Douglas, Gordon Bulloch, Tom Smith. **Replacements:** Ben Hinshelwood for Metcalfe, Scott Murray for Grimes, Jon Petrie for White, Gordon McIlwham for Douglas, Rob Russell for Bulloch, James McLaren for Townsend. **Not Used:** Michael Blair.

AUSTRALIA VS NEW ZEALAND | RUGBY WORLD CUP 2003

SEMI FINAL | TELSTRA STADIUM, SYDNEY | SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2003

Australia became the first nation to qualify for the Rugby World Cup 2003 Final with a 22-10 win over New Zealand.

The victory was soured when Wallaby Prop Ben Darwin suffered a spinal injury during the game and was taken to hospital.

Early on, the All Blacks looked as though they had scored but a try saving tackle from Lote Tuqiri kept the scores level.

Soon after Stirling Mortlock intercepted a pass from Carlos Spencer and ran 70m to score the first try of the match.

All Blacks captain Reuben Thorne scored after good lead-up work from Spencer, but two penalty goals from Elton Flatley gave the Wallabies a 13-7 edge at half-time.

Flatley's sharp shooting continued in the second half landing another three goals to put the Wallabies into the Final.

Defensively, Australia was outstanding in shutting down the New Zealanders who had been one of the most dominant attacking teams in the Tournament.

The All Blacks were then left to contest the third/fourth playoff while Australia were set to face England in the Final.

AUSTRALIA 22 (Stirling Mortlock try; Elton Flatley con, 5 pens)
defeated NEW ZEALAND 10 (Reuben Thorne try; Leon MacDonald con, pen)
Half-time: Australia 13-7
Referee: Chris White (England)
Crowd: 82,444

Australia: Mat Rogers, Wendell Sailor, Stirling Mortlock, Elton Flatley, Lote Tuqiri, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), David Lyons, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Nathan Sharpe, Justin Harrison, Ben Darwin, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young.
Replacements: David Giffin (temp) for Sharpe, Joe Roff for Mortlock, Jeremy Paul for Cannon, Al Baxter for Darwin, Matt Cockbain for Smith, Nathan Grey for Rogers.
Not Used: Chris Whitaker.

New Zealand: Mils Muliaina, Doug Howlett, Leon MacDonald, Aaron Mauger, Joe Rokocoko, Carlos Spencer, Justin Marshall, Jerry Collins, Richie McCaw, Reuben Thorne (c), Ali Williams, Chris Jack, Greg Somerville, Keven Mealamu, Dave Hewett.
Replacements: Byron Kelleher for Marshall, Kees Meeuws for Hewett, Marty Holah for Collins, Brad Thorn for Williams.
Not Used: Mark Hammett, Daniel Carter, Caleb Ralph.

AUSTRALIA VS ENGLAND | RUGBY WORLD CUP 2003

FINAL | TELSTRA STADIUM, SYDNEY | SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2003

Rugby World Cup 2003 was played in front a record crowd of 82,957 and the match has been described as one of the greatest ever.

There was very little between the two teams who finished regulation time locked at 14-all before England clinched their first championship 20-17.

Australia started strongly with a try in the corner to Lote Tuqiri after he outjumped Jason Robinson to catch a Stephen Larkham kick.

England got on top and Robinson scored a try of his own and with Jonny Wilkinson landing three penalty goals in the first half, the English were on top 14-5.

Australia's defence held firm in the second half keeping England scoreless while Elton Flatley landed two penalty goals to get the Wallabies back to within three points.

With the siren sounded Flatley had the chance to send the match into extra time and he calmly kicked a goal to level the scores.

In extra time, Wilkinson and Flatley traded penalties before the Englishman landed the telling drop goal in the final minute to claim victory

ENGLAND 20 (Jason Robinson try; Jonny Wilkinson 4 pens, drop goal)
defeated AUSTRALIA 17 (Lote Tuqiri try; Elton Flatley 4 pens) after extra-time
Half-time: England 14-5
Referee: Andre Watson (South Africa)
Crowd: 82,957

Australia: Mat Rogers, Wendell Sailor, Stirling Mortlock, Elton Flatley, Lote Tuqiri, Stephen Larkham, George Gregan (c), David Lyons, Phil Waugh, George Smith, Nathan Sharpe, Justin Harrison, Al Baxter, Brendan Cannon, Bill Young.
Replacements: Matt Giteau for Larkham, David Giffin for Sharpe, Jeremy Paul for Cannon, Matt Cockbain for Lyons, Joe Roff for Sailor, Matt Dunning for Young. **Not Used:** Chris Whitaker.

England: Josh Lewsey, Jason Robinson, Will Greenwood, Mike Tindall, Ben Cohen, Jonny Wilkinson, Matt Dawson, Lawrence Dallaglio, Neil Back, Richard Hill, Ben Kay, Martin Johnson (c), Phil Vickery, Steve Thompson, Trevor Woodman.
Replacements: Mike Catt for Tindall, Jason Leonard for Vickery, Iain Balshaw for Lewsey, Lewis Moody for Hill.
Not Used: Dorian West, Martin Corry, Kyran Bracken.