



SUNWOLVES DETERMINED TO BOOST THEIR RECORD THIS SEASON
Sunwolves take on Sharks in their 2019 season opener at the Singapore National Stadium



SUNWOLVES players Edward Quirk (far left) and Rahboni Warren-Vosayaco (bottom) from this afternoon’s Captain’s Run

*Photo credit: Singapore Sports Hub
More photos can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2SUfZmG>*

Singapore, 15 February 2019 – Singapore’s adopted home team HITO-Communications SUNWOLVES will take on South Africa’s SHARKS at the National Stadium tomorrow, in the first of two Super Rugby matches in Singapore this year. The SUNWOLVES return to the Southeast Asian city state coming off their first historic win here in June last year against the Bulls. They will be aiming to kick off their campaign with a winning start to their 2019 Super Rugby season with Saturday’s opener.

The SUNWOLVES arrived in Singapore on Wednesday fresh from pre-season training in Australia and are looking forward to the staunch support from their fans in Singapore. Last year’s win at the National Stadium saw them achieve their best Super Rugby record. The SUNWOLVES are determined to boost their record this season, by clinching their first victory ever over the Durban side.

Head Coach Scott Hansen, who is taking charge of the side while Tony Brown is away on national duty with Japan, shared his thoughts on the team selection: “We’ve picked the best team for this occasion and how it’s been picked is through pre-season and the efforts that have been there. We also have players coming back from injury so we’re excited by the team we’ve picked for this

occasion. Mikey (Michael Little) for example, just returned home from his wedding so he has come back into the team full of energy and we look forward to bringing Mikey on the pitch this weekend.”

The SUNWOLVES and the SHARKS teams had their individual Captains Run’s at the National Stadium pitch earlier today to prepare for the upcoming match, and shared their excitement in playing tomorrow’s match in front of an exuberant crowd.

SUNWOLVES Co-Captain Michael Little, said, “We love being here in Singapore and it’s an awesome occasion. There are fabulous fans here and whether it’s in Tokyo or in Singapore, we want to give it our best. We are going to play our Sunwolves style of rugby so I look forward to it.”

The SHARKS will be looking to replicate last season’s success and at a minimum reach the knockout stages of the competition by having a clear and strong game plan coming into Saturday.

“We’re used to this type of weather. We’re going to have to look more for the ball, so that means set pieces are absolutely vital for us. We had a great session today and we’ve done all our preparation back home,” shared SHARKS Coach Robert du Preez.

SHARKS Captain Louis Schreuder added, “I think my focus for us this week, as well as any other weeks, will be ourselves and do what we want to do. Obviously, it is the start of the competition, with it being the first game we want to start off well. So we will focus on ourselves now.”

On his thoughts coming to Singapore: “This is my third time here. Love coming to Singapore, it has obviously top-class facilities and a lovely stadium.”

The rugby fun will start on the stadium’s concourse tomorrow at 16:30 (between gates 9 and 12) where there will be Free Rugby Team Games, Bench Rugby and Rugby Drills for the whole family to enjoy.

Match programme booklets and SUNWOLVES headbands will be sold along Gate 9, at \$4 and \$2 respectively, and at a discounted price of \$5 if both items are purchased together.

Tickets for the 2019 Super Rugby match starts from \$10 for tertiary students, \$29 for general admission for adults and \$15 for general admission for children, and can be purchased via the Sports Hub Tix website www.sportshubtix.sg, hotline +65 3158 7888, Sports Hub Tix Box Office at Singapore Indoor Stadium, The Star Performing Arts Centre Box Office, Scotts Square Concierge Desk, and all SingPost outlets.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sportshub.com.sg/SuperRugby>.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ashton Smith
Full Circle Public Relations
+65 8779 5162
ashton@fullcircle.co

Bertrand Teo
Singapore Sports Hub
+65 9321 8550
bertrand.teo@sportshub.com.sg

ABOUT SUPER RUGBY

Super Rugby is the Southern Hemisphere's pre-eminent rugby tournament, featuring 15 teams from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina and Japan.

Since the 2018 Super Rugby season, the 18-team competition reverts to a 15-team competition, consisting of three geographical conferences – the Australian conference, the New Zealand conference and the South African conference. Gone from the competition were the Force (Australia), Kings and Cheetahs (South Africa). The Jaguares remained in the now one South African Conference while the SUNWOLVES moved from one of the African conferences to the Australian conference, with four other Australian teams.

- Australian Conference: Brumbies, Rebels, Reds, Waratahs, Sunwolves
- New Zealand Conference: Blues, Chiefs, Crusaders, Highlanders, Hurricanes
- South African Conference: Bulls, Lions, Sharks, Stormers, Jaguares

ABOUT THE HITO-COMMUNICATIONS SUNWOLVES

The HITO-Communications SUNWOLVES made their debut in the 2016 Super Rugby season and is the first Asian team in Super Rugby. Co-based in both Japan and Singapore, SUNWOLVES will be playing a total of 16 matches – eight home and eight away games. Two matches will be played at the Singapore National Stadium on 16 February 2019, Saturday, against THE SHARKS, and on 23 March 2019, against the LIONS. The SUNWOLVES scored their first win in Singapore during their June 2018 game against BULLS.

APPENDIX

[SUNWOLVES Team List](#)

[SHARKS Team List](#)

-END-