



## SUNWOLVES INSPIRE YOUNG FANS AT FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON OF RUGBY COACHING



SUNWOLVES players Jamie Henry (front row far right), skills coach Damian Karauna (front row right) , Alexander Woonton (front row middle), Hosea Saumaki (back row right) Pauliasi Manu (back row middle) and Nathan Vella (back row left)

*Photo credit: Singapore Sports Hub*

*More photos can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2N45DeE>*

**SINGAPORE, 14 FEBRUARY 2019** - The HITO-Communications SUNWOLVES are back in Singapore this week for the highly-anticipated Super Rugby match against the SHARKS, and some players joined a local rugby training session this afternoon at Sembawang Primary School ahead of the big game.

Over 50 students, aged between 9 to 12 attended the session and had the opportunity to get up-close and personal with the players for some rugby fundamentals, skill workshops and fun interactive drills. The students who participated in the session were from Sembawang Primary School and are part of the school's rugby team.

SUNWOLVES players Jamie Henry, Pauliasi Manu, Nathan Vella, Hosea Saumaki, Alexander Woonton and skills coach Damian Karauna expressed their joy about being able to give back to the sport and the local community, where they were able to share their knowledge and their rugby journeys with the students.



*Photo Caption: Pauliasi Manu from Sunwolves interacting with the children at the Sembawang Primary School at their rugby training session this afternoon.*

“It was awesome to see the look on the kids’ faces and I’m sure they all learnt something that they can take home with them,” said Nathan Vella.

“It's the best day ever! I just started learning rugby not long ago so I'm so inspired after today. I want to keep on training and be like them!” said Eshaan Rai, 10 years old.

The SUNWOLVES has been running rugby clinics since adopting Singapore as a home base in 2016. This initiative was created for young rugby enthusiasts to meet the rugby stars in person, with this year aligning themselves with the local community and showing how Rugby Union as a sport is growing in Singapore.

### **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.

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