



HITO-COMMUNICATIONS SUNWOLVES AND TOYOTA CHEETAHS READY TO RUMBLE AT THE SINGAPORE SPORTS HUB

Super Rugby Set to Make Southeast Asian Debut at Singapore Sports Hub

Singapore, 11 March 2016 – One of the latest additions to Super Rugby, the HITO-Communications Sunwolves are looking to up the ante when they face South Africa's Toyota Cheetahs at their adopted home venue, the Singapore Sports Hub tomorrow.

The Sunwolves, currently ranked seventh in the South-African group, signaled their intentions to make their mark on the league in the pre-match conference held today. Former All Blacks hooker and Sunwolves Head Coach Mark Hammett shared his thoughts on the team's chances saying, "We're looking for a good result in our first match in Singapore. We played well for sixty minutes against the Lions, and have been building on that performance since."

Preparations for both teams have gone smoothly since they arrived in Singapore yesterday, with both sets of players looking visibly confident and buoyant. The Cheetahs' Coach, Franco Smith said "I would have maybe loved to win one of the first two so the pressures off, but it's not going to make a difference. We are playing a good game, ninety percent of the guys are playing overseas for the first time having played varsity cup last year, so they are really excited about making the step up."

The teams, who confirmed their lineups today were well aware of the impending test of grit and mental strength in Super Rugby's South-east Asia debut. With veteran hooker Shota Horie saying "The conditions here are going to be tough, and the Cheetahs play a very fast game so we will need to be at our best to keep up to pace. In spite of this, we are confident that our preparations will give us a positive performance and result. In our first season, we hope to win as many matches as possible."

The Sunwolves, have opted to go with an experienced and unchanged lineup which will be led by Captain Shota Horie, American Andrew Durutalo, Samoan Tusi Pisi, and Rugby World Cup stars Harumichi Tatekawa, Akihito Yamada, and Hitoshi Ono.

Their opponents, the visiting Cheetahs will be fielding a younger squad, choosing to rest Springbok Lodewyk de Jager. The team will be led by Captain Francois Venter, and include Clayton Blommetjies, Uzair Cassiem, and debutant Johan Coetzee.

When asked about his thoughts ahead of their third match of the season, Vice-Captain Francois Uys said "We will be focused, especially in the start, to focus more

on what we can do and try to be excellent in what we've planned. We're always looking to strive to be better. I think that's probably the biggest change we need before tomorrow."

The match is the first of three to be held in Singapore this season as part of a deal that will see the Sunwolves play a minimum of three matches at the hub each year till 2020. On 26 March the HITO-Communications Sunwolves will go up against the Vodacom Blue BULLS, before returning on 14 May to face the high-flying DHL STORMERS.

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About the upcoming match:

The HITO-Communications Sunwolves and Toyota Cheetahs will go head to head this Saturday at 6.50pm. The curtain raiser game between the Singapore Legends vs Asian Japanese Dragons will begin at 5pm. Tickets are available at www.sportshub.com.sg.

ABOUT SINGAPORE SPORTS HUB

The Singapore Sports Hub is Singapore's premier sports, entertainment and lifestyle hub with integrated community programming.

Consisting of a unique cluster development of integrated world-class sports facilities within the city, it plays a critical role in accelerating the development of sports industry, excellence and participation, and will take sports to the next level in Singapore.

Located on a 35-hectare site in Kallang, the Singapore Sports Hub includes the following facilities:

- A new 55,000-capacity National Stadium with a retractable roof and movable tiered seating
- The iconic Singapore Indoor Stadium
- A 6,000-capacity OCBC Aquatic Centre that meets FINA standards
- A 3,000-capacity OCBC Arena which is scalable and flexible in layout
- Water Sports Centre featuring kayaking and canoeing
- 41,000 sq m Kallang Wave Mall, including indoor climbing wall and Splash-N-Surf facility (Kids Waterpark, Stingray and Lazy River)
- 100PLUS Promenade that encircles the National Stadium
- Singapore Youth Olympic Museum & Singapore Sports Museum
- Sports Hub Library
- Shimano Cycling World
- Daily community facilities and activities, including beach volleyball, hard courts (futsal, basketball and netball) lawn bowls, giant chess, skate park and running & cycling paths

The Singapore Sports Hub, which is managed by SportsHub Pte Ltd, is one of the largest sporting Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects in the world. It is also Singapore's largest flagship PPP project of this nature, and has won the Project Finance International (PFI) award in London in 2011, World Architecture Festival Awards for Best Future Project in the leisure-led development category in 2013 and Sports Building of the Year in 2014.

For more information, please visit the Singapore Sports Hub:

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