



## SUNWOLVES GIVE BACK AHEAD OF LAST SINGAPORE GAME OF 2017 SUPER RUGBY SEASON



### **Photo Caption:**

*(Left) SUNWOLVES flanker Shokei Kin (second from right) and winger Takaaki Nakazuru (extreme right) sharing their own rugby experiences with the Singapore's national wheelchair rugby team at the latter's training session.*

*(Right) SUNWOLVES winger Takaaki Nakazuru participating in the kids clinic ahead of SUNWOLVES match against the Sharks today.*

*More photos can be downloaded [here](#).  
Photo Credit: Singapore Sports Hub*

**SINGAPORE, 20 MAY 2017** – The HITO-Communications SUNWOLVES are back for their third and final Super Rugby match in Singapore for 2017. To build upon the engagement with the local community, SUNWOLVES co-captain Ed Quirk, winger Takaaki Nakazuru, and flanker Shokei Kin visited the Singapore national wheelchair rugby team during their training session on Friday night and conducted a rugby clinic with 50 children this morning.

Eight wheelchair rugby players, who are preparing for the Bali 4's, an international wheelchair rugby tournament, had an insightful interaction session with the SUNWOLVES – both sides sharing their own rugby experiences. In a show of support, SUNWOLVES also presented a signed jersey to the national wheelchair rugby team's captain Richard Kuppusamy, before joining in the team's training – partaking in an intensive 4-a-side match.

Said SUNWOLVES co-captain Ed Quirk, who is rested due to a hand injury, "We are both new teams in our own rights, and we have much to learn from each other on how we pursue our goals amidst the challenges we face. The wheelchair rugby athletes are out here doing what they love – and that's something that all of us can learn from. We will definitely be back to join these boys when we return next year".

SUNWOLVES flanker Kin quipped, "We have the same passion, we are all athletes – and it's encouraging to see that we were equally hungry during the short match that we had. It was extremely fun, and we wish the team all the best for their endeavours in Bali."

Ahead of their game against the Sharks this evening, the three SUNWOLVES players also conducted a rugby clinic with close to 50 children at GEMS World Academy in Yishun. The children, who were from different local rugby clubs, namely the Singapore Dragons Rugby Club, Singapore Cricket Club, Singapore Japanese RFC, Tanglin Rugby Club, Titans RFC, GEMS World Academy, and several regional centres from local schools, went through a session of running, kicking, passing and even tackling to help build their fundamentals in rugby.

SUNWOLVES winger Takaaki Nakazuru said, "We all believe that to be a good rugby player, it is important to get the fundamentals right from a young age. For many of us who have had the privilege of such training when we were young, it is only natural that we pass it on to the next generation. Seeing so many kids in Singapore with a passion for rugby also inspires us to do our best in our matches. We believe that with hard work and determination, a player from Singapore in Super Rugby is not far away."

"We went for the first session in March and Izz was looking forward to meet the SUNWOLVES again to get their autograph and have a picture with them. The clinic is a good opportunity for him to mix around, get to know more people and build his confidence. He just took up rugby in January, so this clinic is also good for him to get more exposure, pick some rugby skills and tactics," said Khairin, mother of 10 year old Izz Zuhairi, who trains with the Singapore Dragons Rugby Club.

Over 300 children have benefited from the kids rugby clinics in 2017 hosted by the SUNWOLVES and the Singapore Rugby Union (SRU) prior to every match in Singapore. This initiative was created for young rugby enthusiasts to meet international rugby players and to receive first-hand training tips from world-class rugby players. The children are grouped according to their age and taught the fundamentals of rugby such as passing, catching, evasion, decision making and tackling through fun drills and games.

Tickets for the 2017 Super Rugby matches in Singapore are priced from \$15 onwards for children aged 3 to 17 years old and \$30 onwards for adults, and can be purchased via the Sports Hub Tix website [www.sportshubtix.sg](http://www.sportshubtix.sg), hotline +65 3158 7888, Sports Hub Tix Box Office at Singapore Indoor Stadium and all SingPost outlets (see Appendix A for ticketing information).

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**ABOUT THE UPCOMING MATCH**

This year, Singapore hosts three of the SUNWOLVES Super Rugby 2017 home matches at the National Stadium against South Africa's Kings, Stormers and Sharks, on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> May. The upcoming match is the last of the three matches to be held in Singapore this season.

The game between the HITO-Communications SUNWOLVES and Sharks will commence 20 May, Saturday at 7.55pm at the Singapore National Stadium. It will be preceded by a curtain raiser game between Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) and Raffles Institution for the National Schools 'A' Division Final at 5pm. For more information on the 2017 Super Rugby matches in Singapore, please visit [www.sportshub.com.sg/SuperRugby2017](http://www.sportshub.com.sg/SuperRugby2017).

SUNWOLVES' starting line-ups: <https://sunwolves.or.jp/en/information/article/4394/>

SHARKS' starting line-ups: <http://sharksrugby.co.za/changes-for-sharks-2/>

**ABOUT SUPER RUGBY**

Super Rugby is the Southern Hemisphere's pre-eminent rugby tournament, featuring 18 teams from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina and Japan.

In 2016, the evolution of Super Rugby continued with three new sides introduced to an expanded four-conference model that boosts the rivalry and passion of previous seasons, driving Super Rugby into an exciting new era. The Kings from South Africa returned to the fray, along with new teams: the Jaguares from Argentina; and the SUNWOLVES from Japan.

Come 2018, the competition will revert to a 15-team competition, consisting of three geographical conferences – the Australian conference, the New Zealand conference and the South African conference. As part of the changes, SUNWOLVES will move from one of the African conferences to the Australian conference with four other Australian teams.

**ABOUT THE HITO-COMMUNICATIONS SUNWOLVES**

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 play a total of 15 matches, with three out of seven of their home matches at the Singapore National Stadium – against the Kings (4 March 2017), the Stormers (25 March 2017) and the Sharks (20 May 2017). In the current season, SUNWOLVES has won one match against the Bulls in Tokyo, with a score of 21-20. They have also played two neck and neck games in Singapore, with a score of 23-37 and 31-44 against the Kings and Stormers respectively.

## APPENDIX A – TICKETING INFORMATION

	CAT 1	CAT 2
Standard (Adult)	S\$60.00	S\$30.00
Child (3-17 years)	S\$35.00	S\$15.00
Family Package (2 Adult + 2 Child)	--	S\$80.00

### **BOOKING FEES**

- All prices reflected include GST and exclude booking fee.
- Booking fee for tickets S\$30.00 and below: S\$1.00 per ticket.
- Booking fee for tickets S\$30.01 and above: S\$4.00 per ticket.
- Booking fee for Family Package (2 Adult + 2 Child) Single Game Tickets - S\$4.00 per Family Package

## 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 Water Playground, 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:

- Website: [www.sportshub.com.sg](http://www.sportshub.com.sg)
- Facebook: [sporesportshub](https://www.facebook.com/sporesportshub)
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The Public-Private Partnership includes:



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