



## SUNWOLVES TO TAKE ON SHARKS IN FINAL BATTLE AT THE SINGAPORE SPORTS HUB



***Photo Caption:** SUNWOLVES forward pack, marshalled by scrumhalf Fumiaki Tanaka (left of background), going through their moves in their captain's run at the National Stadium on Friday afternoon ahead of the match against South Africa's Sharks on Saturday.*

*Photos can be downloaded [here](#)*

*Photo credit: Singapore Sports Hub*

**SINGAPORE, 19 MAY 2017** – Super Rugby 2017 is back for the third and final match in Singapore this year as Singapore's adopted home team HITO-Communications SUNWOLVES take on the Sharks in the highly anticipated game at the National Stadium tomorrow. The SUNWOLVES and the Sharks last played against each other in Durban in the 2016 season, where Sharks won with a score of 40-29.

The SUNWOLVES are coming home off the back of their New Zealand and Argentina tour, where they nabbed 77 points and gained two bonus points despite losing four matches. The last time they faced a South African opposition, they put one over the Bulls in an epic 21-20 victory in Tokyo. With the backing

of the Singapore crowd this weekend, the SUNWOLVES are determined to put the disappointment in New Zealand and Argentina behind them and get their first ever victory on Singapore soil.

Returning from a bye week, Coach Filo Tiatia shared his thoughts on playing against the Sharks, “We know the Sharks are a very ambitious and young team, and we know how tough a game it will be. We have been reflecting on many things – mainly on our skills execution and game plan. The New Zealand and Argentina tour was brutal, but every week, we are improving. In SUNWOLVES, the team is driven by three values – respect for each other, enjoying rugby, and brotherhood. Every player works extremely hard and I cannot ask for anything more from them as a coach. We, the SUNWOLVES, love playing here in Singapore and we will give Singapore fans something to cheer about tomorrow.”

The SUNWOLVES and Sharks had their respective captain’s run at the National Stadium pitch earlier today ahead of their match and both teams are eager to face each other in tomorrow’s match.

SUNWOLVES Captain Harumichi Tatekawa, who is featuring for the first time this season after a knee injury that kept him sidelined for almost first half of the year, said, “I am glad to be back – I can clearly see that this team is getting better and better with each game. My only regret is that I haven’t been able to join this team sooner. This is our last opportunity to win in Singapore this year, and all of us cannot wait to seize the opportunity to do just that tomorrow.”

The Sharks, despite their defeat to Kings at Port Elizabeth last weekend, have been chalking up impressive performances – including seven wins and a draw thus far in their campaign – setting them up nicely for their first ever visit to Singapore.

“It is very important to get our campaign back on track after the disappointment last weekend and this game in Singapore is of massive importance to us. For us, it is paramount that our forward pack sets up a good foundation for us – because I believe that’s where the game will be won. We will make sure we keep the ball, be patient, and put multiple phases together. We are aware how dangerous they are in open play and it is definitely going to be a tough fight tomorrow,” said Sharks Head Coach, Robert du Preez.

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 5:00PM. 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)
- Twitter: [@sgsportshub](https://twitter.com/sgsportshub)
- Instagram: [sgsportshub](https://www.instagram.com/sgsportshub)

The Public-Private Partnership includes:



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