

# OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024: MEN'S TEAM AND SQUAD NOTES

(at 17 July, 2024)



WORLD  
RUGBY

- **Argentina** became just the sixth different team to top the SVNS standings at the end of the regular season, claiming the League Winners honours in Singapore.

**Olympic Games – Rio 2016: 6th, Tokyo 2020: Bronze**



Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	29-19	10	<b>W</b>	Pool
2	<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	14-35	-21	<b>L</b>	Pool
3	<b>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	56-0	56	<b>W</b>	Pool
4	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	19-14	5	<b>W</b>	Medal quarter-final
5	<b>FIJI</b>	14-26	-12	<b>L</b>	Medal semi-final
6	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	17-12	5	<b>W</b>	Bronze medal match

- **Rugby sevens honours:** SVNS 2024 series League Winners, Tokyo 2020 bronze medallists, Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 runners-up.
- **Olympic Games:** Played – 12, Won – 7 (58%), Lost – 5
  - After finishing sixth at Rio 2016, Argentina won four of their six games at Tokyo 2020 to claim bronze.
  - Only three teams have ever beaten Argentina at the Olympic Games – Fiji, New Zealand and Great Britain.
  - They scored the third-most tries of any team at Tokyo 2020 with 23, behind only New Zealand (25) and Fiji (24), and seven more than their total from Rio 2016 (16).
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 44, Won – 36 (82%), Lost – 8, Average tries scored per game – 3.6
  - They won the most games of any team this season, and 10 more than second-placed Ireland in the SVNS 2024 standings.
  - They scored 51% of their tries this season from set-piece, their main try source and the highest ratio of any team.
  - They enjoyed the joint-highest retention success from the restart of any team this season with 26% alongside Fiji. Only once this season did they failed to retain possession from at least one restart (0/18 in Los Angeles).

- Their attack averaged the third-fewest carries per line-break of any team this season with 8.2 – only New Zealand and Ireland broke the line from fewer carries.
- They made the most visits of any team to the opposition 22 this season with 200, but have only the fifth-highest success-rate scoring from just 79% of their entries.
- They have been the most disciplined team this season, averaging a competition-low 2.3 penalties per game.
- They conceded the fewest tries of any team this season, averaging 10.5 per tournament despite only recording the sixth lowest tackle completion rate of 72%.
- They have seven survivors from Tokyo 2020 – Santiago Mare, Santiago Álvarez, Marcos Moneta, Luciano González, Matías Osadczuk, Gastón Revol, and Germán Schulz. Travelling reserve Rodrigo Isgró was also part of their bronze medal winning team four years ago.
- Santiago Álvarez, Gastón Revol and Germán Schulz will be making their third Olympic Games appearance after also playing at Rio 2016.
- **Marcos Moneta** returns for the first time since breaking his fibula in Hong Kong. Argentina won 10 of their 14 games without him (71%), compared to 26 of 30 with him on the field this season (87%). Their scoring rate also dropped in his absence, from 24.3 points per game when he played down to 20.4 per game without him.
  - Despite missing 32% of their season, he still finished the 2024 series as Argentina’s leading try-scorer with 29, and third overall behind Ireland’s Terry Kennedy (32) and USA’s Perry Baker (30).
  - He was the top try-scorer at Tokyo 2020 with six, equalling Carlin Isles’ record from Rio 2016 for the most tries at a single Games.
- **Germán Schulz** was the only player to play all 44 games for Argentina this season. He made a team-high 55 tackles on defence.
- **Joaquin Pellandini** made a team-high 13 try assists this season, including five for Santiago Mare, the best combination for Argentina. He has been accurate in front of goal, kicking 81% of this conversion attempts, the second-highest success-rate of any player who has made more than 20 shots.
- **Luciano González** made the most carries of any player this season with 158, averaging one line-break every 9.2 made. Three of his nine try assists came via offloads, the joint-most for Argentina via this pass type.
- Head coach **Santiago Gómez Cora** has been at the helm of Argentina since the beginning of the 2013-14 series, taking the team to their inaugural League Winners title this season, bronze at Tokyo 2020, and seven of their nine all-time Cup titles. This will be his third Olympic Games as coach.

- **Australia**, the 2022 series champions, will be chasing their first Olympic Games podium after finishing eighth at Rio 2016 and seventh at Tokyo 2020. Their maiden series title came in their first full season back after the last Olympic Games.

Olympic Games – Rio 2016: 8th, Tokyo 2020: 7th



Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	<b>ARGENTINA</b>	19-29	-10	<b>L</b>	Pool
2	<b>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	42-5	37	<b>W</b>	Pool
3	<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	12-14	-2	<b>L</b>	Pool
4	<b>FIJI</b>	0-19	-19	<b>L</b>	Medal quarter-final
5	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	19-22	-3	<b>L</b>	5th place semi-final
6	<b>CANADA</b>	26-7	19	<b>W</b>	7th place play-off

- **Rugby sevens honours:** SVNS 2022 champions, 1998 and 2014 Commonwealth Games bronze medallists, 2010 Commonwealth Games silver medallists, RWC Sevens 1993 and 2021 runner-up.
- **Olympic Games:** Played – 12, Won – 4 (33%), Lost – 8
  - Australia’s only Olympic Games victories have come against Spain and South Africa at Rio 2016, and the Republic of Korea and Canada at Tokyo 2020. They have reached the medal quarter-final at both previous Games, but have never placed higher than seventh.
  - Five of their eight losses have been narrow, by five points or less.
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 44, Won – 22 (50%), Lost – 22, Average tries scored per game – 2.7
  - Australia finished the regular season in fourth, the fourth consecutive time they have placed inside the top five at the end of a series. They reached two Cup finals, finishing second in Cape Town and Perth.
  - They scored a competition-high 38% of their tries this season from quick-tap possession.
  - They enjoyed the second highest ratio of assisted tries this season behind New Zealand, with 67% of their scores directly assisted by a team-mate.
  - They made the fourth-most visits of any team this season into the opposition 22 (168), but will look to improve their efficiency after converting just 71% of their visits into tries, the fourth-lowest ratio of any team.

- They made the second-most kicks in play of any team with 60 for the lowest retention success of 20%.
- They trailed at half-time on 23 occasions this season, but were able to come back to win five times, including twice against USA.
- They have five survivors from Tokyo 2020 named in their squad – Maurice Longbottom, Nathan Lawson, Henry Hutchison, Dietrich Roache and captain Nick Malouf. Hutchison and Malouf will be making their third Olympic appearance after also playing at Rio 2016.
- 2022 Series Rookie of the Year **Corey Toole** returns to the team after playing the past two seasons for the ACT Brumbies in Super Rugby Pacific. He was Australia's top try-scorer on the 2022 series with 43, including 10 doubles and one hat-trick.
  - Australia won 27 of their 31 matches that season when he scored at least one try – only against South Africa in Dubai, England in Málaga, and Argentina and USA in Toulouse did they lose the match when he crossed.
  - He has transferred his rugby sevens try scoring skills into the 15s game, with 17 tries in 27 Super Rugby Pacific matches.
  - He made his SVNS debut in Dubai on the 2022 series, and also went on to represent Australia at RWC Sevens 2022 and the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- **Dietrich Roache** made the most try assists of any player this season with 14 – his combination with James Turner was the best duo from any team, providing seven assists.
- **Henry Hutchison** is Australia's all time SVNS series leading try-scorer with 118, but has scored just once across two previous Olympic Games with his only try coming against France in their seventh-place play-off at Rio 2016.
  - He is one of only five players in this squad who have scored an Olympic try alongside Nick Malouf (3), Maurice Longbottom (2) Dietrich Roache (1) and Nathan Lawson (1).
- **Nathan Lawson** is the only player to have played every game for Australia this season. He scored a team-high 25 tries, the fourth-most of any player this season, with 22 of them directly assisted by a team-mate.
  - He made the third-most line-breaks of any player this season (20) from only the 13th-most carries (111), averaging one every 5.6 attacking runs with ball in hand.
- **Hayden Sargeant** led Australia's defensive effort this season with a team-high 71 tackles, the fifth-most of any player.
- Captain **Nick Malouf** made a competition-high seven steals this season.
- **John Manenti** assumed the role of head coach of the men's team in Málaga on the 2022 series, swapping roles with Tim Walsh after taking the Australian women to back-to-back Cup titles in Dubai to start the season. Under his tenure the men's team ended a four-year Cup title drought with victory in London, a 34-year Cup title drought in Hong Kong in 2022, and finished fourth at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and RWC Sevens 2022. He was head coach of the women's team at Tokyo 2020.

- Two-time Olympic gold medallists **Fiji** will look to keep their unbeaten record intact as they chase a third straight Olympic crown. Their gold at Rio 2016 was Fiji's first Olympic medal of any colour across any discipline.

**Olympic Games – Rio 2016: Gold, Tokyo 2020: Gold**

- Won - 12
- Lost - 0
- Drawn - 0

Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	<b>JAPAN</b>	24-19	5	<b>W</b>	Pool
2	<b>CANADA</b>	28-14	14	<b>W</b>	Pool
3	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	33-7	26	<b>W</b>	Pool
4	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	19-0	19	<b>W</b>	Medal quarter-final
5	<b>ARGENTINA</b>	26-14	12	<b>W</b>	Medal semi-final
6	<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	27-12	15	<b>W</b>	Gold medal match

- **Rugby sevens honours:** Four-time SVNS series champions (2006-07, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2019), Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games gold medallists, four-time Commonwealth Games silver medallists (1998, 2002, 2018, 2022), three-time RWC Sevens champions (1997, 2005, 2022).
- **Olympic Games:** Played – 12, Won – 12 (100%), Lost – 0
  - They are the only unbeaten team at the Olympic Games since rugby sevens made its debut at Rio 2016.
  - They have scored the most Olympic Games tries of any team with 50, and hold the record for most tries at a single Games with 26 at Rio 2016.
  - Only four of their 12 victories have been close, within a margin of seven points or less. New Zealand, USA and Argentina at Rio 2016, and Japan at Tokyo 2020 are the only teams to have come within a converted try of the two-time gold medallists at full-time.
  - They have never conceded more than three tries and 19 points in a match.
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 43, Won – 27 (63%), Lost – 16, Average tries scored per game – 3.1
  - They finished sixth in the SVNS 2024 standings after failing to make a Cup final for the first time in their history.
  - They have not won a Cup title at any location since Toulouse on the 2022 series, 22 tournaments ago. This has now surpassed their previous longest Cup title drought after playing 21 events between Brisbane in 2003 and Dubai in 2005 without lifting a trophy.

- This will be the first time they have entered the Olympic Games without being crowned series champions – they took their 2015-16 title into Rio 2016, and 2019 title into Tokyo 2020 after COVID-19 travel restrictions denied them the opportunity to play on the condensed 2021 series in Vancouver and Edmonton.
- They are the joint-best team this season at retaining possession from the restart, averaging a competition-high 26% success-rate alongside Argentina.
- Unsurprisingly, they have been the top offloading team this season, averaging six per game. However, this came at a cost, also averaging the most errors per game (3.1).
- They like to score quickly with the best ratio of rucks per try (1.8), from the fifth-fewest carries per game (22) of any team this season.
- Fifty-five per cent of their tries scored this season originated from unstructured possession sources – quick tap, steals, kick returns.
- Only 55% of their tries this season were directly assisted by a team-mate, the third-highest ratio of solo efforts on attack by any team behind Ireland and Spain.
- There are only three survivors in their squad from Tokyo 2020 – Jerry Tuwai, Iosefo Masi and Waisea Nacuqu.
- **Jerry Tuwai** will become the first Fijian to play at three Olympic Games and is their joint all-time leading try-scorer with five alongside Jiuta Wainiqolo. He only returned to the SVNS series for the first time this season at the Grand Final in Madrid, having an immediate impact with two tries and one try assist.
- **Ponipate Loganimasi** was Fiji's top try-scorer this season with 21, with 16 directly assisted by a team-mate (76%).
- **Joseva Talacolo** was their main play-maker this season with a team-high 132 carries and 12 try assists. Fiji used 29 different players this season, with Talacolo their most consistent with 38 games played from a team total of 43 matches.
  - He made a competition-high 48 offloads this season, with only four directly resulting in a try assist.
- **Kaminieli Rasaku** made the most try assists from offload passes of any player this season with six. Twenty-two per cent of his total offloads this season resulted in a try assist, including three for Pilipo Bukayaro.
- **Selesitino Ravutaumada** will make his rugby sevens debut after earning seven test caps for Fiji last year, including three at RWC 2023. He was the Fijian Drua's joint top try-scorer in Super Rugby Pacific this season with seven alongside team-mate **Iosefo Masi**.
- **Iosefo Masi** has only represented Fiji in rugby sevens on three previous occasions: Tokyo 2020, Los Angeles on the SVNS series in 2022, and at RWC Sevens 2022. Fiji have never failed to reach a final when he has played, winning gold at Tokyo 2020, lifting the Melrose Cup at RWC Sevens 2022 and finishing runner-up in the SVNS Cup final in Los Angeles to New Zealand.
- Head coach **Osea Kolinisau** captained their gold medal winning team at Rio 2016, and features on Fiji's commemorative seven dollar bank note that was issued following their first Olympic medal in any sport. He is still their fourth all-time leading try-scorer (122) and second all-time leading point-scorer (1272) in SVNS history, and only took over the head coach role in Hong Kong this season.

- **France** will be looking to become the first host nation to win an Olympic Games rugby sevens medal after Brazil finished 12th at Rio 2016 and Japan 11th at Tokyo 2020. They have tasted success on home soil before, winning their first SVNS series Cup title in Paris in 2005.

Olympic Games – Rio 2016: 7th, Tokyo 2020: DNQ



Rio 2016	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	31-14	<b>17</b>	<b>W</b>	Pool
2	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	0-26	<b>-26</b>	<b>L</b>	Pool
3	<b>SPAIN</b>	26-5	<b>21</b>	<b>W</b>	Pool
4	<b>JAPAN</b>	7-12	<b>-5</b>	<b>L</b>	Medal quarter-final
5	<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	19-24	<b>-5</b>	<b>L</b>	5th place semi-final
6	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	12-10	<b>2</b>	<b>W</b>	7th place play-off

- **Rugby sevens honours:** SVNS 2024 series champions
- **Olympic Games:** Played – 6, Won – 3 (50%), Lost – 3
  - France return to the Olympic Games after making their debut at Rio 2016. They failed to qualify for Tokyo 2020 after losing 28-19 to Ireland in the World Rugby Sevens Repechage final in Monaco a month before the Games.
  - After all three pool matches at Deodoro Stadium saw comprehensive margins, their medal and placing games were much closer, all decided by a margin of five points or less.
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 43, Won – 27 (63%), Lost – 16, Average tries scored per game – 3.2
  - They were crowned the SVNS 2024 champions after beating Argentina in the Grand Final in Madrid in June.
  - They ended a 19-year Cup title drought earlier in the season, winning the Cup final in Los Angeles – their first since Paris in 2005.
  - They scored the second-most tries of any team this season with 136 at an average of 17 per tournament. They were the top try-scoring team in Vancouver with 27 tries, equalling their own tournament record of 27 scored in Singapore in 2022.
  - Fifty-nine per cent of their tries this season originated from unstructured possession sources (quick taps, kicks in play, and steals), the second-highest ratio of any team behind South Africa, including a competition-high 21% from steals.

- They had the third-highest ratio of assisted tries of any team this season (65%).
- They enjoyed an 80% success-rate inside the opposition 22, the fourth-highest of any team, from the third-most red zone visits this season (171).
- They averaged the third-most offloads per game of any team this season with 5.3 – 29 of their 89 total try assists this season (33%) came from the offload pass.
- Despite producing the third-lowest tackle completion rate of any team this season with 66%, they conceded the third-fewest tries with just 12.5 per tournament. Nine of their 16 losses on the 2024 series were by a margin of seven points or less.
- They have just one survivor in their squad from Rio 2016 in Stephen Perez-Edo Martin – 11 of the 12 players selected will be making their Olympic Games debut.
- **Stephen Perez-Edo Martin** is France's second-most capped SVNS player of all time with 76 tournament appearances since making his debut in Wellington in 2013. He is also a veteran of two RWC Sevens, in 2018 and 2022, and is one of three players in this squad who suffered the heartache of losing the Olympic Repechage final against Ireland in 2021 alongside Paulin Riva and Jean Pascale Barraque.
- SVNS 2024 Rookie of the Year **Antoine Dupont** scored seven tries and made eight try assists across his 15 matches played in total this season.
  - He returns to Stade de France as part of the national team for the first time since Les Bleus' RWC 2023 quarter-final loss to South Africa. He has played 25 test matches for France at this venue, enjoying a 72% win record.
- **Paulin Riva** made a team-high 13 try assists this season, combining with Jefferson Lee Joseph on four occasions, the best duo for France.
- **Jordan Sepho** was France's top try-scorer this season with 16 – only six of them were directly assisted by a team-mate with 63% scored via solo efforts on attack. He was the only player to play every game for France this season.
- **Rayan Rebbadj** led the French defensive effort this season, making a team-high 66 tackles.
- Head coach **Jérôme Daret** played 11 SVNS tournaments for France between 2000-02, before assuming the coaching responsibilities at the beginning of the 2018 series.

- **Ireland** qualified for Paris 2024 after winning the European Games in Krakow last year, conceding just six tries in total en route to securing their second Olympic Games appearance.

Olympic Games – Rio 2016: DNQ, Tokyo 2020: 10th



Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	14-33	<b>-19</b>	<b>L</b>	Pool
2	<b>USA</b>	17-19	<b>-2</b>	<b>L</b>	Pool
3	<b>KENYA</b>	12-7	<b>5</b>	<b>W</b>	Pool
4	<b>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	31-0	<b>31</b>	<b>W</b>	9th place semi-final
5	<b>KENYA</b>	0-22	<b>-22</b>	<b>L</b>	9th place play-off

- **Rugby sevens honours:** Bronze medallists at RWC Sevens 2022
- **Olympic Games:** Played – 5, Won – 2 (40%), Lost – 3
  - They were within seven points at half-time in all three defeats but were outscored significantly in the second half to lose two games by 19 points or more.
  - They were only able to score more than two tries in a match on two occasions, crossing five times against the Republic of Korea and three times against USA.
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 45, Won – 26 (58%), Lost – 19, Average tries scored per game – 2.8
  - They recorded their highest finish in a single season in their history, placing second behind Argentina after Singapore.
  - They were the only top-three team this season not to win a Cup title, finishing second in Singapore and third in Perth, Los Angeles and Hong Kong.
  - They scored 45% of their tries this season from set-piece possession, the third-highest ratio of any team, and their main scoring source.
  - Only 50% of their tries scored this season were directly assisted by a team-mate, the highest ratio of solo efforts on attack of any team.

- They made the second-most visits to the opposition 22 of any team this season (173) but enjoy only the sixth highest success-rate in the red zone (74%).
- They averaged the second-fewest offloads per game of any team this season with 2.6 and, as a result, they were accurate with ball in hand, averaging the fewest errors of any team with 1.8 per game.
- Their defence enjoyed the joint-third highest tackle completion rate of any team this season with 78% alongside Australia. They did not concede more than 15 tries in a tournament, and held their opponents to three tries or less in 71% of their matches.
- Ireland kicked just 65% of their conversion attempts this season, the fourth-lowest success rate of any team. Fourteen of their 14 losses were by seven points or less.
- They have named seven survivors from Tokyo 2020 in their squad for Paris, with **Gavin Mullin**, **Harry McNulty**, **Hugo Lennox**, **Jordan Conroy**, **Mark Roche**, **Terry Kennedy**, and **Jack Kelly** all returning, while Bryan Mollen is a travelling reserve.
- **Gavin Mullin** was their top try-scorer at Tokyo 2020 with three. He was the only player to play every game for Ireland this season.
- **Terry Kennedy** was the leading try-scorer this season with 32, including the most hat-tricks of any player with three. When he was not scoring, he was also creating them with a team-high 12 try assists, including four for Jordan Conroy and Zac Ward.
  - Fifteen of his 23 kicks in play this season were retained (65%), the second-highest rate of any player who has made more than 10 behind Fiji's Joseva Talacolo.
  - Despite Ireland rarely choosing to offload the ball in contact, Kennedy still made the second-most of any player with 38, representing 33% of the team's total of 117 this season.
  - His only try at Tokyo 2020 came against South Africa in their opening pool match.
- **Harry McNulty** made the most tackles of any player this season with 77. His work on defence also saw him make the joint-second most steals with six alongside France's Antoine Dupont and Stephen Parez-Edo Martin.
- Head coach **James Topping** played three SVNS events for Ireland in 2000, and at RWC Sevens 2001. He assumed the coaching responsibilities in 2019, guiding Ireland to qualification as a core team for the 2020 series, qualification for Tokyo 2020 and their subsequent maiden Olympic Games appearance, three Cup finals on the SVNS series (although they are still chasing their first title), their highest end of season ranking this year on the SVNS series, and third at RWC Sevens 2022 in Cape Town.

- **Japan** have qualified for their third Olympic Games after winning the Asia Rugby Sevens Olympic Qualifying tournament in Osaka last year. They are the only team at Paris 2024 who lost a pool match en route to winning their regional qualification tournament, with a 21-14 defeat by China in their final game. Following this loss, they went on to defeat the United Arab Emirates 21-5 in the semi-final and Hong Kong China 21-14 in the final to secure their place at Paris 2024.

#### Olympic Games – Rio 2016: 4th, Tokyo 2020: 11th



Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	<b>FIJI</b>	19-24	<b>-5</b>	<b>L</b>	Pool
2	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	0-34	<b>-34</b>	<b>L</b>	Pool
3	<b>CANADA</b>	12-36	<b>-24</b>	<b>L</b>	Pool
4	<b>KENYA</b>	7-21	<b>-14</b>	<b>L</b>	9th place semi-final
5	<b>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	31-19	<b>12</b>	<b>W</b>	11th place play-off

- **Olympic Games:** Played – 11, Won – 4 (36%), Lost – 7
  - Three of their four Olympic victories came at Rio 2016 enroute to their bronze medal match loss against South Africa.
  - Fifteen of their 26 all-time tries scored at the Olympic Games came at Rio 2016. They scored the second-fewest of any team at Tokyo 2020 with just 11.
- **World Rugby Sevens Challenger 2024 series:** Played – 15, Won – 6 (40%), Lost – 9, Average tries scored per game – 3.1
  - They finished ninth on the World Rugby Sevens Challenger series this season, with their best result coming in Dubai in winning their fifth-place play-off against Tonga.
  - They scored 46 tries from 58 visits to the opposition 22 this season, only the sixth-highest success rate inside the red zone.
  - They scored the highest rate of assisted tries of any team at 70%. Only 14 of their 46 tries scored came from solo efforts on attack.
  - They enjoyed plenty of possession this season, averaging a competition-high 35.6 passes per game. However, their accuracy resulted in the joint-most errors of any team with 2.8 per game alongside Georgia and Mexico.

- They will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal after kicking just 56% of their conversion attempts, the second-lowest success rate of any team behind Chile.
- They retained just 12% of their restarts, the third-lowest success rate of any team this season.
- Captain **Kippe Ishida** is the only survivor in this squad from Tokyo 2020, with 11 players making their Olympic Games debut.
- **Shotaro Tsuoka** scored a team-high 13 tries on the Challenger series this season, the third-most of any player.
- **Kippe Taninaka** scored Japan's only hat-trick of the season, crossing three times against Tonga in their 28-5 victory in the fifth-place play-off in Dubai. On defence, he made a team-high 30 tackles, the joint-fourth most of any player.
- **Moeki Fukushi** led the Japanese attack this season making a team-high 45 carries.
- Head coach **Simon Amor** first took charge on the 2023 series in Hong Kong, and has coached Japan across 10 series events, and all three Challenger series tournaments this season.
  - As a player, he represented England at 42 SVNS tournaments between 2000-07, won silver at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, and finished third at RWC Sevens 2005.
  - Prior to taking the helm of Japan, he coached England at 58 SVNS events between 2013-20, winning bronze at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and silver at RWC Sevens 2018.
  - This is Amor's second Olympic Games, having been head coach of the Great Britain men's team that won the silver medal at Rio 2016.

- **Kenya** booked their ticket to Paris 2024 by winning the Rugby Africa Men's Sevens in Harare last year, upsetting South Africa 17-12 in the Cup final to guarantee their third Olympic Games appearance.

Olympic Games – Rio 2016: 11th, Tokyo 2020: 9th



Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	USA	14-19	-5	L	Pool
2	SOUTH AFRICA	5-14	-9	L	Pool
3	IRELAND	7-12	-5	L	Pool
4	JAPAN	21-7	14	W	9th place semi-final
5	IRELAND	22-0	22	W	9th place play-off

- **Olympic Games:** Played – 10, Won – 3 (30%), Lost – 7
  - Kenya have never won a pool match at the Olympic Games, with all three victories coming in placing fixtures.
  - After losing all three pool games at Rio 2016 by an average margin of 23.7 points, their three losses at Tokyo 2020 were much closer, by an average margin of 6.3 points.
- **World Rugby Sevens Challenger 2024 series:** Played – 17, Won – 13 (76%), Lost – 4, Average tries scored per game – 3.5
  - They finished second on the Challenger series in 2024, winning the title in Dubai, before finishing third in Montevideo and fifth in Munich.
  - They will return as a core team to the SVNS 2025 series after winning their play-off match 33-15 against Germany in Madrid.
  - They enjoyed the joint-highest success rate inside the opposition 22 on the 2024 Challenger series, converting 87% of their visits alongside Hong Kong China. They never squandered more than three chances inside the red zone at a single tournament.
  - Their attack averaged the third-fewest carries per game of any team (17.4), but a competition-high 3.2 line-breaks per game.
  - They conceded the joint-fewest penalties per game of any team with 2.9.
  - Their defence enjoyed the third-highest tackle success of any team with 70%, and made a competition-high 13 steals.

- They have named just two survivors in their squad from Tokyo 2020 with **Herman Humwa** and co-captain **Vincent Onyala** returning.
- **Patrick Odongo Okong'o** scored the second-most tries of any player on the 2024 Challenger series with 15 from just two tournament appearances. His 11 tries in Dubai were the most by any player at a single event. He also contributed on defence with a competition-high four steals.
- **Nygel Pettersan Amaita** made the most tackles of any player on the 2024 Challenger series with 36, including a tournament-high 16 in Munich.
- **Vincent Onyala** was Kenya's top try-scorer in Madrid with four.
- **Kevin Wambua** was appointed head coach for their 2024 Challenger series campaign after previous coaching Kenya's women at the 2017, 2018 and 2019 World Rugby Women's Sevens Series qualifying tournaments, the 2018 Commonwealth Games and one SVNS event in Dubai on the 2019 series as the invitational team.

- An Olympic gold medal is the only honour missing from **New Zealand's** illustrious men's rugby sevens history. They have won Commonwealth Games gold on five occasions, 14 SVNS series titles since 1999-2000, and three Rugby World Cup Sevens crowns but have only stood on the podium once at the Olympic Games, winning silver at Tokyo 2020.

Olympic Games – Rio 2016: 5th, Tokyo 2020: Silver



Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	50-5	45	W	Pool
2	ARGENTINA	35-14	21	W	Pool
3	AUSTRALIA	14-12	2	W	Pool
4	CANADA	21-10	11	W	Medal quarter-final
5	GREAT BRITAIN	29-7	22	W	Medal semi-final
6	FIJI	12-27	-15	L	Gold medal match

- **Rugby sevens honours:** 14-time series champions (1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2013-14 2014-15, 2020, 2023), Commonwealth Games gold medallists in 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2018 and RWC Sevens 2001, 2013 and 2018 champions.
- **Olympic Games:** Played – 12, Won – 8 (67%), Lost – 4
  - Their seven-game winning streak dating back to the fifth-place semi-final at Rio 2016 was ended by Fiji in the gold medal match at Tokyo 2020. Their 15-point loss was the largest in their Olympic history, after all three defeats at Deodoro Stadium were by five points or less.
  - They have scored the joint-second most tries (42) and second-most points (269) of any team in Olympic history. Their 25 tries at Tokyo 2020 were the most of any team, and fell just one short of Fiji's tournament record of 26 set in 2016.
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 44, Won – 28 (64%), Lost – 16, Average tries scored per game – 3.1
  - They finished third in the SVNS standings after producing a strong second-half performance to the season, earning 66% of their total competition points between Vancouver and Singapore after placing inside the top three just once across the opening three events.
  - They reached the Cup final at three of the last four events, in Vancouver, Hong Kong and Singapore, completing the Cup title double across the Asian tournament fortnight.

- They scored the third-most tries of any team this season with 135, enjoying the highest success rate inside the opposition 22 with 82% from only the fifth-most visits.
- They trailed at half-time on 15 occasions this season, but were able to come back to win six of these games when behind at the break. This was the joint-most half-time comebacks of any team this season alongside Fiji.
- They made the second-most try assists of any team this season with 90, enjoying the highest ratio of assisted tries with 67%.
- They rarely kicked the ball this season, making the fewest kicks of any team in general play with 10. Instead, they preferred to keep ball in hand, averaging the joint-most passes per game with 40.5 alongside Ireland.
- They scored their tries from a variety of sources this season, with 29% from set-piece, 27% from the quick-tap and 21% from the restart.
- Their attack averaged one line-break every 7.5 carries this season, the best ratio of any team.
- Six of their 12-player squad named for Paris won silver at Tokyo 2020. **Andrew Knewstubb**, **Dylan Collier**, **Scott Curry**, **Ngarohi McGarvey-Black**, and **Regan Ware** all return, while travelling reserves Sione Molia and Joe Webber were also part of their squad in Tokyo.
  - **Regan Ware** and **Scott Curry** will be making their third Olympic appearance after playing at Rio 2016, while if used Joe Webber will also join them for this milestone.
- **Scott Curry** is New Zealand's all-time leading Olympic try-scorer with six tries across eight matches played. Only USA's Carlin Isles (9) and Great Britain's Dan Norton (8) have scored more on this stage.
  - He was New Zealand's top try-scorer at Tokyo 2020 with five, the joint-second most of any player alongside Fiji's Jiuta Wainiqolo and behind Argentina's Marcos Moneta with six.
  - He led New Zealand's defensive effort this season with a team-high 61 tackles.
- **Leroy Carter** was New Zealand's top try-scorer this season with 13 despite missing Vancouver, Los Angeles and Hong Kong through injury. Only four of his tries scored came from solo efforts on attack, enjoying multiple assists from Akuila Rokolisoa and Brady Rush.
  - He was the only All Blacks Sevens player to score a hat-trick this season, crossing three times against Australia in Cape Town. No New Zealand player has ever scored a hat-trick at the Olympic Games, with only Scott Curry, Regan Ware, Tim Mikkelsen and William Warbrick crossing for doubles in a match.
- **Tepaea Cook-Savage** made a team-high 10 try assists this season while also scoring eight himself. He played the most matches for New Zealand this season, featuring in 41 of their 44 total games played.
- Head coach and World Rugby Men's Sevens Player of the Year 2012 **Tomasi Cama** won seven series titles, 2010 Commonwealth Games gold and Rugby World Cup Sevens 2013 as a player. He only assumed the coaching responsibilities this season after spending the 2023 series as an assistant under Clark Laidlaw.

- **Samoa** will make their Olympic Games debut after qualifying through the Oceania Rugby Sevens Championship 2023. They finished runners-up behind New Zealand, but due to the All Blacks Sevens' automatic qualification via the SVNS series, Samoa won their ticket to Paris 2024.
- **Rugby sevens honours:** 2009-10 SVNS series champions, third at RWC Sevens 1997 and 2009.
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 39, Won – 8 (21%), Lost – 31, Average tries scored per game – 1.9
  - They relinquished their place as a core team on the SVNS 2025 series after losing their final play-off game 40-19 against USA in Madrid. Excluding their absence from the COVID-19 affected 2021 series, this will be the first time they have failed to play a single season on the SVNS series.
  - They will look to increase their try-scoring rate after averaging just 9.6 per tournament this season, their lowest average in a single series in their history. Their 77 tries were the second-fewest of any team behind Canada (66). Their main try-scoring source this season has been the quick-tap (34%).
  - They struggled to convert their visits into the opposition 22 into tries, with the third-lowest success rate of any team with 69%.
  - They won just eight games this season, with six of them coming against higher ranked opposition in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and South Africa.
  - They only led at half-time on seven occasions this season, level or behind in 32 of their 39 games played. They were only able to convert three of these advantages into victories, losing four games when leading at the break.
  - They will look to improve the potency of their attack after averaging one line-break every 13.2 carries this season, the second-highest ratio of any team behind Canada.
  - They averaged the second-most offloads per game of any team (5.7) this season behind Fiji.
  - **Elisapeta Alofipo** returned to the Samoa sevens team this season for the first time since the 2020 series in Hamilton. He was part of their Olympic repechage squad for Rio 2016 and also represented Samoa at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and RWC Sevens 2018.
  - **Fafoi Falaniko** played the most games for Samoa this season, featuring in 35 of their 39 matches.
  - **Motu Opetai** made a team-high 27 offloads this season, but just two resulted in a try assist for Steve Onosai and Fafoi Falaniko.
  - Head coach **Brian Lima** played 67 tests for Samoa between 1991-2007 and was a veteran of five Rugby World Cups. His final test for Samoa came in France, against England in their last pool match at Nantes. He never played a test at Stade de France, with his only match in Paris coming at Parc de Princes against South Africa at RWC 2007.
    - He represented Samoa at Rugby World Cup Sevens in 1993, 1997 and 2005, at the 2002 Commonwealth Games and at six SVNS events between 2000-05, making his series debut in Paris in 2000. The World Rugby Hall of Fame inductee has been head coach of Samoa since their Tokyo 2020 Olympic repechage campaign, at the helm for 23 SVNS events, including ending their eight-year Cup title drought in Cape Town on the 2023 series, and at RWC Sevens 2022 and the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

- **South Africa** secured their third Olympic Games appearance by winning the World Rugby Sevens Repechage in Monaco last month. They were forced into this qualification route after losing the final of the 2023 Rugby Africa Men's Sevens to Kenya.

➤ **Olympic Games – Rio 2016: Bronze, Tokyo 2020: 5th**



Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	<b>IRELAND</b>	33-14	<b>19</b>	<b>W</b>	Pool
2	<b>KENYA</b>	14-5	<b>9</b>	<b>W</b>	Pool
3	<b>USA</b>	17-12	<b>5</b>	<b>W</b>	Pool
4	<b>ARGENTINA</b>	14-19	<b>-5</b>	<b>L</b>	Medal quarter-final
5	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	22-19	<b>3</b>	<b>W</b>	5th place semi-final
6	<b>USA</b>	28-7	<b>21</b>	<b>W</b>	5th place play-off

- **Rugby sevens honours:** Four-time SVNS series champions (2008-09, 2016-17, 2018 and 2021), 2014 and 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medallists, runner-up at RWC Sevens 1997 and third at RWC Sevens 2018.
- **Olympic Games:** Played – 12, Won – 9 (75%), Lost – 3
  - After winning bronze at Rio 2016, South Africa's only loss at Tokyo 2020 came in their medal quarter-final against Argentina sending them into the placing rounds.
  - They have never lost an Olympic match by more than a converted try margin, with a seven-point loss against Australia and two-point loss against Great Britain at Rio 2016, and a five-point defeat to Argentina at Tokyo Stadium. Seven of their nine wins have been comprehensive, by 17 points or more, only against Australia and Kenya in Tokyo has their margin of victory been by a single figure.
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 41, Won – 23 (21%), Lost – 18, Average tries scored per game – 2.8
  - They finished seventh in the SVNS 2024 standings after failing to progress past the Cup quarter-finals following their Cup title success in the opening round in Dubai. They were the only team ranked outside of the top five at season's end to win an event.
  - Their main try-scoring source this season was quick-tap possession (33%), the fifth-highest ratio of any team.

- They made the most kicks in play of any team this season with 102, retaining 41%, the fifth-highest ratio. Twelve per cent of their 115 tries scored this season were assisted by a kick in general play.
- They averaged the fewest carries (15.9) per game this season but broke the defensive line every eight carries, the second-best ratio.
- They averaged the fewest offloads per game of any team this season with 1.3. Only six of their 69 try assists this season came from an offload pass.
- They will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal, converting just 54% of their attempts this season, the lowest success rate of any team.
- On defence, they conceded the second-fewest tries of any team this season at an average of 13 per tournament despite having the sixth-highest tackle completion rate at 73%. They won 17 of 21 games when conceding 14 points or less, but just six of 20 matches when conceding three or more tries.
- They have four players returning from Tokyo 2020 in **Selvyn Davids**, **Impi Visser**, **Zain Davids** and **Siviwe Soyizwapi**, while **Rosko Specman** returns to their Olympic squad after winning bronze at Rio 2016. Travelling reserve Ronald Brown is also a survivor from their Tokyo 2020 campaign.
  - **Rosko Specman** was the Blitzboks joint-top try-scorer at Rio 2016 with four alongside Cecil Afrika and Seabelo Senatla.
- **Selvyn Davids** made the most try assists of any player this season with 24, including a season-high six from kicks in play. His combination with **Quewin Nortje** resulted in six tries, the best duo for South Africa.
  - On attack he made a team-high 88 carries and the second-most line-breaks with 10 behind Nortje (12).
  - He made the most kicks in play of any player this season with 28, retaining 43%, the fourth-highest success rate of any player who made more than 10.
  - He played a team-high 39 matches this season, missing just two of South Africa's 41 games in total.
  - He was South Africa's joint-top try-scorer at Tokyo 2020 with four tries, and a team-high 30 points.
- No South Africa player scored a SVNS hat-trick this season, with **Quewin Nortje** crossing for a team-high three doubles. In his rookie season he scored the most tries for South Africa with 18 across 30 games played.
  - He and **Tristan Leyds** were South Africa's top try-scorers at last month's World Rugby Sevens Repechage with five each, and are the only two players in this squad who made their SVNS series debut this season.
- **Zain Davids** made the second-most tackles of any player this season with 76 behind Ireland's Harry McNulty (77).
- Interim head coach **Philip Snyman** stood in for **Sandile Ngcobo** at four SVNS events this season, in Dubai where they won the Cup title, Hong Kong, Singapore and Madrid and guided the squad to Olympic qualification in Monaco. He played 62 SVNS events between 2008-19 winning three series titles, three Rugby World Cup Sevens in 2009, 2013 and 2018, finished fourth at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and won bronze at Rio 2016

- **Uruguay** will make their Olympic Games debut after winning the Sudamérica Rugby Olympic qualifying tournament in Montevideo last year. They conceded only five tries across the entire tournament, enjoying an aggregate points differential of +172.
- **World Rugby Sevens Challenger 2024 series:** Played – 18, Won – 14 (78%), Lost – 4, Average tries scored per game – 3.8
  - They were crowned 2024 Challenger series champions after winning the last two events in Montevideo and Munich. Three of their four losses this season came in the pool stages, with a 16-point loss to Kenya in the Cup semi-final in Dubai their only loss in a play-off game.
  - They were the top try-scoring team on the Challenger series with 69, but produced the fourth-lowest success rate inside the opposition 22 with just 77%.
  - Sixty-four per cent of their tries scored this season were directly assisted by a team-mate, the second-highest ratio of any team behind Japan.
  - Their attack averaged the third-most carries (20.4) and joint-second most line-breaks (3.1) per game this season.
  - They were the best team at retaining possession from the restart with 42%.
  - They will look to improve their discipline after averaging the joint-second most penalties per game with 4.2 and earning the second-most yellow cards with nine.
  - They return to the SVNS 2025 series as a core team after winning their play-off game against Chile 12-10 in Madrid. This will be just their second season as a core team after first earning this status on the 2023 series.
  - **Diego Ardao** was Uruguay's top try-scorer on the 2024 Challenger series with 11, and made a team-high 57 carries and nine line-breaks on attack, and 29 tackles and three steals on defence.
    - He and James McCubbin were Uruguay's only two try-scorers in their 12-5 victory against Chile at Estadio Charrúa in last year's Sudamérica Rugby Olympic qualifying tournament to book their ticket to Paris 2024.
  - **Bautista Basso** and **Juan González** were Uruguay's top try-scorers in Madrid with four each, while **Juan Manuel Tafernaberry** scored the match-winning try in the final play to defeat Chile 12-10 and secure their core status for next season.
  - **Guillermo Lijtenstein** kicked the most conversions of any player on the 2024 Challenger series, but enjoyed a success rate of just 67%.
  - **Ivo Dugonjic** played 18 tests and one SVNS series tournament for Uruguay between 2004-10 before being appointed as head coach of Los Teros Sevens for their 2020 Challenger series campaign. He guided Uruguay to their first season as a core team in 2023 and to only their second Rugby World Cup Sevens appearance in Cape Town in 2022.

- **USA** qualified for their third Olympic Games after winning the Rugby Americas North Sevens in Langford last year. They conceded only two tries across the entire tournament, both against Canada in the final. They kept their opposition scoreless in four of their five games played.

Olympic Games – Rio 2016: 9th, Tokyo 2020: 6th



Tokyo 2020	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	<b>KENYA</b>	19-14	5	<b>W</b>	Pool
2	<b>IRELAND</b>	19-17	2	<b>W</b>	Pool
3	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	12-17	-5	<b>L</b>	Pool
4	<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	21-26	-5	<b>L</b>	Medal quarter-final
5	<b>CANADA</b>	21-14	7	<b>W</b>	5th place semi-final
6	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	7-28	-21	<b>L</b>	5th place play-off

- **Olympic Games:** Played – 11, Won – 6 (55%), Lost – 5
  - Seven of their 11 matches at the Olympic Games since 2016 have been decided by a margin of seven points or less, with four losses and three wins coming within a converted try.
  - They have conceded two or more tries in 10 of their 11 matches, only keeping a clean sheet against Brazil in their pool match at Deodoro Stadium eight years ago.
  - They have won four of five games when scoring 21 points or more, but just two of six when held to 19 points or less.
  - Despite improving on their placing at Tokyo 2020, they scored two fewer tries (17) than they did at Rio 2016 (15).
- **SVNS 2024 series:** Played – 40, Won – 22 (55%), Lost – 18, Average tries scored per game – 3
  - They secured their status as a core team on the SVNS 2025 series by winning their play-off match against Samoa, 40-19 in Madrid.
  - They were one of the most consistent teams inside the opposition 22 this season, scoring from 82% of their entries, the joint-best ratio alongside New Zealand. Their success rate did not drop below 70% at any single event this season, and they squandered no more than five chances in the red zone at seven of eight tournaments.
  - They scored the sixth-most tries of any team this season, with their main scoring source coming from set-piece (33%).

- USA earned the fewest yellow cards of any team during the regular season with just six. They played with all seven on the field in each of their last 16 games, not receiving a yellow card since their final pool match against New Zealand in Los Angeles.
  - They only conceded on average 2.9 penalties per game this season, the second-fewest of any team.
- They made the fifth-fewest kicks in play of any team this season (23), but when they did put boot to ball they enjoyed the second-highest retention success with 57%.
- They have named five survivors from Tokyo 2020 in their 12-man squad, with **Perry Baker**, **Madison Hughes**, **Steve Tomasin**, **Matai Leuta** and captain **Kevon Williams** all returning.
  - **Perry Baker** and **Madison Hughes** will be making their third Olympic appearances.
- USA's **Perry Baker** is the second all-time leading try-scorer in SVNS history behind Dan Norton (358). He is only seven tries away from becoming the second player to score 300.
  - He has scored only four Olympic tries, one at Rio 2016 and three at Tokyo 2020, and sits five behind Carlin Isles' USA record of nine.
  - He was the second highest try-scorer this season with 30 behind Ireland's Terry Kennedy (32). He scored the most doubles (6), and joint-second most hat-tricks (2) of any player.
- **Kevon Williams** has been the Eagles Sevens leading playmaker this season with a team-high 12 try assists, including five for Perry Baker.
- **Malacchi Esdale** made a team-high 112 carries and the second-most line-breaks (17) for USA this season. Three of his six try assists were for Perry Baker, while he also benefited himself from his team-mates with six of his 21 tries this season assisted by Aaron Cummings, the joint-best combination for the Eagles Sevens.
- **Naima Fuala'ua** made the second-most try assists from kicks in play (4) behind South Africa's Selvyn Davids, with three of his four kicks finding Perry Baker. He enjoyed a 63% retention success overall from his eight kicks in play this season.
- **Madison Hughes** led USA's defensive effort this season with a team-high 52 tackles. He is their all-time leading point-scorer at the Olympic Games with 52, and on the SVNS series with 1,602.
- **Matai Leuta** has not represented the Eagles Sevens since Dubai on the 2022 series. He has spent the past two seasons playing for the Houston SaberCats, Chicago Hounds and most recently San Diego Legion in Major League Rugby since his last SVNS appearance.
- **Mike Friday** has been at the helm of USA since the start of the 2014-15 series on the Gold Coast, and has been their head coach at 83 events. He began his coaching career with England on the 2004-05 series, before joining the Kenyan team on the 2012-13 series and has a combined 106 SVNS series tournaments worth of experience across both teams. He coached England to silver at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, and makes his third Olympic Games appearance with USA after Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.