

USA to Add Glendale to Warmup Schedule

Written by Alex Goff
Wednesday, 20 July 2011 16:14

The USA Men's National Team has inserted an extra warmup game along with its three test matches scheduled for August.

The Eagles are already scheduled to play Canada August 6 in Toronto and August 13 in Glendale, Colo. They are then scheduled to fly to Japan to play the Cherry Blossoms on August 21 in Tokyo.

But Head Coach Eddie O'Sullivan wants to squeeze one more non-test game into the schedule to see more borderline candidates. So the Eagles will play the Glendale Raptors Wednesday, August 10, in Glendale.

The game will kick off at 7pm at Infinity Park, Glendale, Colo. For information about tickets go to www.glendalerugby.com. Glendale Head Coach Mark Bullock told RUGBYMag.com that he is assembling his team now, and will bring in a few players from outside the Raptors to bolster the lineup.

The key, Bullock said, is to make sure any players scheduled to play train regularly with the team and understand the squad's systems.

"What we have going for us is that most of the players have played with each other, while the Eagles haven't as much, and most of our players have been living between 5,000 and 7,000 feet above sea level for some time," Bullock told RUGBYMag.com. "We don't want to change that."

Bullock has received verbal commitments from current Raptor Hayden Mexted, Aspen lock Alec Parker, Spencer Scott (one of the Aspen transfers who were denied the chance to play in the national playoffs), Denver Barbarians flyhalf Max de Achaval, Raptors flyhalf/center Ata Malifa, and former Raptor and current Utah Warrior Ryan Chapman.

The makeup of the Glendale team isn't certain, but Bullock said the team is starting to train and will give the USA squad the best competition they can.

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Playing club teams as a World Cup warmup is nothing new. Ireland are scheduled to face Connacht this August and Russia will play Northampton during their buildup in the UK.