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BRUMBIES



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BRUMBIES

MATCH DAY PROGRAM 2020 SEASON, ISSUE 2

COACHES Q&A

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GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRUMBIES

11 Darcy Swain tells us where he played his junior rugby, his celebrity look-alike and how he wants the 2020 season to be remembered, while we also look into the rugby journey of newly re-signed centre Irae Simone.

TEAM POSTER PULL-OUT

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BEST FANS IN THE GAME

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LEONARD AND GARRAWAY TO LEAD SUPER W

41 Find out how our Super W stars have been travelling in the lead up to their first game next Friday here at GIO Stadium.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

46 There's always heaps of fun happening in Brumbies country, make sure you visit our bulletin board on page 46 to see what events are happening in the next few weeks, and where.

Plus500 BRUMBIES RUGBY
Established: 1996

BRUMBIES PROGRAM
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COACHES Q&A



HOW DID YOU ASSESS LAST FRIDAY'S WIN, WERE YOU HAPPY?

Happy with the outcome, happy with parts of the game. Obviously start of the game we were excellent, put them under a lot of pressure in defence which turned into points, but we probably lost our way there for a little bit. Happy we managed to get ourselves out of that, and really grind out a tough win at home against a good side.

Those momentum swings are going to happen within games. There will be times when we're the dominant side, there'll be times when things go against us, a couple of mistakes or a couple penalties in a row but it's about how you deal with those times and executing a plan to regain that dominance is what decides games.

I was impressed by how our guys dealt with it. Some of the more experienced players, obviously they've been through it but the younger guys, they were never daunted by the occasion at any point. It was new to them,

but they just got on with it and understood some adjustments needed to be made, and we made them. So yes overall, good aspects but we know we've got a lot of improving to do from that game.

BRUMBIES, REBELS IS BECOMING A REAL RIVALRY, IS THERE THAT BIT EXTRA BETWEEN THESE TWO SIDES NOW?

To a certain extent. Any game against Aussie conference sides has that something special, there's that added element where you can win points and deny them points. You have guys competing as well for Wallaby positions, that's probably more towards the back of the mind but it's there for sure.

Look, they're the last team to beat us here at GIO Stadium so yes, we're definitely motivated that's for sure but so are they.

CADEYRN NEVILLE COMES INTO THE SIDE THIS WEEK, NICK FROST TO THE BENCH, ARE YOU CONFIDENT IN BOTH THOSE GUYS?

With Cadeyrn, we're comfortable with him going in there for Darcy who should only be out this week. We're confident in him, we've worked with him very closely since he arrived to make sure we get his knowledge and detail on how we want to play up to speed quickly. His work behind the scenes with players and us coaches has been outstanding, he's really committed a lot of hours to as I said, getting up to speed so he'll do a good job. He knows what's expected at this level, and at this club as a tighthead lock; good set-piece, repeat efforts and physicality.

With Frosty, he's a great kid who's worked extremely hard who knows where he is in his career and doesn't get too ahead of himself, just gets on with the work. His commitment and improvement in the last six months or so has been exceptional. He's only starting his journey but we're confident he's ready to do a job for us tonight so I'm just excited for him, making your debut, it's an awesome time for him and his family.



10 IN A ROW AT GIO STADIUM, WHAT WOULD THAT MEAN TO YOU?

You always have those milestones, and we love playing in front of our home crowd. We started that last season, and it's up to this group to keep up that streak but we're focusing on the here and now mostly. Any game here is special, any win whether it's for 10 in a row or it's one.











A

MELBOURNE
REBELS

7 FEB 2020
GIO STADIUM





-  **Big Jersey Displays** (1 on field prior to kick-off)
-  **West Stage** (McPerfect Fit Band)
-  **Slab / Big Screen** (Showing Foxtel games) / **DJ**
-  **The Fridge**
-  **Game Day Announcers Desk**
-  **Bar & Food**
-  **Kids Zone** (Giant Slide, Jumping Castles, Face Painting, Rugby Tots, Half Field)
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-  **Donation Buckets**

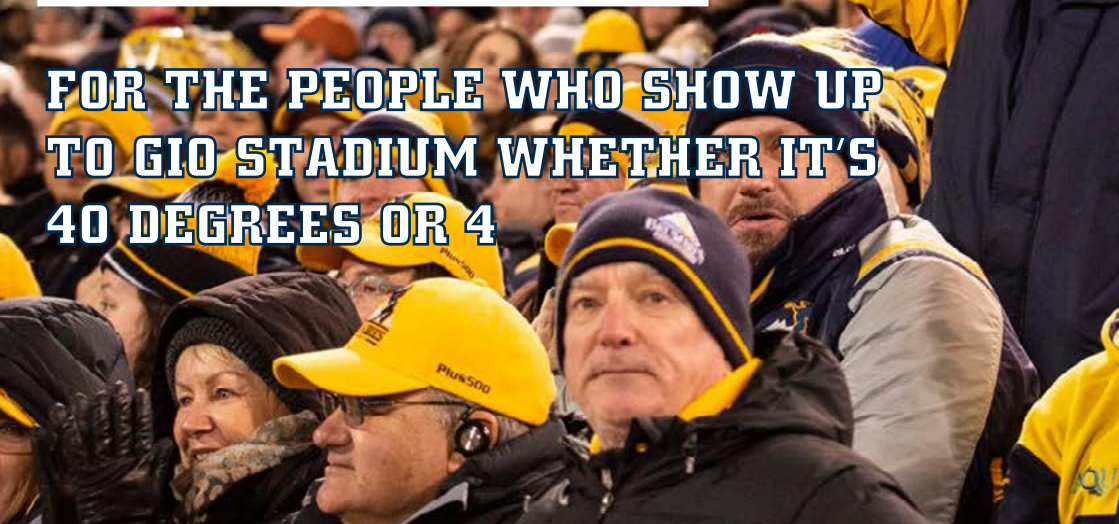
-  **Blue Carpet VIP and Player Entrance**
-  **Autograph Alley** (Inside tunnel)
-  **Flags**
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-  **Sensory Suite** - West Stand Suite 4
-  **Sensory Suite parking** - in West VIP
-  **Pacific Drummers**
-  **Merchandise**
-  **Parking**
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**TONIGHT, IS FOR THOSE WHO
ARE HERE EVERY WEEK**



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TO GIO STADIUM WHETHER IT'S
40 DEGREES OR 4**



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GETTING TO KNOW:

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JCU MARINERS

3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU WANT TO REMEMBER THIS SEASON

PIONEERS, BELIEF, CONNECTED

NON-RUGBY HERO

MY MUM

COFFEE ORDER

FLAT WHITE

IF I WASN'T PLAYING RUGBY, I WOULD BE

TEACHER OR SOCIAL WORKER

WORST ROOMMATE

ANDY MUIRHEAD (SNORER)

MOST ANNOYING TEAMMATE

NOAH LOLESIO

CELEBRITY LOOKALIKE

TAYLOR LAUTNER

GO TO KARAOKE SONG

YOUR MAN - JOSH TURNER

BUCKET LIST ITEM

TAKE MY FAMILY TO SAMOA

ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

MY PHONE

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BRUMBIES JOURNEY:

IRAE SIMONE

For Irae Simone, the journey to the Brumbies took many different turns, and although it was difficult and it took time for the talented centre to find his fit, he's now right at home as part of the Brumbies family.



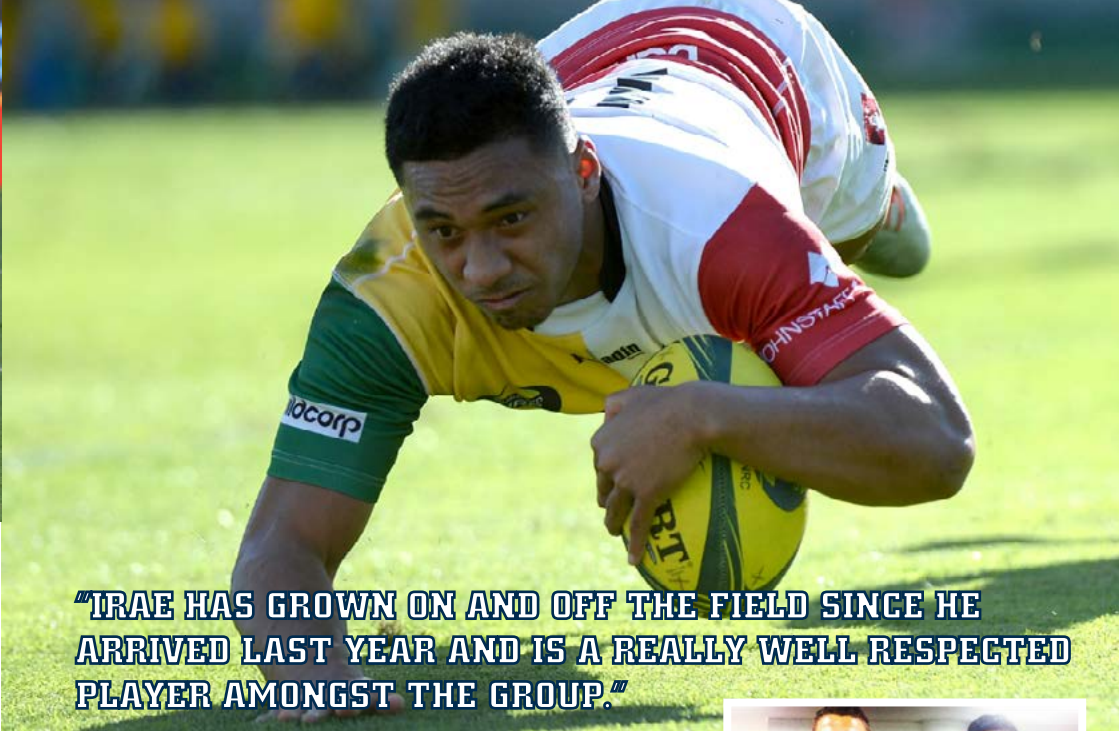
**"MY FAMILY AND I ARE REALLY ENJOYING OUR TIME
HERE IN CANBERRA AND THE ORGANISATION HAS
WELCOMED US WITH OPEN ARMS SINCE I ARRIVED
HERE LAST YEAR."**



Simone began his journey in New Zealand where he was born. The Auckland native actually played some of his high school rugby against current teammate Solomon Kata, but like his wing counterpart, Rugby League is where Simone would get his start.

Signing with South Sydney in 2014, the Rabbitohs were the first to see Simone's potential. Breaking through the ranks at the then perennial NRL premiership contenders was always going to be tough, so Simone found refuge back in Rugby Union with Norths.

In 2016, Simone shot onto the Shute Shield scene, once again as a teammate of a current Brumby, Will Miller. With Miller as skipper and Simone the star, Norths grabbed Shute Shield glory that year, and Simone's rugby career was beginning to kick-off in a major way.



"IRAE HAS GROWN ON AND OFF THE FIELD SINCE HE ARRIVED LAST YEAR AND IS A REALLY WELL RESPECTED PLAYER AMONGST THE GROUP."

Later that year, Simone was crowned NRC player of the year after dominating with the Sydney Rays. Those performances earned Simone a contract with the Waratahs for the 2017 season, where he went on to make 10 appearances for the Sydneysiders.

Simone seemed on a crash-course with a starting jersey at the 'Tahs, but for whatever reason it just didn't happen. The 'Tahs loss turned Brumbies gain in 2019.



"I CAME DOWN WITH SOME GOALS. I GOT AN OPPORTUNITY AND I DIDN'T LOOK BACK - I GRABBED IT WITH BOTH HANDS. "

Simone made the move to Canberra last season and was an instant hit, showcasing his unique blend of power and finesse. He had his struggles, but by the time the Brumbies put together their magical late season run, Simone was at the heart of Peter Hewat's attack.

Now, having resigned with the club 'till at least the end of 2021, Simone can begin to look forward, hoping to make that 12 jersey his own. The other goal, potentially, a gold coloured jersey as well.



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MATCH PREVIEW: REBELS

THE BIG PICTURE

It was tough, it was very, very hot but courtesy of that hard-fought win last week against the Reds, the Plus500 Brumbies enter round two tonight against the Rebels with a clean, one from one record. The Brumbies were forced to fight 'till the final whistle a week ago, but the determination and attacking flair the side showed in the face of difficult conditions will give the side confidence against a Rebels side who are hurting after suffering a shock round one loss in Tokyo.

The Sunwolves were expected to be also-rans against the Rebels but stunned all of Super Rugby by beating Dave Wessels side, in some style too. The final score, 36-27 a fair reflection of both the Sunwolves endeavour, and the Rebels struggles.

However, the Brumbies will have read nothing into the Rebels woes. With star power across the backline and a number of quality operators in the pack, the Rebels will feel they have the capacity to leave GIO with the points. However, the Brumbies know they are a different team to the one who lost against the Rebels in 2019 and will be confident about causing the Rebels enough problems to make it 10 in a row at GIO!

SPOTLIGHT: KATA V KOROIBETE

These two former NRL stars are set to matchup in one of the most exciting head to head battles you will ever see. Both with the ability to break a game open at a moments' notice, you do not want to take your eyes off these two when the ball swings their way.

Koroibete came out of the Rugby World Cup as a bonified superstar. Someone who's reputation had been growing, it felt like the dazzling speedster went up a level on the World stage, ultimately being awarded the John Eales Medal for his efforts in gold.

The Rebels will be hoping he can recreate that form in Super Rugby while Kata is only starting to create his rep in rugby union. A strong showing on debut certainly helped Kata's cause, his bally carrying causing the Reds fits in the early stages last week.

In the end, it may be Kata's ability to contain Koroibete that will determine who wins this matchup. We know Kata will let loose will ball in hand, but if he can stick to task while defending the Rebels key threat, the Brumbies will be just that much closer to victory.

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MATCH STATISTICS



V



BRUMBIES V REBELS @ HOME

BIGGEST VICTORY

37-6 (2012)

W 5 | L 3

MATCHUP

SOLOMONE KATA V MARIKA KOROIBETE

FIRST TIME

10.06.2011 | BRU 31 REB 17



34 MOST POINTS
CONCEDED

LAST TIME

15.02.19 | BRU 17 REB 34

MOST POINTS
SCORED **39**

TOUGHEST LOSS

27-34
(2019)



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#THROWBACK - BRU V REB

Canberra Stadium, Friday, June 7, 2013
Referee: Rohan Hoffmann.

2013-06-07 BRUMBIES REBELS 39 - 17

(Clyde Rathbone 2, Scott Sio, Henry Speight, Colby Faingaa, Zack Holmes tries; Jesse Mogg penalty; Ian Prior 3 conversions)



CROWD: 11,055

REPLACEMENTS

16. Josh Mann-Rea, 17. Ruan Smith,
18. Etienne Oosthuizen, 19. Jordan
Smiler, 20. Ian Prior, 21. Robbie
Coleman, 22. Zack Holmes

STARTING LINE-UP

1. Scott Sio
2. Siliva Siliva (replaced by Josh Mann-Rea)
3. Dan Palmer (replaced by Ruan Smith)
4. Leon Power (replaced by Etienne Oosthuizen)
5. Sam Carter (replaced by Jordan Smiler)
6. Scott Fardy
7. Colby Faingaa
8. Peter Kimlin
9. Nic White (c) (replaced by Ian Prior)
10. Matt Toomua (replaced by Pat McCabe)
11. Clyde Rathbone (replaced by Robbie Coleman)
12. Pat McCabe (replaced by Zack Holmes, blood)
13. Tevita Kuridrani
14. Henry Speight
15. Jesse Mogg

// We took a lot of learnings out of last week which gives us confidence heading into Friday night, hopefully we can get the job done for our home fans. //

– Pete Samu





STARTING XV



- 1 Scott Sio
- 2 Folau Fainga'a
- 3 Allan Alaalatoa
- 4 Murray Douglas
- 5 Cadeyrn Neville
- 6 Rob Valetini
- 7 Tom Cusack
- 8 Pete Samu
- 9 Joe Powell
- 10 Noah Lolesio
- 11 Tom Wright
- 12 Irae Simone
- 13 Tevita Kuridrani
- 14 Solomone Kata
- 15 Tom Banks

*team subject to change,
official line-up not available
at time of publication



Match Officials

REFEREE:
Nic Berry

ASSISTANT REFEREE:
Damon Murphy

Replacements

- 16 Connal McInerney
- 17 Harry Lloyd
- 18 James Slipper
- 19 Nick Frost
- 20 Will Miller
- 21 Ryan Loneragan
- 22 Bayley Kuenzle
- 23 Andy Muirhead

NOAH LOLESIO



BRUMBY #220



TOM BANKS



BRUMBY #193



TOM WRIGHT



BRUMBY #213



STARTING XV

Officials:

AR2:

Jordan Way

TMO:

Ian Smith

- 1 Matt Gibbon
- 2 Anaru Rangi
- 3 Ruan Smith
- 4 Ross Haylett-Petty
- 5 Matt Phillip
- 6 Angus Cottrell
- 7 Michael Wells
- 8 Isi Naisarani
- 9 Frank Lomani
- 10 Matt To'omua
- 11 Andrew Kellawat
- 12 Billy Meakes
- 13 Reece Hodge
- 14 Marika Koroibete
- 15 Dane Haylett-Petty

*team subject to change,
official line-up not available
at time of publication

Replacements

- 16 Steven Misa
- 17 Cameron Orr
- 18 Jermaine Ainsley
- 19 Gideon Koegelenberg
- 20 Trevor Leota
- 21 Richard Hardwick
- 22 Ryan Louwrens
- 23 Campbell Magnay



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The Brumbies Runners are raring to go against the Rebels A' tonight, with Lachy McCaffrey leading the side in his return to action following a stint in Japan.

Serving as both a curtain raiser for tonight's Super Rugby round two matchup against the Rebels, and as a chance for those not involved in the matchday 23 to push for selection, this 'A' game has the potential to be a thrilling contest.

McCaffrey is one of those players looking to break into Dan McKellar's squad, starting in a potent looking backrow with Jahrome Brown at openside and academy prospect Luke Reimer at six.

Up front, Bo Abra and Tom Ross combine with Lachlan Loneragan to form a dynamic front-row, Tom Hooper and Callum McDonald completing the youthful tight-five.

Issak Fines and Reesjan Pasitua combine in

the halves, the former playing just his second ever game of senior rugby.

It took a last-minute penalty from Issac Henry for the Runners to beat the Rising in Albury two weeks ago, and those heroics have earned Henry a start at GIO Stadium at inside centre alongside the always dangerous Len Ikitau.

On the wings, Guy Porter and Tom Haddad start on the right and left respectively with Mack Hansen starting at fullback.

Billy Pollard, Fred Kaihea and Max Bode are the front-row finishers with Zane Marolt, Zeph Tuniona and Rory Scott the other forward reserves.

Lachie Albert put in a strong display in Albury as replacement, and once again will be the Scrum-half finisher with Wests clubmate Tony Alofipo also providing spark as the flyhalf substitute.

Uni-Norths Owls speedster Dennis Waight completes the selection, his versatility could see him cover both wing and centre in the Super Rugby curtain raiser.

BRUMBIES RUNNERS

1. Bo Abra (Tuggeranong Vikings)
2. Lachlan Loneragan (Tuggeranong Vikings)
3. Tom Ross (Gungahlin Eagles)
4. Tom Hooper (Tuggeranong Vikings)
5. Callum MacDonald (Gungahlin Eagles)
6. Luke Reimer (Easts)
7. Jahrome Brown (Gungahlin Eagles)
8. Lachlan McCaffrey (c) (Queanbeyan Whites)
9. Issak Fines (Gungahlin Eagles)
10. Reesjan Pasitoa (Wests)
11. Tom Haddad (Gungahlin Eagles)
12. Issac Henry (Tuggeranong Vikings)
13. Len Ikitau (Tuggeranong Vikings)
14. Guy Porter (Queanbeyan Whites)
15. Mack Hansen (Gungahlin Eagles)

REPLACEMENTS

16. Billy Pollard (TBC)
17. Fred Kaihea (Queanbeyan Whites)
18. Max Bode (Uni-Norths-Owls)
19. Zane Marolt (Queanbeyan Whites)
20. Rory Scott (Royals)
21. Lachie Albert (Wests)
22. Tony Alofipo (Wests)
23. Dennis Waight (Uni-Norths Owls)
24. Zeph Tuinona (Queanbeyan Whites)

MELBOURNE RISING

1. Fereti Sa'aga
2. Declan Moore
3. Cabous Eloff
4. Ola Taulengi
5. Trevor Hosea
6. Josh Kemeny
7. Lolesio Sione
8. Pat Morrey
9. Theo Strang
10. Andrew Deegan
11. Glen Vaihu
12. Ben Hughes
13. Tom English (c)
14. Siaosi Asofolau
15. Asaeli Tikoirotuma

REPLACEMENTS

16. Mees Erasmus
17. Isaac Kailea
18. Alex Sa'aga
19. Myles Rennie Van Rensburg
20. Moses Poreo
21. Navarre Haisala
22. Will Lewesi
23. Mosese Tuipulotu
24. TBC



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BRUMBIES TO SHOW SUPPORT AT BRAIDWOOD 7S

The Braidwood Redbacks and the ACT Brumbies are hosting a Rugby 7s competition and carnival this Saturday to help raise funds for those affected by the bushfires in the area.

The competition will take place at the Braidwood Recreation Grounds and will run from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, with presentations commencing afterwards. Braidwood has recently suffered a great deal due to the recent bushfires, with the loss of properties and local businesses being affected by the lack of foot traffic during the holidays. This competition plans to bring the community together to get behind Braidwood and help them in their time of need.

Rugby union is the perfect choice for this event as it has been a part of Braidwood's culture for 130 years and continues to be a staple in the town. The event has received so much support from clubs and fans that the Redbacks had to close registration, as the competition had reached the maximum capacity of teams. This overwhelming show of support proves how rugby is so much bigger than just a sport. The Redbacks are urging supporters to come down for the day with a #emptyesky, loud cheers

and an empty stomach to make the most of the day. They are also urging supporters to go out to local businesses while in Braidwood to help support the town even further.

As well as the 7s competition there will also be live music playing throughout the day and a jumping castle available to occupy the kids. The competition will involve men's, women's and under18/16 teams and while there will be teams of different skill level, they are reminded to just have fun and have a good time. The Brumbies team themselves will be making an appearance during the carnival, showing their support for the cause and helping as much as they can.

After the competition there will be memorabilia auctions, raffles and yabby races held at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club, to which all profits made will be given to the Braidwood Life Centre.

This exposure may also be good for the Redbacks, who are planning to expand and make some major changes to improve their club in future.

After the devastating events that have happened in Braidwood, this carnival will bring a lot of joy to the town for both the clubs and the community.

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SUPER W

The Super W season kicks-off on the 15th of February against Rugby WA, and this year the Brumbies will have two captains with Jane Garraway and Michaela Leonard sharing the role.

Coming off the back of their first hit out, in a trial match against the Melbourne Rebels, Garraway says that it was good for the squad to have the game time. "I think it was good to have a hit out so girls can really understand what we're trying to achieve and why we play certain plays.

"I definitely think it was a good learning point for us and we can move forward and build off that." It was also the first time that her and Leonard had shared the role between them, with Garraway saying that they can bring the team together.

"Michaela leads by good example with discipline and hard hitting, whereas I've got a bit more communication, but I think we balance each other out and can help bring this team together." Leonard echoed Garraway's sentiment and went on to praise her counterpart lauding the value that the scrumhalf brings to the squad. "I think Jane brings a lot of that knowledge and that game smart, that's where she really adds her value.

"She's quick, she can make good decisions on the run and a good leader and good communicator

out there." It is especially significant for Leonard as being named co-captain is an absolute honour for her and caps off a remarkable two years, having made her Wallaroos debut in 2019 and captaining the A side against Fiji.

In the 2019 season, the Brumbies finished third and narrowly missed out on a spot in the grand final, after losing to the Reds in the semi-final. Leonard said that the squad wants to redeem themselves after their early exit. "That's the goal, taking it one step further and hopefully knocking Queensland and New South Wales out of those top two positions. "It's what we're working for and hopefully coming into round one, we'll be feeling even better and stronger as the season progresses."

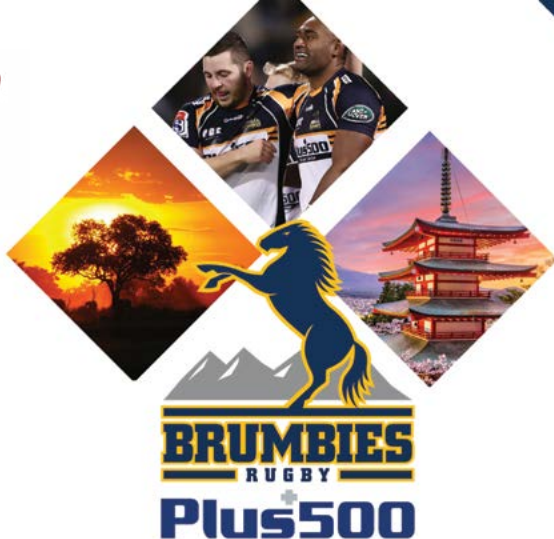
With little over one week left until the start of the season, the squad has one more trial game left and they are going up against the defending champions, the NSW Waratahs. "The trial is going to be really exciting. Coming off the back of the game against the Rebels last weekend, I think it's a good opportunity to improve on the things we picked up last weekend and take it one step further and hopefully build our squad coming into round one on the 15th" Leonard said. "Pretty special, it's been a really big two years for me. From the first game in the inaugural season of Super W to where I am now, it's an absolute honour."

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BRUMBIES



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#TEAMREHAB

He battled hard in the Plus500 Brumbies hard fought win over the Reds last Friday, but Darcy Swain was just a unable to make it for tonight's fixture, a shoulder injury keeping him out of Dan McKellar's gameday 23.

Good news is Swain will likely be fit for round three against the Highlanders.

Blake Enever will continue to be sidelined for a number of weeks while new recruit Shambeckler Vui continues his recovery also.

The biggest concern last Friday was of course the soaring temperatures, but the Brumbies were well prepared for the heat.

Players cooled off pre and post-match using an old school beachside favourite, a slushy machine.



WHAT'S COMING UP?

FAN DAY

SUN 9 FEBRUARY, 10AM – 12PM, BRUMBIES HQ

GET UP CLOSE WITH THE PLUS500 BRUMBIES AND BRUMBIES WOMEN'S SUPER W SQUAD AT OUR ANNUAL FAN DAY. FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY.

BRUMBIES WOMEN V FORCE WOMEN

SAT 15 FEBRUARY, 4.35PM, GIO STADIUM

OUR FIRST DOUBLE HEADER OF THE 2020 SEASON, THE BRUMBIES GET THEIR SUPER W SEASON UNDERWAY AGAINST THE FORCE, HAVING REACHED THE SEMI-FINAL LAST YEAR.

ROUND 3 V HIGHLANDERS

SAT 15 FEBRUARY, 7.15PM, GIO STADIUM

FOLLOWING THE BRUMBIES SUPER W OPENER, THE PLUS500 BRUMBIES COMPLETE THEIR THREE-GAME HOME START TO THE 2020 SEASON, WELCOMING THE HIGHLANDERS TO GIO STADIUM.

ROUND 7 V WARATAHS

SUN 15 MARCH, 4.05PM, GIO STADIUM

GET THIS IN YOUR CALENDARS EARLY! IT'S THE GAME WE WAIT FOR EVERY SINGLE SEASON. BRUMBIES V WARATAHS AT GIO STADIUM, AND THIS YEAR IT'S EVEN A SUNDAY ARVO KICK-OFF.

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