



CARNEGIE FLOODLIT NINES PRESS OFFICE

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PRESS INFORMATION

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Rugby Union Superstar To Make League Switch

FIJI UK and the Carnegie Floodlit Nines are delighted to announce that Fijian Rugby Union star Waisale Serevi, widely considered to be one of the greatest Rugby sevens players of all time, has agreed to play for Fiji UK in Rugby League's newest tournament - the Carnegie Floodlit Nines taking place at Headingley Carnegie Stadium on Wednesday 27 August 2008.

Serevi, the most decorated Fijian in world rugby, has represented Fiji 39 times between 1989 and 2003 and scored 376 points. He represented Fiji in the 1991, 1999, and 2003 Rugby Union World Cups. He is currently the Fiji National Coach in the IRB World Sevens.

Commenting on the capture of Serevi, Fiji UK Team Manager Mike Ratu, said:

"To capture Fiji's greatest ever Rugby player is a major accomplishment for us. He is Fiji's biggest sporting personality and the fact that he has agreed to play for us is a dream come true for our players.

"I would like to personally thank Leeds Metropolitan University, who have made it possible for Serevi to play in the tournament.

"The players are very excited about the prospect of playing alongside the great man and it has been a major confidence boost for us with just a week to go to the tournament."

Serevi is equally excited about playing in the inaugural tournament and pitting his wits against some of Super League's big name players.

"Rugby League is a fantastic sport and I am delighted to be supporting Leeds Met by playing in the Carnegie Floodlit Nines at Headingley Carnegie..

"I like to take on new challenges and to play for Fiji UK will be a good experience. Nines rugby is very exciting and I am sure the fans will be in for a real treat."

The former Leicester Tigers half-back will arrive in Leeds on Tuesday 26 August – the day before the tournament – and will also be an official guest of Leeds Met at Rugby League's showpiece event the Carnegie Challenge Cup Final on Saturday 30 August at Wembley Stadium.

"I am looking forward to watching the Carnegie Challenge Cup Final at the famous Wembley Stadium," added Serevi.

"The Carnegie Challenge Cup Final is regarded as Rugby League's major event. To be an official guest of Leeds Met on this special day in London, watching two big names in Rugby League, will be a great honour for me."

In addition to his outstanding career as a player, Serevi has also excelled in his coaching career, leading Fiji to victory in the IRB Sevens World Series in 2006, the first time in its history that the opposing New Zealand team was beaten in the series.

Earlier this year, Serevi was awarded a sports science honorary doctorate by Leeds Met, building on the University's commitment to sporting excellence.

Meanwhile, ticket prices for the event are £10.00 adults. Children under 16 will gain free admission when accompanied by a full paying adult. Admission can be made via the turnstile on the night or in advance from the Headingley Carnegie Ticket Office on 0870 60 60 50 or www.floodlit9s.co.uk . Turnstiles open at 4:30pm and Leeds met have planned a great evening of entertainment for the whole family including the Carnegie Carnival located on the cricket ground with various activities for everyone to enjoy.

Ends

For further information, please contact:

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Editor's Notes

Carnegie Floodlit Nines

The Carnegie Floodlit 9s will be a one-day rugby league 9s tournament, which will host nine senior teams including five Engage Super League clubs. Preceding the showpiece event, an invitational junior tournament will take place comprising of traditional amateur clubs and development sides.

Leeds Met's own rugby league team, who this year reached the third round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup, will take part in the tournament alongside Super League clubs Huddersfield Giants, Hull FC, Hull Kingston Rovers, Leeds Rhinos and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. The other three teams taking part in the competition will be the British Army, Cumbria and Fiji UK.

The competition, which will take place on Wednesday August 27 at Headingley Carnegie Stadium. The tournament also revives the tradition of the Headingley 7s, which was staged at Headingley Carnegie Stadium between 1965 and 1978, and provided high-energy league action for fans.

The Draw In Full:-

Round One

1. Leeds Metropolitan University v British Army

Kick Off 6:10pm

Round Two

2. Leeds Rhinos v Huddersfield Giants

Kick Off: 6:30pm

3. Hull Kingston Rovers v Cumbria

Kick Off: 6:50pm

4. Fiji UK v Wakefield Trinity Wildcats

Kick Off: 7:10pm

5. Hull FC v Leeds Metropolitan University or British Army

Kick Off: 7:30pm

Semi Finals

6. Winner of game 2 v Winner of game 3

Kick Off: 8:00pm

7. Winner of game 4 v Winner of game 5

Kick Off: 8:20pm

Carnegie Floodlit 9s Cup Final

8. Winner of Game 6 v Winner of Game 7

Kick Off: 9:00pm