

Kenya are champions again

Home boys turn on the style to thrash SA's Emerging Boks to retain Tusker title

By NATION Correspondent

Kenya retained the Tusker Safari Sevens title with a 40-19 win over the Emerging Boks of South Africa at the Rugby Football Union of East Africa grounds yesterday.

Collins Injera was the toast of the Kenya side with four tries. Ian Simiyu went over the try line once with the home side also benefitting from one penalty try.

Kenya had dismissed Samurai 24-0 in their semi-final tie. Samurai started this match quick off the blocks, pinning Kenya to their own half.

With their first share of possession, Ben Nyambu broke for Kenya, playing the ball to Collins Injera who offloaded to Gibson Weru to score Kenya's first try.

Lavin Asego converted as Kenya led 7-0. After this it was all Kenya. They attacked from kick-off, Allan Onyango's spadework piled pressure on Samurai and inevitably it was Injera who scored Kenya's second try.

Asego missed the conversion as Kenya led 12-0. Weru would soon break, playing the ball to Onyango who danced through the Samurai defence before offloading the ball to Humphery "Tall" Khayange who played in Injera for his second try. Asego converted to make it 19-0 at half-time.

Signs of recovery

Second half, and Kenya's Innocent Simiyu broke out but was thwarted inches from the try line. Samurai however failed to repulse the Kenyan attack and Injera touched down, but the referee cancelled his try for an infringement.

Samurai showed brief signs of recovery, piercing the Kenya defence, but knocked out five metres from the try line.

Kenya continued piling on the pressure and were rewarded with a second Weru try after Injera had done the hard work. Asego missed the conversion as Kenya held out for a 24-0 win and a berth in the final.

If the first match was lopsided, the second was a thriller a minute.

The Emerging Boks eventually overcame Samoa 27-22 in sudden death after the two sides had tied 12-12 at half-time and 22-22 at full-time.

Earl Lewis was the toast of the South Africans, breaking away from his marker seconds into sudden death to give his side a berth in the final against Kenya.



Above: Kenya's players celebrate with their trophy after beating Emerging Boks of South Africa 40-19 in the final of the Tusker Safari Sevens at the RFUEA grounds yesterday. **Right:** Innocent Simiyu is tackled by a Samurai player during the cup semi-final Kenya won 24-0. Photos/MOHAMMED AMIN and CHRIS OMOLLO

