



**England focused despite Zara**

ENGLAND coach Martin Johnson has insisted the team will not be distracted ahead of today's World Cup match against Romania by the arrival in Dunedin of Zara Phillips. The granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth is due to watch husband Mike Tindall in World Cup action for the first time this weekend. Tindall has found himself in a media storm after being pictured cavorting with a woman during England's alcohol-fuelled night out in Queenstown.



**Irish slam Horan's claim**

IRELAND rugby coach Declan Kidney has branded Tim Horan's allegation that Ireland feigned injuries against Australia as "incredulous and slightly scandalous". Wallaby great Horan, writing in his column in an Australian newspaper, accused the Irish of subterfuge in last Saturday's 15-6 victory at Eden Park. "Ireland had a deliberate plan to fake injuries each time there was a breakdown in play so they could slow the game down," wrote Horan.



**Haka here to stay: Domoni**

Fiji coach Sam Domoni said critics of the famous haka could breakdance before games if they like but they couldn't stand in the way of Pacific tradition. Domoni was speaking after South Africa coach Peter de Villiers said the pre-match war dances were becoming over-exposed during the Rugby World Cup and were in danger of losing their impact. Fiji will face Samoa tomorrow in a match where both teams will perform their intimidating chants.



Wallabies winger Adam Ashley-Cooper impersonates Superman on his way to the try line against the USA in Wellington last night

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

**French bent on wrecking big party**

FRANCE captain Thierry Dusautoir is out to ruin Richie McCaw's record 100th Test for New Zealand when the teams clash tonight at the Rugby World Cup.

McCaw is over a minor calf strain and will become the first All Black to play 100 Tests, and the 19th ever player to achieve the feat.

He was captain in the 2007 World Cup quarter-final loss to France, a painful memory and his only defeat in nine internationals against the French.

Dusautoir is in awe of the 30-year-old McCaw's achievements. "He's been the best flanker for 10 years now. He is less than one year older than me and he has twice as many caps as me," Dusautoir said.

"I can only respect this guy. He's still a great player ... but I'm sad because we're going to waste (ruin) his party tomorrow."

As well as hunting down McCaw at Eden Park tonight, Dusautoir knows he also has another role: protecting flyhalf Morgan Parra, who normally plays scrumhalf.

Parra has never started an international match in the position and is up against Dan Carter, acknowledged as the best No. 10 in the world.

"I have to protect my No. 10 and to go after the opponent's No. 10," Dusautoir said.

The teams enter the match in contrasting form, with the All Blacks running in 13 tries in an 83-7 thrashing of Japan while France has laboured to wins against the Japanese and Canada and had to fend off stinging criticism from the French media.

"I've been impressed by New Zealand in their opening two games," Dusautoir said.

"If we manage to shake off the sloppiness we've shown in the first two matches, we can go far in this tournament."

Dusautoir burst into international prominence when France beat New Zealand in the 2007 quarter-finals.

**Big win, but Deans left counting cost**

**RUGBY UNION**  
By DARREN WALTON

CENTRE Anthony Faingaa was knocked out cold and several teammates limped off for treatment as Australia notched a potentially costly 67-5 Rugby World Cup win over the USA's second stringers last night.

Faingaa required minutes of attention and medicab removal from Wellington's Cake Tin after a tackle gone

**SCORES**  
**AUSTRALIA 67** (Adam Ashley-Cooper 3, Anthony Faingaa 2, Kurtley Beale, Rocky Elsom, Robert Horne, Pat McCabe, Drew Mitchell, Radike Samo tries Berrick Barnes 4, Quade Cooper 2 cons) **d USA 5** (JJ Gagliano try) at Westpac Stadium. **Referee:** Nigel Owens.

wrong in the dying stages. Coach Robbie Deans already would have been anxiously awaiting the outcome of today's medicals after fullback

Kurtley Beale, centre Rob Horne and backrower Wycliff Palu earlier made beelines to the Wallabies' sideline physio.

Beale complained of a tight hamstring after being replaced in the 38th minute.

Horne and Palu — after making their first Test starts of the year — sustained leg injuries in the 11-try romp.

With Deans already down to 25 fit players before the match, the latest concerns

overshadowed a second-half hat-trick to winger Adam Ashley-Cooper and maiden World Cup tries for Horne and fellow centres Pat McCabe and Anthony Faingaa, who bagged a double.

With James O'Connor sidelined with a hamstring strain, Australia's goalkicking was also average, with Quade Cooper, Beale and his replacement Berrick Barnes managing only five from 10 shots among them.

After last Saturday's shock 6-15 loss to Ireland, Australia's bounce-back bonus-point victory at least put the Wallabies closer to qualification for the knockout stages.

The Wallabies only need to account for lowly Russia on Saturday week in Nelson to book a quarter-final berth.

Barring upsets in the remaining few pool games, Australia will face defending champion South Africa in Wellington on October 9.

**RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011** **LIVE GAMES - Saturday, 24th Sep at the "Rugby Pub"**  
**England v Romania - 3:30pm**  
**New Zealand v France - 6pm**  
*the Parap TAVERN* Est. 1937  
 15 Parap Road - Parap - ph: 8981 2191

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