



# Calgary Canucks Americas Tour 2010







## Canucks 2010 Americas Tour

In May, 2010 the Canucks Rugby Club travelled to Mexico, Panama and Colombia for a playing tour aimed at the development of our players. The tour not only provided our players with a unique opportunity to play against overseas players and experience their culture, but in some instances gave us the chance to share knowledge with clubs in the early stages of learning the game. While the language and culture varied in each destination, the shared experience and culture that is rugby shone through with each team that hosted the Canucks.

The Canucks would like to thank the Wallabies RFC, Diablos Rojos, Seleccion Costa Atlántica and Seleccion Bogota for their assistance in organizing an epic tour and the great hosting the Canucks received.

Thank you to all the sponsors that helped make the tour possible.

Finally, thanks to all those who volunteered their time in the organization of the tour and the management while on tour. Let's not do it for another five years.

### **Canucks 2010 Americas Tour Itinerary:**

May 11-13 Mexico City, Mexico.

May 14-16 Panama City, Panama.

May 17-19 Cartagena, Colombia.

May 20-24 Bogota, Colombia.



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# MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

## Wallabies RFC 38 Canucks 19

The national champion Wallabies came ready to play but were surprised to find themselves behind their own try line in the opening minutes of play when T-Bag sliced through a gap 25m out off a set play.

It was a short-lived lead for the Canucks as the Wallabies' starting fly-half found a defensive mismatch near the halfway line and had too much pace for the cover defence.

Penalties cost the Canucks field possession and the Wallabies were able to crash over the line after repeated forward drives to take a 14-7 lead into the break.

The Canucks quickly levelled the scores after the break when Shane Tevelin broke through off a switch with Dave Byrnes and then threw a 20 metre pass to Byrnes who ran 40 metres to score the equalizer.

As the Canucks' fitness began to wane the Wallabies took advantage of a deep bench and began to cut the visitors up across the park



with their national team fly-half/inside centre combination doing a lot of damage. Number eight Aaron Peace scored a late try as he barged over the line from 20 metres out with half the Wallabies squad in his wake to make it 38-19 to the Wallabies.

<b>Wallabies RFC</b>	<b>Formed: 1980</b>
<p>The Wallabies celebrated their 30th anniversary by winning their third-straight national title two weeks after the tour match with the Canucks. The club is in the enviable position of fielding two teams in the competition and boasts several capped players.</p>	



## Dave “Tip Top Tourist” Byrnes



Asked a couple of people to write his profile and as usual other Canucks were too lazy. So here's his take: best on field all games, filled in at prop while playing fly-half, pulled the most chicks, drank the most, bought heaps of rounds for his friends, only missed a clean sweep of Tip Top Tourist votes because he's too modest to vote for himself and was offered a coaching job by one of the teams.

Accomplished all of this despite his alcohol induced narcolepsy disorder.



Gavin Harrison

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## Aaron “China Doll” Peace



What can be said about Peacer's tour? Not much in this publication.

Peacer eclipsed his previous consecutive match record by three when he started his fourth in-a-row for the Canucks before finally breaking. Smashed them while his body was healthy.



## Brendan “Crazylegs-Nrrrrgh” Velyn-Stuart



Crazylegs-Nrrrrg doesn't have time for this profile.

## John “Chairman” Holmes



Dished out some memorable but educational punishments on tour such as spelling, fashion tips, respect for property and respect for beer.

Touch judge, ball boy, equipment manager, cultural liaison, tour guide — the Chairman did it all and was in bed by 10pm.

Chris “Playoffs”  
Mosher



Mosher decided to grow a playoff beard in the ridiculous heat to keep the libidos of the adoring Latin women under control. It worked. Another of the reserves to make an appearance in every match and it was disappointing no one ran in to one of his patented dump tackles.



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Colin “Quiet Achiever” McLean

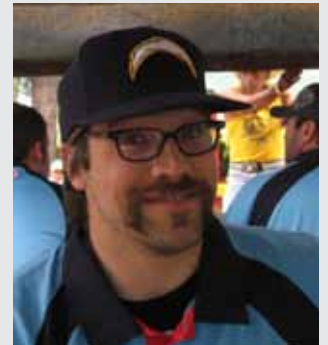


Whenever your attention is focused on someone else, rest assured Colin is somewhere and is up to something. Will likely rule the World one day – if he isn’t already. Had big shoes to fill in the forwards and stepped up to the mark in several roles.

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Craig “The  
Other” Scott



Was spotted in social situations such as the airport and the hotel but no bars or other team bonding sessions. Showed the Americas why his body is damaged beyond repair with his usual array of massive hits in defence.

Curtis “Smiling Assassin” Edinga



Some people weren’t meant to be rock stars and Curtis was heard to mutter “I’m going to stab someone” after too much attention from the locals in Bogota. Curtis hadn’t played for the Canucks in a few years and likely won’t again after playing a full 80 minutes at 2300m in his return game. Sterling effort

## Canucks 45 d Panama 5

Prior to the match the Canucks were treated to a 20-minute speech by the Panama coach/referee about why we play rugby, what rugby is about, the French Foreign Legion and why he is the most important person on the pitch.

The opening minutes saw a number of mistakes and penalties as the Canucks adjusted to sevens rugby and the rule interpretations, such as a 360 degree gate at the ruck.

Once the Canucks were able to control their rucks and recycle the ball the points began to flow.

Panama was able to breach the Canucks' line late in the match after a fumble saw a Diablos Rojos winger scoop up the loose ball and use his pace to beat the cover defence down the right sideline.

As indicated by the try, the Panama team is one full of athletic ability and should continue to develop with the right coaching in years to come.

At the request of the Panama team a short session was played at the conclusion of the sevens to help the club learn about the 15-a-side version of the game.

The session started as a free-for-all at the rucks as players entered from the side, used their hands in the ruck and laid all over the ball.

Lessons the referee refused to enforce were eventually dished by a couple of helpful boot placements and everyone was the wiser.

# PANAMA CITY, PANAMA



The Panama pack seemed to enjoy the opportunity to pack down a full scrum outside of training sessions.

The Red Devils players showed a hunger to learn about the game over a few beers that night that will hopefully see them continue to progress the game in Panama.

### Diablos Rojos

Formed: 2006

Panama played its first international match in 2005 against the Costa Rica national team, losing 60-0. In December 2006, the Diablos Rojos Rugby Club of Panama was formed. The Diablos Rojos are currently focusing on developing their sevens team in tournaments throughout the region.



The Canucks would like to say a very special thanks to the Old Boys in Panama for putting in so much work to show us such a fantastic time.

**KEN·HILL**

*De Luce*



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The Canucks would like to extend a special  
thank you to  
McKay Hlavacek Architects  
for their very generous support

Joe  
“Kickstand”  
Groat



As an amateur there are not many better compliments than when a professional singles out your talents.

Classical winger performance: feigned injury until halfway through tour, played in the 95-0 victory, then retired hurt the first time someone tackled him in Bogota. Fruitcake.

Marty “The  
Finisher”  
Rejman



Marty finishes as well off the field as he does on it. Mixed it up on tour playing at scrum half, fullback and the wing.

Tyler “Rolling  
Stone” Hawse



Hawsee was an impact tourist as he joined the tour in Colombia and took over as tour guide extraordinaire. Also took four weeks off after the tour to recover. All around the park and off it Hawsee added to the team and may have even thrown one of his sideline dummy passes to great effect.

Andrew  
“Touchdown”  
Allan



Andrew’s effort of joining the tour approximately two minutes after joining the Canucks spoke of big things to come. Too bad he was in bed before the Chairman most nights. The rookie made some good runs and once we teach him what to do when he crosses the line he will carve up.

Dallas  
 “Gorilla Suit”  
 Rigler



Dallas loves a good theme. How else would you explain Dallas wearing a gorilla suit as a joke all tour despite the oppressive heat and humidity? In his rookie year as a prop, Dallas was a big part of our front row’s performance and survival in the heat.



Ryan “Disgrace Bag” Hilmi



The fact this lunatic upgraded his nickname from D-Bag to Disgrace Bag should speak volumes about the scale of his tour. Also got taped up and ridden like a surf-board. Unlike his countrymen Disgrace Bag showed some deadly accuracy as he locked up the final game on tour with a brilliant goal kicking display.

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Eric “Bottle  
 Opener” Alles



Ever been suffering from altitude sickness, Montezuma’s revenge, dehydration, heat stroke, alcohol poisoning and a slight headache and been yelled at to raise your game by a guy on crutches?

The most useful part about Eric was his crutches could open beers. He also has a second method of opening bottles that we won’t mention.

Derek “Frightened Dove” Allen



Duke proved he is all that is man when he got buffaloes on a litre bottle of beer (the mega). It was horrible yet magnificent to watch.

Took on the toughest position on the trip as tour manager and did a sensational job.



# CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

## Seleccion Costa Atlàntica

**Formed: 2009**

Playing out of the Cartagena University the Seleccion Costa Atlàntica is a young squad, with most players picking up the sport in the past year. Many of the players are still learning the fundamentals of the game but showed plenty of passion and a love for the game.



## Canucks 95 d Seleccion Costa Atlàntica 0

The Canucks faced a raw but spirited side in the match against Costa Atlàntica's Seleccion.

A huge downpour shortly before the match saved the Canucks from playing in temperatures hovering around the mid-30s, but the heat and humidity were still an eye opener for the visitors.

From the opening whistle it was apparent Costa Atlàntica was a young squad still learning the game and the Canucks quickly piled on the points.

Despite dominating the match, the visitors didn't have it all their way as the locals dished out a few big hits and strung together a few promising attacks out wide.

To their credit Costa Atlàntica never stopped trying for the full 80 minutes and was full of smiles after the whistle for the opportunity to learn from a more experienced team.

Although most players had less than two years experience they knew the fundamentals of hosting a team, even treating the Canucks to a rugby song or two in English and talking about rugby over a beer; even if it required a translator.

## Robby "T-Rex" Lippa



Unsurprisingly, T-Rex's are poor swimmers due to their tiny upper arms and tend to deflate floaties with their sharp claws, alienating him at the shallow end of the pool in Cartagena. Toughed it out on the sidelines as one of the injured tourists; which may have saved his life in 100% humidity.

## John "My Dad Paid For My Holiday" Ogilvy



Developed a nose bleed well before Colombia. Interesting. Only came near death three times on tour which was below the expected amount, but no one ever knows all the trouble John gets into. Operated under pressure at scrum-half due to questionable rucks and players standing blatantly offside and accordingly he threw sh\*\* sandwiches to everyone outside him.

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## Mike "Gazer" Hand



Won the double of "Panama's Sweatiest Man" and the Canuck Dance off in one night. Mike's oxygen starved hamstrings blew out training in Mexico City but it was great to see him recover in time to help the side get the win over Bogota.

## Roger "Columbia" Duurtsema



Needed a hug after the jerseys turned up misspelled but took his lumps and was a great ambassador for the Canucks. Roger was safe at fullback and dangerous when he ran the ball back with his deceptive pace.

Vic “Clench  
Waddle”  
Rogers



The grumpy Englishman’s jaw wasn’t the only thing that was clenched as he was caught short on a couple of occasions in Mexico.

Vic produced the angriest performance sevens rugby has ever seen; punctuated by fearsome English roars each time he ran the ball.



Scotty “Betty Crocker” Crockatt



No one, not even the bookmakers, saw Betty as a threat to the First to Die on Tour Pool. He sure showed us all with his own version of 3am Frogger first night on tour.

Less fruity a winger than Joe – but that’s like being called the hottest fat chick.

# Shanahan's

Shane “S-Bag”  
Tevelin



Tevy surprised many with his explosive acceleration on tour as he easily went from happy to homicidal rage in the space of a heart beat.

S-Bag’s experience and hard running saw him either break the line or take a lot of stopping every time he touched the ball. Ask him about his pass of a lifetime too.

Warren “Coach” Edinga



Warren’s coaching philosophy of hugs and bum taps was unexpected but who was going to argue with him?

Another third division guy that put in big minutes in tough conditions and did the team proud.

# Canucks 31 d Seleccion Bogota 23



## BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

In the final match against the Seleccion Bogota the Canucks fielded their strongest team of the tour and took control of possession and territory in the early stages. The visitors could not turn pressure into points as they crossed the line twice but came away empty handed due to errors.

Bogota then punished the Canucks with a penalty goal to open the scoring.

With a renewed sense of urgency the Canucks became more effective at the breakdown and territory again turned in their favour.

As the repeat phases spread the Bogota defence the Canucks backline found holes in the line and Joe Groat crossed for a double before aggravating his chronic cervix injury to give his team a 14-3 lead at half-time.

The Canucks forwards picked up where they left off after the break making good inroads with the ball in hand. Shortly after the re-start the Canucks extended their lead to 21-3 before the Bogota fly-half kept his team in touch with a long range try.

Another two tries to the Canucks looked to have wrapped up the game midway through the second half but Bogota had other ideas.

As the visitors began to tire the home side began to attack from all areas of the field and made huge yards on kick



**Seleccion Bogota**

**Formed: 1999**

Rugby in Bogota first began in the 1980s as expats got together to play some social rugby. In 1996 the locals had started to join the expats and everyone dodge cow pats at the university field. In 1999 the first Seleccion Bogota team played against Medellin, where rugby first began in Colombia.

returns.

Bogota's fly-half struck twice more from long range to set up a nervous finish.

Ryan Hilmi's ability to kick goals from everywhere on the park suddenly became key as the Canucks clung to an eight-point lead

Some wayward kicks for touch in the dying minutes of the match gave Bogota the opportunity for a couple of final attacks but the defence held strong until the final whistle.



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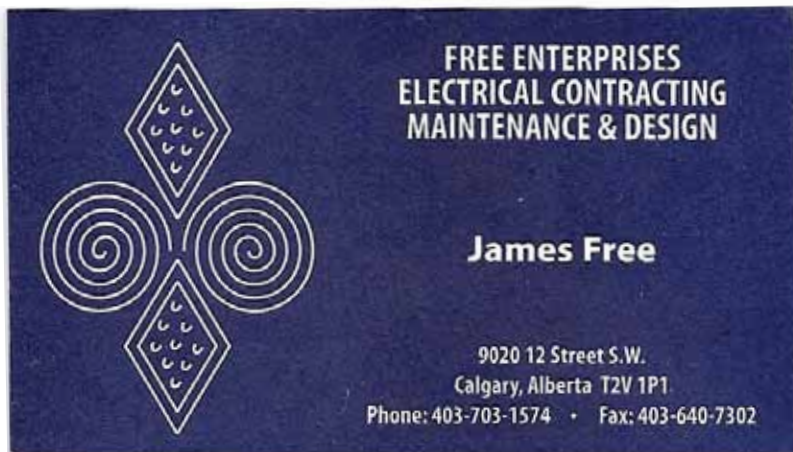
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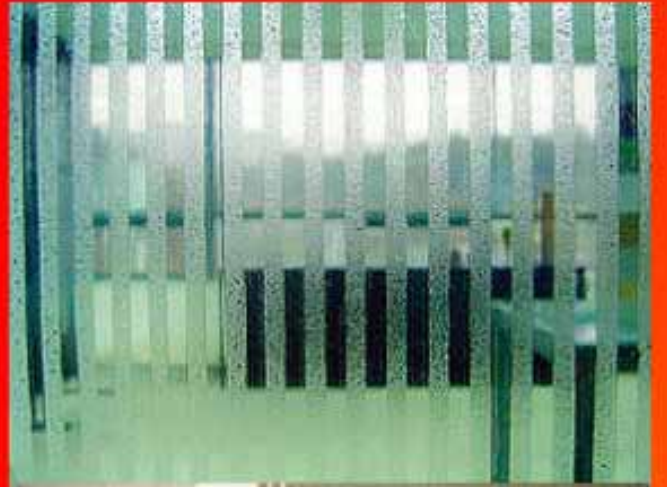
The hardest working man on tour.  
True impact player as he managed to up the violence and tension by 500% within seconds of entering the match.

**David “Daaaaave” Calonego**



No yellow cards on tour but tried to give out two green ones. Got knocked back by a TV sexpert – she must know her stuff.

Amazing that someone couldn't find a white line in Colombia but it took Daaaaave three attempts before he put the ball down in the right place in Bogota.



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Ryan "No  
Understando"  
Lucht



A huge debut by Leaky with two of the tour's top quotes and more minutes facing court than anyone on tour. Another rookie who got time in three of the four games and could be dangerous when he perfects his spinning cartwheel tackle.

Saunders  
"12F" Dokter



The tour was about young guys developing and the Dokter learned how to drink tequila like a cat, alternative ceramics, fashion sense and electricity and the human body. The Dokter was feeling the heat and humidity but kept on trucking and kept our scrum solid.



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## Jason “Bear Trap” Brown



What do you get when you mix narcolepsy, a bite reflex and a rugby tour? Trouble.

In the trade of the tour the backs shipped off Peacer to the forwards for Brownie's legendary pace and endurance. Was a steady hand off the bench when called upon.

## Rob “Uber Mobile” Scott



It was wonderful to hear the Scott laughter in stereo again but Robby, you need to work on your anger management.

Had to pull out of the sevens and be rushed to hospital for what is medically described as a hangover, but once he found his feet in Colombia he was able to transcend the language barrier to abuse the referee. Vintage Rob Scott.

## Dennis “Tips McGee” Doherty



The scene around Tips resembled a fishing boat swarmed by seagulls when every vendor in Cartagena descended on him after dishing out a \$24.50 tip on a 50c pack of gum.

Led the cheer squad on the sidelines when the boys needed encouragement and supplied his rookie/fly-half with tactical advice such as “run the length of the field and score for me.”



Good Luck on the Tour Boys,

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- Stay out of Mexican Jails (yep this is personal experience advice)
- Don't Join Any Terrorist Groups (even if she is smokin' hot)
- Don't use your own Name!!! (use Mr. Hibbard or Jones)

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*A very special thanks to  
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for their contribution to the Canucks South  
American Tour.*

## Mike "Sticky Feet" Dreger



If Dreger had toured for the full two weeks he would either be dead or the president of Colombia right now. The super-sub's cameo appearance in Panama can only be described as a barn stormer.

## Layne "The Trainer" Gardner



An unsung hero in the organization and running of the tour. Knows surprisingly little Spanish for a guy who works in Central America, but doesn't let that faze him. Took three photos of the game, five of the ground and the rest were of the crowd.

