



MEDIA RELEASE



**8.00AM – MONDAY 03 AUGUST 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

TEAM RELEASE – Vodafone Flying Fijians verses Samoa – 2015 World Rugby Pacific Nations Cup finals

The Vodafone Flying Fijians Head Coach John McKee has released the team to face Manu Samoa in the finals of the 2015 Pacific Nations Cup in Canada. The match kicks off at 5.00pm Monday 3 August (Canada Time) at Swanguard Stadium, Burnaby in Vancouver.

1. CAMPESE MAAFU	13. WASEA NAYACALEVU
2. SUNIA KOTO	14. METUISELA TALEBULA
3. MANASA SAULO	15. KINI MURIMURIVALU
4. TEVITA CAVUBATI	16. TUAPATI TALEMAITOGA
5. LEONE NAKARAWA	17. PENI RAVAI
6. DOM WAQANIBUROTU	18. ISEI COLATI
7. AKAPUSI QERA (CAPTAIN)	19. NEMIA SOQETA
8. MASI MATADIGO	20. PECELI YATO
9. NIKOLA MATAWALU	21. NEMIA KENATALE
10. JOSHUA MATAVESI	22. BEN VOLAVOLA
11. ASaeli TIKOIROTUMA	23. NAPALIONI NALAGA
12. GABIRIELE LOVOBALAVU	

“We have selected a team that reflects the importance of this game and balancing game-time for our players in the lead up to RWC2015,” John McKee said.

He said team captain, Akapusi Qera returns to the No. 7 position for this match with Masi Matidigo returning at No. 8 after resting for the Japan game.

“Waisea Nayacalevu gets an opportunity to play at centre, the position he played for at his Paris club during the 2014-15 season.

“Asaeli Tikoirotuma comes in on the wing and Sunia Koto moves from the bench to the starting lineup at hooker.

McKee said Nikola Matawalu gets his chance to show his credentials in his 1st start at halfback this campaign.

“Gabby Lovobalavu is back in the inside centre role, he played so well against NZ Maori & Samoa.

“Josh Matavesi retains the No. 10 spot on the back of his “man of the match” performance against Japan.

“The team really needs to step up in this game. Samoa will be a lot tougher than they were in the pool game and will improve on their close game against Canada.

“To play well in the final is the ideal challenge for us in preparation for RWC2015,” McKee added.

“He said the players must take on the challenge and learn to perform under pressure, individually and collectively in the big games.

“On Monday (Canada Time) all focus will be on trying to win the 2015 PNC trophy with the players proudly representing the people of Fiji,” McKee concluded.

In the other matches - Tonga faces Japan in the bronze final while USA faces Canada for 5th place. All three matches will be live-streamed on www.worldrugby.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT | Inoke Bainimarama | Team Media Manager | Ph: +679 9759 045 | Email: flyingfijiansmedia@fijirugby.net or inokebainimarama@gmail.com