

For Immediate Release  
June 6, 2010

## Collegiate Championship Invitational Produces a Final to Remember

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The University of Utah produced drama and heroics that capped off perfectly the inaugural USA 7s Collegiate Championship Invitational.

Utah defeated California in an overtime thriller 31-26 – scrumhalf Don Pati slicing through the Cal line to score the winner in the first sudden death OT period – and in doing so stopped the team that had been the most unstoppable in the tournament.

Cal ripped through their Sunday with a 36-0 defeat of Tennessee in the quarterfinals and a 33-0 defeat of Arizona in the semis. With Dustin Muhn, Colin Hawley, Keegan Engelbrecht and several others sharing the scoring duties, the Bears looked every inch the favorites.

However, Utah were getting better with every game. Moving Thretton Palamo around the field allowed Utah to use the big man's pace and size in different ways. With Pati leading the way defensively and with outstanding breaks, and with the unsung Danny James and Blake Miller doing their part, Utah shut out Navy 24-0 and then edged an outstanding San Diego State team 17-10.

That set the stage for a brilliant final, which saw the teams trade scores back and forth. Call took a 7-0 lead thanks to Keegan Engelbrecht, but brilliant Utah defense set up an attack that gave Blake Miller enough space to score. 7-7. Dustin Muhn produced a moment of magic: 14-7. Palamo looped Zach Taylor 14-12.

In the second half Palamo dummied and burst his way to give Utah a 19-14 lead. Cal responded - Colin Hawley's setting up Engelbrecht for the try. 21-19 Cal.

In the closing moments, Utah pulled off the unthinkable, running out of their own end and putting sub Ryan Bailey away for an 80-meter score. Utah led 26-21 with less than a minute left, but Cal was able to score through Conor Ring to tie the game. Engelbrecht missed the tough conversion to keep the scores level.

Utah took a couple of free kicks and penalties to edge into Cal territory and then patiently worked the ball to Pati, who cut back to score. It was a dramatic end to a dramatic tournament, seen live on NBC.

Arizona and San Diego State acquitted themselves well, finishing in the top four. Bowling Green were outstanding on Sunday, winning all three matches to win the Challenger Bracket. Wing Rocco Mauer earned tournament MVP honors as he led all scorers with 11 tries.

### CCI Finish:

1<sup>st</sup> Utah  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cal  
3<sup>rd</sup> San Diego State & Arizona

### Challenger Bracket

1<sup>st</sup> Bowling Green  
2<sup>nd</sup> Arizona State

With the help of USA 7s coach Al Caravelli, RUGBYMag.com has named the first-ever USA Sevens Collegiate Championship Invitational All-Tournament Team:

Nate Ebner (Ohio State)  
Keegan Engelbrecht (Cal)  
Benji Goff (Tennessee)  
Colin Hawley (Cal)  
Will Holder (Army)  
Seamus Kelly (Cal)

Duncan Kelm (San Diego State)  
Rocco Mauer (Bowling Green)  
Dustin Muhn (Cal)  
Thretton Palamo (Utah)  
Don Pati (Utah)  
Blaine Scully (Cal)

RUGBYMag.com CCI MVP: Rocco Mauer

For more information, please visit [www.usasevenscci.com](http://www.usasevenscci.com).