

# SoCal Victorious in Women's Tier B NASC



**Southern California:** (FRONT, L-R) Kate Henneberger, Kelly White, Kim McLaughlin, Kanisha Saunders, Tikvah Hayes, Jenny Triplett. (MIDDLE) Terri Wilson, Amanda Wilson, Kate Morris, Kelley Herring, Donna Farrell, Kate Nichol. (BACK) Glenn Rose, Dorothy Watkins, Stacey Blankenship, Grace Espinoza, Roberta Johnson, Christine Marlo, Sara Merritt, Andrea Dunn, Karie Orendorff, Nicole Engstrom, Simon Dunlop. (Photo: DropkickPhotos.com)

## Blaine, MN

June 16-18, 2007

The Southern California RFU won Tier B of the Women's National All Star Championship with a 25-20 win over the South RFU in the final. Southern Cal reached the final with a 44-0 win over the Minnesota All Stars, while the South defeated the West 39-20.

### Semifinals:

**Southern California 44,  
Minnesota All Stars 0**

June 16

Southern California dominated the entire match, shutting out the Minnesota All Stars 44-0. Fullback Amanda Wilson logged a hat trick for the Griffins, while Kelly White added 14 points on two tries and two conversions.

SoCal put up 27 points in the first half. Try scorers included Wilson (2), flankers Kate Nichol and Kanisha Saunders, and White. White added a conversion as well.

White converted Wilson's third try in minute 67, 34-0, then put another try of her own on the board in the 75<sup>th</sup>, 39-0. Wing Roberta Johnson scored SoCal's final try in minute 78, 44-0.

**Southern California:** A. Wilson 3T, Nichol T, White 2T, 2C, Saunders T, Johnson T.

**Southern California:** 1. Jenny Triplett,

2. Kathleen Morris, 3. Kim McLaughlin, 4. Kari Orendorff, 5. Christine Marlo, 6. Kanisha Saunders, 7. Kate Nichol, 8. Sara Merritt, 9. Kate Henneberger, 10. Kelly White, 11. Terri Wilson, 12. Andrea Dunn, 13. Tiki Hayes, 14. Roberta Johnson, 15. Amanda Wilson. *Reserves:* Grace Espinoza, Donna Farrell, Kelley Herring, Dorothy Watkins.

**Minnesota All Stars:** 1. Sarah Kuehl, 2. Sandra Holseth, 3. Andrea Vollmuth, 4. Jess De Johnson, 5. Rachel Miller, 6. Marissa Stevens, 7. Gabe Fidelman, 8. Greta Simpson, 9. Abby Rager, 10. Chris Miskec, 11. Vicki Schlangen, 12. Lauren Felton, 13. Kate Janus, 14. Brenda Khothsombath, 15. Tracy Call. *Reserves:* Annie Anderson, Nicole Borgen, Jill Ellingston, Laura Gill, Mary McNeilly, Margaret Rauwerdink, Kendra Stritch.

### South 39, West 20

The South walked away with a 39-20 win over the West RFU in the other semifinal. The kicking of South scrumhalf Nicole Belkin accounted for 14 points, while center Dana Kuchta added two tries.

The South did all of the first-half scoring, putting up 25 points. Try scorers included fullback Annie Antar, wing Casey Fields and flyhalf Sara Corcoran. Belkin kicked two penalties and two conversions,

25-0.

The South's Kuchta logged the first of her two tries early in the second half, converted by Belkin, before the Mustang's Wendy Young slotted a penalty, 32-3. Kuchta's second try in the 49<sup>th</sup> minute, converted by Belkin, marked the last of the South's scoring, 39-3.

The West surged with tries from wing Melissa McKibben, lock Kirsten Abel-Ruch and outside center Lynelle Kugler, and a Young conversion in the last half hour, but it was too little too late, 39-20.

**South:** Belkin 2P, 4C, Antar T, Fields T, Corcoran T, Kuchta 2T.

**West:** Young P, C, McKibben T, Abel-Ruch T, Kugler T.

**South:** 1. Carmel Glynn, 2. Sally Lanigan, 3. Carrie Frick, 4. Nancy Campbell, 5. Carly Harrington, 6. Christina Miller, 7. Katie Thomen, 8. Lindsay Hagerman, 9. Nicole Belkin, 10. Sara Corcoran, 11. Carla DeVillez, 12. Dana Kuchta, 13. Sara Ratzlaff, 14. Casey Fields, 15. Annie Antar. *Reserves:* Tammy Ehrbart, Beth Halldorson, Stephanie Iacobucci, Tonya Fletcher.

**West:** 1. Mandy Rasmussen, 2. Kimberly Klahn, 3. Katherine Wurst, 4. Jen Kelley, 5. Kirsten Abel-Ruch, 6. Lindsey Wiczorek, 7. Breanna Alexander, 8. Erin Riley, 9. Sara Edwards, 10. Wendy Young, 11. Jennifer Kuchar, 12. Sara Webel, 13. Lynelle Kugler,

14. Melissa McKibben, 15. Molly Albano. *Reserves:* Mollyrose Graves, Joy Hernandez, Allegra Howell, Devin Keller, Alena Kolarsky, Jaime Lange, Cody Monroe.

### Final:

#### Southern California 25, South 20

June 18

The lead changed hands four times before Southern California emerged victorious over the South RFU in the Tier B final, 25-20. Flyhalf Kelly White led SoCal with 15 points on two tries, a conversion and penalty.

The Griffins will take the Mid-Atlantic's number four seed in Tier A competition next year.

White put the Griffins up 5-0 in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute before Nicole Belkin kicked a penalty for the South in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 5-3. The South's Kuchta ran in her third try of the weekend in the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Belkin's conversion made it 10-5.

A try by SoCal flyhalf Kate Henneberger and White's conversion put SoCal up 12-10, but the Panthers reclaimed the lead at the half as wing Carla DeVillez scored a try that Belkin converted 17-12.

Flanker Kate Nichol tied it up for the Griffins with a try, 17-17, and the stalemate held into injury time.

White and Belkin traded penalties in the 87<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> minutes – 20-20 – and White capped off her strong performance with a try for the win in minute 94, 25-20.

**Southern California:** White 2T, C, P, Henneberger T, Nickel T.

**South:** Belkin 2P, 2C, Kuchta T, DeVillez T.

**Southern California:** 1. Kelly Herring, 2. Jenny Triplett, 3. Kim McLaughlin, 4. Keri Orendorff, 5. Christine Marlo, 6. Kanisha Saunders, 7. Kate Nichol, 8. Sara Merritt, 9. Kate Henneberger, 10. Kelly White, 11. Terri Wilson, 12. Andrea Dunn, 13. Tika Hayes, 14. Roberta Johnson, 15. Amanda Wilson. *Reserves:* Grace Espinoza, Donna Farrell, Kathleen Morris, Dorothy Watkins.

**South:** 1. Carmel Glynn, 2. Sally Lanigan, 3. Carrie Frick, 4. Nancy Campbell, 5. Carly Harrington, 6. Christina Miller, 7. Katie Thomen, 8. Lindsay Hagerman, 9. Nicole Belkin, 10. Sara Corcoran, 11. Casey Fields, 12. Dana Kuchta, 13. Sara Ratzlaff, 14. Carla DeVillez, 15. Annie Antar. *Reserves:* Tammy Ehrbart, Beth Halldorson, Stephanie Iacobucci, Tony Fletcher.



Southern California's Kelly White scored two tries in the Griffins' 25-20 win over the South in the Tier B Championship. (Photo: Rob Wagner, DropkickPhotos.com)

### Third Place:

#### West 57, Minnesota All Stars 5

The Minnesota All Stars managed to avoid a shutout in its 57-5 loss to the West.

West wing Melissa McKibben ran in four tries, while five other Mustangs crossed the try line. Flyhalf Wendy Young slotted six conversions.

McKibben scored three tries, center Lynelle Kugler and prop Katherine Wurst scored one apiece, and Young converted four for a 33-0 halftime lead.

After West inside center Sara Webel touched down five minutes into the second stanza, hooker Sandra Holset scored Minnesota's lone try, 38-5. The Mustangs responded with tries from McKibben, #8 Devin Keller and fullback Jennifer Kuchar. Young converted two bringing the final score to 57-5.

**West:** Young 6C, Kugler T, McKibben 4T, Wurst T, Webel T, Keller T, Kuchar T.

**Minnesota:** Holseth T.

**West:** 1. Cody Monroe, 2. Alena Kolarsky, 3. Katherine Wurst, 4. Erin Riley, 5. Jaime

Lange, 6. Joy Hernandez, 7. Breanna Alexander, 8. Devin Keller, 9. Sara Edwards, 10. Wendy Young, 11. Mollyrose Graves, 12. Sara Webel, 13. Lynelle Kugler, 14. Melissa McKibben, 15. Jennifer Kuchar. *Reserves:* Kirsten Abel-Ruch, Molly Albano, Allegra Howell, Jen Kelley, Kimberly Klahn, Angela Poe, Mandy Rasmussen.

**Minnesota:** 1. Carol Labine, 2. Sandra Holseth, 3. Andrea Vollmuth, 4. Jess DeJohnson, 5. Rachel Miller, 6. Annie Anderson, 7. Marissa Stevens, 8. Gabe Fidelman, 9. Sonya Mancini, 10. Laura Gill, 11. Tracy Call, 12. Kristy Fisher, 13. Kate Janus, 14. Michelle Wong, 15. Chris Miskec. *Reserves:* Jill Ellingston, Lauren Felton, Marlise King, Mary McNeilly, Abby Rager, Margaret Rauwerdink, Vicki Schlangen, Katrina Sengrava, Greta Simpson.

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# Mid-Atlantic RFU: Women's U-23 National All Star Champ



Kelly Griffin, who scored a hat trick during So Cal's 27-25 loss to MARFU in the Tier A final, is pursued by Amber Benlian. (Photo: Rob Wagner, DropkickPhotos.com)

## Blaine, MN

July 16-18, 2007

The Mid-Atlantic RFU came from behind to win Tier A of the Women's Under-23 National All Star Championship with a 27-25 victory in the final over the Southern California RFU.

To reach the final the Mid-Atlantic slipped past the Midwest 26-24 while Southern California posted a 15-0 semifinal win over the West RFU.

### Semifinals:

#### Mid-Atlantic 26, Midwest 24

The difference in the Mid-Atlantic's 26-24 semifinal win over the Midwest came down to conversion kicks. Each team scored four tries, but MARFU slotted three conversions to the Midwest's two. Turnabout was obviously fair play as in the 2006 U-23 NASC, the Midwest topped MARFU by a two-point margin.

Wing Liz Inkellis was MARFU's top scorer with two tries, while #8 Sarah Wilson accounted for nine Midwest points with a try and two conversions.

#### First Half

As the teams traded tries, the Mid-Atlantic relinquished the lead only once. A try by Liz

Inkellis kicked off MARFU's scoring in the eighth minute, but the Midwest took the lead 20 minutes later when #8 Sarah Wilson touched down and converted her own try, 7-5.

Inkellis re-established MARFU's lead in minute 32 with her second try that flanker Emily Tunney converted, 12-7. Midwest flanker Schmarrah McCarthy evened it up before the half with a try, 12-12.

#### Second Half

The teams scored two tries apiece in the second half, but Tunney's third conversion sealed MARFU's win.

Mid-Atlantic reserve Sarah Miller scored first and Tunney converted, 19-12. Thunderbird wing Marie Rye dotted down 11 minutes later, 19-17. MARFU fullback Vanesha McGee and Tunney teamed up for another seven points in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute 26-17.

Midwest flyhalf Sylvia Braaten's try in the 72<sup>nd</sup>, converted by Wilson, marked the last of the scoring, 26-24.

**Mid-Atlantic:** Inkellis 2T, Tunney 3C, Miller T, McGee T.

**Midwest:** Wilson T, 2C, McCarthy T, Rye T, Braaten T.

**Mid-Atlantic:** 1. Fontaine Lloyd, 2. Sheri Villa, 3. Katy Black, 4. Kathleen Brady, 5. Rachel Warden, 6. Emily Tunney, 7. Alison Worman, 8. Kate Daley, 9. Kahn Vu, 10. Laurie Bryan, 11. Liz Inkellis, 12. Amber Benlian, 13. Allurie Kephart, 14. Lauren Rosso, 15. Vanesha McGee. *Reserves:* Sarah Miller.

**Midwest:** 1. Katherine Weber, 2. Dana Kruper, 3. Kelsey Oswald, 4. Jessica Travers, 5. Kassie Drey, 6. Amanda Rolling, 7. Schmarrah McCarthy, 8. Sarah Wilson, 9. Tiffany McCoy, 10. Sylvia Braaten, 11. Lauren Wolfe, 12. Kayla Soliday, 13. Kristy Lear, 14. Marie Rye, 15. Ashley Archer.

#### Southern California 15, West 0

Southern California earned its championship berth with a 15-0 semifinal win over the West. SoCal scored all three of its tries within 10 minutes of play.

With what looked like a scoreless half, Griffins fullback Sarah Davis ran in a try to close out the first 40, 5-0. Three minutes into the second stanza, scrumhalf Alexis Volen ran in SoCal try number two, and reserve Christina Ramos put the final five-pointer on the board in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute, 15-0.

**Southern California:** Davis T, Volen T, Ramos T.

**Southern California:** 1. Jill Duggan, 2. Rebecca Williams, 3. Elisabeth Henry, 4. Bridget Moran, 5. Alyssa Barker, 6. Shania Turley, 7. Heather Yarbrough, 8. Kara Mathews, 9. Alexis Volen, 10. Marea Blue, 11. Mary Lee, 12. Kelly Griffin, 13. Monica Zigler, 14. Daralisa Cheung, 15. Sarah Davis. *Reserves:* Chau Bui, Ivette Castillo, Elise Guthmann, Sonia Globerson-Lamb, Christina Ramos, Kristi Tsukida.

**West:** 1. Amanda Kehmeier, 2. Lauren Sharp, 3. Stephanie Dvorak, 4. Jacklyn Poteraj, 5. Amy Burkhalter, 6. Jen Ballinger, 7. Jillion Potter, 8. Brea Hughes, 9. Stacy Legler, 10. Jenna Middleton, 11. Sydney Forestal, 12. Jen Swenton, 13. Becca Barron, 14. Megan Knight, 15. Olivia Herdt. *Reserves:* Lenae Boykin, Lauren Daly, Kaitlin Middleton, Carolyn Price, Meaghen Vanderpol, Hillary Wells, Desbah Yazzie.

#### Final:

### Mid-Atlantic 27, Southern California 25 June 18

The Mid-Atlantic trailed the entire final – at times by 17 points – but rallied for a 27-25 win over Southern California and the Tier A Championship. SoCal ran in more tries, but the boot of MARFU flanker Emily Tunney made the difference, as she slotted a penalty and two conversions.

#### First Half

SoCal scrumhalf Alexis Volen repeatedly slipped through MARFU's defense early on, scoring two tries within the first 10 minutes, 10-0. A SoCal infraction in front of the posts allowed MARFU's Tunney to kick a three-pointer in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute, 10-3. Two tries by center Kelly Griffin in the 29<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup>

minutes, however, gave SoCal a 20-3 lead.

MARFU managed a try just before intermission as Penn State #8 Kate Daley joined the backs and took a wide angle to the outside, grounding in the corner, 20-8.

#### Second Half

SoCal's Griffin got her hat-trick two minutes after the restart, 25-8, but it marked the last of the Griffins' scoring.

MARFU prop Fontaine Lloyd scored in the 15<sup>th</sup> and fullback Vanesha McGee in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute, both converted by Tunney, 25-22.

In the last minutes of play, MARFU wing Liz Inkellis rounded the corner past the SoCal defense and sped 70 meters untouched for the go-ahead try, 27-25, giving MARFU its first-ever U-23 NASC title.

**Mid-Atlantic:** Tunney P, 2C, Daley T, Lloyd T, McGee T, Inkellis T.

**Southern California:** Volen 2T, Griffin 3T.

**Mid-Atlantic:** 1. Fontaine Lloyd, 2. Sheri Villa, 3. Katy Black, 4. Emily Shifflett, 5. Rachel Warden, 6. Emily Tunney, 7. Alison Worman, 8. Kate Daley, 9. Khanh Vu, 10. Carrie Perdue, 11. Elizabeth Walsh, 12. Amber Benlian, 13. Stephanie Burkhardt, 14. Liz Inkellis, 15. Vanesha McGee. *Reserves:* Kathleen Brady, Allison Dolan, Allurie Kephart, Lauren Rosso.

**Southern California:** 1. Jill Duggan, 2. Ivette Castillo, 3. Elisabeth Henry, 4. Alyssa Barker, 5. Kara Mathews, 6. Heather Yarbrough, 7. Sonia Globerson-Lamb, 8. Shaina Turley, 9. Alexis Volen, 10. Marea Blue, 11. Chau Bui, 12. Kelly Griffin, 13. Monica Zigler, 14. Mary Lee, 15. Sarah Davis. *Reserves:* Daralisa Cheung, Elise Guthmann, Kristi Tsukida, Rebecca Williams.

#### Third Place:

### Midwest 31, West 3

The Midwest took third place in Tier A with a 31-3 victory over the West. Number 8 Sarah Wilson led the Thunderbirds with 11 points on a try and three conversions.

The Mustangs will compete in Tier B next year.

Midwest flanker Kayla Soliday scored the lone try of the half in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute and #8 Sarah Wilson converted. A Midwest infraction just before intermission allowed fullback Olivia Herdt to slot the Mustangs' only points, 7-3.

Four Thunderbirds - wings Marie Rye and Bethany Zick, #8 Sarah Wilson and reserve Cara Nocero - crossed for Midwest tries in the second half. Wilson added two conversions for the 31-3 win.

**Midwest:** Soliday T, Wilson T, 3C, Rye T, Zick T, Nocero T.

**West:** Herdt P.

**Midwest:** 1. Katherine Weber, 2. Kelsey Oswald, 3. Meryl Hicks, 4. Jessica Travers, 5. Kassie Drey, 6. Amanda Rolling, 7. Kayla Soliday, 8. Sarah Wilson, 9. Tiffany McCoy, 10. Sylvia Braaten, 11. Bethany Zick, 12. Kristy Lear, 13. Schmarrah McCarthy, 14. Marie Rye, 15. Ashley Archer.

**West:** 1. Brittany Vermilyea, 2. Lauren Sharp, 3. Stephanie Dvorak, 4. Jacklyn Poteraj, 5. Amy Burkhalter, 6. Jen Swenton, 7. Jillion Potter, 8. Brea Hughes, 9. Sydney Forestal, 10. Jenna Middleton, 11. Gina Steffano, 12. Hillary Wells, 13. Becca Barron, 14. Desbah Yazzie, 15. Olivia Herdt. *Reserves:* Jen Ballinger, Lenae Boykin, Lauren Daly, Amanda Kehmeier, Megan Knight, Katlin Middleton.



**Mid-Atlantic RFU U-23s:** (FRONT, L-R) Lauren Rosso, Stephanie Burkhardt, Amber Benlian, Sheri Villa, Liz Inkellis, Khanh Vu, Sarah Miller, Allison Meyer. (MIDDLE) Elizabeth Walsh, Alison Dolan, Lori Kenuk, Alison Worman, Katy Black, Laurie Bryan, Kathleen Brady. (BACK) Deb Yates (manager), Ginger Stringer (asst manager), Jen LaFlace (trainer), Vanesha McGee, Allurie Kephart, Emily Shifflett, Kate Daley, Rachel Warden, Carrie Purdue, Nicole Coffineau, Emily Tunney, Fontaine Lloyd, Lisa Rosen (head coach), Roshna Wunderlich (asst coach). (Photo: Rob Wagner, DropkickPhotos.com)