



THE OHIO AVIATORS PROFESSIONAL RUGBY IS BACK AND ON ESPN+ THIS WEEKEND

ESPN+ will live stream all of the Ohio Aviators upcoming games in the World Tens Series

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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COLUMBUS, OH: ESPN has announced that they will live stream and televise all of the 2020 World Tens Series matches across five territories, allowing audiences across the globe the opportunity to watch the inaugural World Tens Series.

This new broadcast partnership will see the World Tens available on ESPN+ in the USA and on ESPN Play across Latin America and the Caribbean. And in the United Kingdom the Series will be broadcast on Sky Sports.

The World Ten Series:

The World Tens Series is a brand new professional Rugby competition that has set out to revolutionize the sport of rugby with its format and new rules for the sport of Rugby Tens. Different than the Olympic format of Rugby Sevens, the World Tens Series will consist of ten players per team, playing in two (2) 10-minute halves per match. Each team will compete in six matches per round. Round One kicks off this weekend in Bermuda starting on Sunday, October 25th, 2020. Competing in this global tournament will be seven teams from around the world filled with internationally capped players and Olympic rugby medalists that will span three weekends, ending on November 8th.

THE TEAMS:

Asia Pacific Dragons
Miami Sun
Phoenix (Middle East)
SX10 (Cape Town, South Africa) **(Out for Round One)**

London Royals
Ohio Aviators
Rhinos (California, USA)

Round One

Ohio Aviators Schedule:

Sunday, Oct 25

10:30pm – Ohio Aviators vs Phoenix
12:30pm – Rhinos vs Ohio Aviators
3:30pm – Ohio Aviators vs London Royals

Monday, October 26th

9:30am – Ohio Aviators vs Asia Pacific Dragons
11:00am – Miami Sun vs Ohio Aviators

(Times are listed in Eastern Standard Time)

The Ohio Aviators

The Aviators roster is bolstered by eight members of the United States Men's National Team and an All-Star list of players from Major League Rugby (MLR) with five former members of the original Ohio Aviators 2016 team. Included in that impressive roster is Ohio State graduate, and recent 2020 MLR Draftee, Spencer Krueger.

The Ohio Aviators Roster

Forwards

Brad Tucker (MLR New Orleans)
Chris Baumann (USA Men's National Team)
Dylan Fawsitt (USMNT & MLR New York)*
Eric Howard (Canada NT & MLR New Orleans)
John Sullivan (MLR New Orleans)
Kyle Baillie (Canada NT & MLR New Orleans)*
Moni Tongauiha (MLR New Orleans)
Paddy Ryan (USA Men's National Team)
Riekert Hattingh (MLR – Seattle)*
Spencer Krueger (Ohio State, MLR New England)

Backs

Ben Cima (USANT MLR Seattle)
Bryce Campbell (USA Men's National Team)
Cristian Rodriguez (MLR Dallas Jackals)
JP Eloff – Flyhalf (USANT & MLR New Orleans)*
JP Smith – Scrumhalf (MLR Seattle)
Nick Feakes – (MLR New Orleans)
Shalom Suniula – Center (USA & MLR Seattle)
Shawn Riley – Wing (MLR New Orleans)*
Tiann Loots – Center (unattached)
Will Magie – Fly Half (USANT MLR Austin)

Ohio Aviators Staff

Taylor Howden – Head Coach*
Zack Stryffeler – Team Manager*
Tom Rooney – Director of Operations*

Kane Thompson - Assistant Coach
Richard Quincy – Medical Director
Mark McCullers – CEO*

***Former Ohio Aviator – PRO Rugby 2016 Team**

While the players and staff are currently in a bubble down in Bermuda, they will be available for Zoom or Skype calls on Saturday October 24th and Sunday October 25th between and after the matches.

Mark McCullers, Aviators CEO; “The Ohio Aviators brand is well respected in the rugby community and it’s very exciting to field a team in the inaugural World Tens Series. The Tens game is unique, innovative and fast-paced. With international star players and global television partners like ESPN and Sky Sports, we see tremendous potential for the Aviators in the World Tens Series in Bermuda and going forward in to the 2021 season”.

Spencer Krueger – New England Free Jacks Draftee; “While I was playing at Ohio State I had the opportunity to practice with and against some of the guys from the old Ohio Aviators team and I learned a lot during that time. And now a lot of the names you see playing on this team are household names in rugby and it’s exciting that I’m being asked to play at that level now. I’m excited to represent The Ohio State during this global competition.”

Tom Rooney, Director, Ohio Aviators Ownership Group; “We have been waiting for a competition to come along which would enable us to bring the Ohio Aviators brand back into mainstream sport in the USA, but also with a global reach. The World Tens Series is going to be such an exciting competition. The new law adaptations create such flexibility and ingenuity for the players and coaches – so are incredibly excited for Bermuda and already looking forward to the 2021 Season.”

The World Tens Series will step-up a gear in 2021 with expansion to 16 teams playing at 12 locations throughout the world. Each location will host the tournament for one week with the season set to run for four months ensuring that players perform to the best of their abilities and fans always have plenty of rugby entertainment to look forward to.

PRESS RELEASE

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