

“Siya Kolisi and Mzwandile Stick are both incredible men with stories that start in Port Elizabeth townships... These are not their stories. These stories belong to their neighbours, Siyanda Mangaliso and Solomzi ‘Solly’ Tyibilika.” – Aimée-Noël Mbiyozo [writing in the Mail & Guardian](#)

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## A Much Better PRO14 Weekend

The first PRO14 fixture involving a South African team this past weekend saw Southern Kings take on Connacht in Galway, Ireland. As has become customary for the Eastern Cape franchise, they scored all of their points in the first half to trail 19-12 at the break.

However, although the Irish opposition scored the bonus point try within three minutes of the restart, Kings held them scoreless after that. The [final score was a credible 24-12](#) but checking the [statistics reveals a match that was relatively even](#) everywhere except on the a scoreboard.

Despite the loss, three pleasing results came from the match: a solid second half defensive performance, no cards from indiscipline and the best we’ve seen of Stefan Ungerer for a long time.

Shortly after the final whistle in Galway, Cheetahs kicked off in Wales against the Ospreys. The visitors were the first to get on the scoreboard through William Small-Smith (at 13 instead of his customary position on the wing). But the home team fought back to lead 10-8 at the break.

The third quarter was a real tussle with neither team able to add to the score, although both missed a kickable penalty. It was eventually Cheetahs in the 67th minute who seized the advantage, scoring a try from an attacking lineout and maul in the Ospreys’ red zone.

[Final score was 13-18, giving Cheetahs the win](#) and leaving the Welsh team licking their wounds after losing to South African opposition in successive home PRO14 fixtures.

## HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series Returns



This weekend (it began yesterday, in fact) sees the return of the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series with the opening round of the 2019/2020 season in Dubai. And Blitzboks coach, Neil Powell, has taken [an experienced team to the UAE](#) to begin the assault on the title they held for two years but lost earlier this year to Fiji.

Siviwe Soyizwapi is leading the squad in his 29th tournament for the Blitzboks and will take the field along with Seabelo Senatla, Rosko Specman, Dylan Sage, Ruhan Nel, Ryan Oosthuizen, Chris Dry, Zain Davids, Selvyn Davids and Justin Geduld, among others.

The Blitzboks first match was yesterday against Kenya and they got off to an utterly pathetic start in a first half that was littered with schoolboy errors. Although they scored first, their lack of accuracy gifted Kenya two very easy tries and a half-time lead.

They bounced back almost immediately after the break to level the match at 12-all and then later took the lead back. The [final score was a far from convincing 17-12 win](#) for the Blitzboks. They’ll have to lift their game considerably to bag the Dubai title on Saturday. Today they play Spain (11:48) and England (17:54).