

“We kept on improving. Every match we got better and better and managed to do things the way we wanted to. We played the way we wanted to play.” – [Blitzboks captain, Siviwe Soyizwapi](#)

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Blitzboks Win Seventh Dubai Sevens Title

Going into last weekend’s opening round of the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series in Dubai, there had been twenty previous legs of the series played in the United Arab Emirates. South Africa and New Zealand had each won six titles with the other eight wins distributed among lesser nations.

But the Blitzboks got off to a shaky start against Kenya. They scored first out wide but then conceded two easy tries to the very physical East Africans to trail 5-12 at the break. But they found their mojo in the second half to win 17-12. That was followed by convincing wins against Spain (35-5) and England (19-14).

The Cup quarter-final against Argentina (who had knocked Fiji out of the Cup competition) was tough but solid (12-5) and the semifinal against Samoa was thoroughly convincing (38-7). Then it was time for the final, fittingly, against New Zealand. [The final scoreline says everything: 15-0.](#)

It was a fantastic result that makes the Blitzboks the most [successful team in the history of the Dubai tournament](#). And to cap a brilliant weekend, the SA Academy team, consisting of players that didn’t make the final for the Blitzboks team, won the International Invitational tournament in Dubai to underline the depth and quality of the SA Sevens programme.



A Tough Task Lies Ahead in Cape Town

One of the phrases often bandied about at sports tournaments is “the pool of death”, usually implying that a team is facing almost insurmountable obstacles to reach the next round. It’s been used in connection with the Blitzboks pool at the Cape Town Sevens but we’re not so sure.



[South Africa is in a pool with Fiji, Japan and USA.](#)

And yes, Fiji are always tough opponents in the sevens format and USA were last season’s runners up but they have yet to show that sort of form this year. Then again, it is early days so this could be the weekend that gets them up and running.

The pool matches begin today (Friday) with the hosts facing Japan a little after 8pm. Tomorrow, just about ten minutes before two in the afternoon, they will take on Fiji and they’ll close out the round against USA in the last match of the day (20:03).

Obviously, the knock rounds will be determined by those and other results but we would expect to see the Blitzboks making it through – probably alongside Fiji, who disappointed last weekend in Dubai.

Meanwhile, the [Springbok Ladies Sevens team – affectionately known as Imbokodo – will make their debut](#) on the HSBC Sevens Series in Cape Town, facing New Zealand first up.