

Cole signing a massive boost for Liverpool

By Rory Smith
Soccer

Liverpool has captured England international Joe Cole on a four-year, £90,000-a-week (\$A156,000) contract.

It has been welcomed by the club's senior players as a sign that the Anfield board is intent on equipping new manager Roy Hodgson with a squad capable of returning to the Champions League.

The former Chelsea player rejected a lucrative offer from West Ham, where he began his career, as well as overtures from Spurs and Arsenal.

The deal will tie him to Liverpool until 2014. He will be unveiled as Hodgson's first signing since replacing Rafael Benitez once his medical

TOP DOLLAR: Chelsea's Joe Cole has gone to Liverpool to earn \$156,000 a week.



is complete. The 28 year-old's arrival, confirmed in a short statement on Liverpool's official website

yesterday, has been greeted as a statement of intent by several of the club's most influential players. A

number of key figures at Anfield have made plain their desire to see tangible proof that Liverpool's hierarchy possesses the finance and ambition to avoid a repeat of the disappointments of last season.

Jamie Carragher and Fernando Torres have suggested as many as half a dozen top-class recruits may be required to compete with the Manchester United and Chelsea.

Though Torres and club captain Steven Gerrard have met Hodgson to hear his plans, both remain concerned the uncertainty over club owners, Tom Hicks and George Gillett, will have a long-term detrimental impact on the pitch. Both are considering their futures, though no decision is expected until the end of the month. **Telegraph, London**

Hands-on protest against ref

Soccer

Many footballers have thought about it, few have attempted it. But Paraguayan defender Jose Pedroso went that extra step when he tried to strangle the referee.

The incident, which has been posted on YouTube, occurred in a highly charged Chilean second division match between Pedroso's team the Rangers and their opponents Deportes Concepcion on Saturday. It took place just after the referee had ordered a penalty against Rangers to be retaken three times.

Pedroso was penalised for a violent challenge on an opponent that was enough to earn him his second yellow card and an early dismissal. But instead of walking back to the

dressing room for a lonely early bath, Pedroso saw a different kind of red, grabbing the referee Marcelo Miranda by the throat.

He was quickly separated from the man in black by his teammates before launching a second desperate attack on Miranda.

Finally he was escorted from the ground by the police.

A few minutes earlier, Miranda had upset the Rangers players by ordering a penalty to be retaken three times as they trailed 1-0.

The first attempt was successful but he ruled that players had encroached into the penalty box early.

The goalkeeper saved the second penalty but the referee insisted the Rangers shot-stopper was off his line.

For attempt number three, Concepcion switched its kicker and the shot was again saved.

This time, the referee again deemed players had encroached on the area before the spot kick had been taken.

Penalty number four was taken by the Colombian Hamilton Ricard who made no mistake, helping Concepcion to a 3-0 victory.

According to the local press, Pedroso has decided to quit Rangers and return to Paraguay.

Club president Elias Vistoso said Pedroso had left the club following the incident.

"We spoke with him and he has resigned," Vistoso said. "We know the [league] punishment awaiting him will not be small." **AFP**

Battered Boks will spark up: Faingaa

By Peter Fitzgerald
Rugby union

Consecutive losses to start their Tri Nations campaign will only serve as a motivator to the Springboks, Wallabies hooker Saia Faingaa says. Queenbeyan product Faingaa yesterday beat ACT Brumbies rake Stephen Moore to the No 2 jersey for Saturday night's Test against South Africa at Suncorp Stadium.

Moore will start on the bench in what is his return Test after a broken jaw suffered while playing for the Brumbies against the Canterbury Crusaders in May.

Wallabies coach Robbie Deans recalled three players from injury to the starting team from the one that beat Ireland 22-15 in the Wallabies' most recent outing last month.

Prop Benn Robinson (broken arm), lock Nathan Sharpe (back strain) and scrumhalf Will Genia (fractured hand) will all start against the Springboks in the Wallabies' opening Tri Nations hit-out.

In other changes Adam Ashley-Cooper returns to fullback, switching positions with James O'Connor who will start on a wing.

The Wallabies face a Springboks team trying to defend its Tri Nations crown but which has lost its first two Tests to the All Blacks the past two weekends.

While some believe the South Africans' poor start is a sign they are not the team they once were, Faingaa fears it is merely a hiccup and that they can return to their best in Brisbane. "Those two Tests have been fast and physical and while we're expecting the same this weekend, the Boks have had a couple of games of it now and we haven't," Faingaa said.

"They've had that chance to work on their combinations, they've got two weeks on us there and they're such a mobile yet hard-hitting side. "We know that when they're on their game, they are an unbelievable team but we also know what we can do and we're confident we can beat them in Brisbane."

The Wallabies have a solid record at Suncorp, having won 14 of 17 Tests there in the professional era.

They also have a 5-0 record at the venue over the Springboks.

Saturday's Test will double as a Tri-Nations debut for four of Australia's starting XV - Faingaa, Brumbies prop Salesi Ma'afu, Rob

TRI NATIONS

AUSTRALIA V SOUTH AFRICA
Saturday at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, 8pm
TV Time: Live on Prime and Fox Sports 3

AUSTRALIA	SOUTH AFRICA
Adam Ashley Cooper	Zane Kirchner
James O'Connor	Gio Aplon
Rob Horne	Jaque Fourie
Matt Giteau	Wynand Oliver
Drew Mitchell	Bryan Habana
Quade Cooper	Morne Steyn
Will Genia	Ruan Pienaar
Richard Brown	Pierre Spies
David Pocock	Ryan Kankowski
Rocky Elsom (c)	Schalk Burger
Nathan Sharpe	Victor Matfield
Dean Mumm	Danie Rossouw
Salesi Ma'afu	BJ Botha
Saia Faingaa	John Smit (c)
Benn Robinson	Gurthro Steenkamp
Reserves:	Reserves:
Stephen Moore	Chiliboy Ralepelle
James Slipper	CJ van der Linde
Rob Simmons	Flip van der Merwe
Matt Hodgson	Dewald Potgieter
Luke Burgess	Francois Hougaard
Berrick Barnes	Butch James
Kurtley Beale	Juan de Jongh

Home and Quade Cooper. Reserves Kurtley Beale, Matt Hodgson, Rob Simmons and James Slipper will also get their first of Tri Nations rugby should Deans call on them.

The Wallabies' scrum had mixed success during four June Tests but Faingaa believed the return of loosehead Robinson would prove a timely boost.

"He was unbelievable during the Super 14 and the timing of his injury was so unfortunate," Faingaa said.

"To have his physicality back and his experience back, it's amazing for someone like me and amazing for the team."

Deans played the underdog card yesterday, claiming the Springboks' standing as officially the second best team in the world would add to his team's challenge.

"We've obviously been able to have a good look at both South Africa and New Zealand through their matches over the last two weekends," he said.

"The imagery from those games has left our players in no doubt as to the magnitude of the task ahead."

Tour de force gives Australia-US alliance a kick along



FRIENDSHIPS: Emerging Australian Services Rugby Union winger Daryl Seden is tackled by United States Combined Services players Ben Lietogaga and Jason Towns during yesterday's match. Photo: LANNON HARLEY

By Dean Benson

Emerging Australian Services Rugby Union winger Daryl Seden said he has "made friends for life" as the United States Combined Services side concluded its four-match tour yesterday.

Seden, who turns 19 on Saturday, was speaking after the Australian side's 27-8 win over USCS at Portsea Oval, Duntroon.

The teenager from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait scored the decisive try for ASRU as it completed

its second win over the Americans in four days, despite having a man sent off in the first half.

Seden serves in the Royal Australian Navy out of a base in Darwin and he joked that he almost missed out on the tour altogether.

"I've been out to sea a few times now and they had to turn the boat around for me, apparently, to drop me back from Darwin so I could come down here," he said.

The strong and speedy winger also said the ASRU set up was a great way for people from all sections of the

defence force to come together and meet new people.

"We definitely enjoy this. This is my first time and just to meet all the boys like from the army and air force is all good," he said.

"Most of them I played against at the Australian services rugby championships and we all had stabs at each other, but we've all come together now."

Meanwhile, the USCS team revealed it has a golden connection with Australia in its ranks.

August "Augy" Manelick, of the US

Army, attended Bond University on the Gold Coast after he graduated early from high school in America.

Being half Australian, rugby was already in his blood and Manelick was only too happy to follow in his father's footsteps.

"My dad grew up playing it [rugby], so I decided to pick it up and it was something fun and something different to [American] football."

Manelick, now 25, recently returned from active service in Iraq and was sidelined for yesterday's match after breaking his wrist and

tearing his bicep against the Australians last Saturday.

Despite his misfortune, the man from Pennsylvania was full of praise for the tour.

"We've been here 18 days and it's been a fantastic tour," he said.

"The ASRU team has been very respectable hosts and it's been an all-round positive experience."

"Being able to do a tour like this makes doing any hardship away from your family worth it because you get to represent your country with pride."

Deans dumps dual goal-kick role: 'Gits' sole man for the job

By Jim Morton

Wallabies coach Robbie Deans has shelved his controversial two-prong goal-kicking experiment by handing sole duties back to Matt Giteau.

Deans' "left-field" solution to Giteau's uncharacteristic kicking yips was far from successful in Australia's last Test against Ireland when neither the incumbent nor Quade Cooper kicked well. Giteau missed an early 32m

attempt from in front before slotting two easy second-half shots in the scrappy 22-15 win while Cooper, kicking predominantly from the left side, ended with two from five.

The experiment stemmed from left-footer Giteau's late miss from in front in the upset 21-20 loss to England in Sydney, three Tests after he also failed with what would have been match-winning conversion against Scotland at Murrayfield in November.

But Deans had no hesitation giving the 80-Test inside-centre full responsibility against South Africa after he regained confidence and rhythm in training after working with his personal kicking coach Ben Perkins.

"Practice counts for a lot and he's kicking well," Deans said yesterday.

"He's the incumbent kicker and has been that for a long time. He obviously missed a couple he'd rather have got but he's not alone in that."

Giteau, who also retained his No 12 jersey for Saturday's Tri-Nations clash after speculation his position was at risk, was happy to have sole rights to the key role.

"I love goal-kicking," he said. "It's been good. I feel like I've been hitting the ball quite cleanly at training so far, but training counts for nothing. So this weekend, hopefully, I'll be kicking well."

For once Giteau will not be the smallest man on the field for a

Mandela Trophy match with the highly physical Springboks calling up 70kg winger Gio Aplon to replace the suspended Jean de Villiers.

Aplon, who will mark the 95kg Jharal Yow Yeh, is 30kg lighter than de Villiers but Giteau doesn't see it as an advantage to the Wallabies.

"I'd love to say yes, but no, he's got great feet and is deceptively strong," he said. "You only have to look at the Super 14 for the form he had there [with the Stormers]." **AAP**

NRL TEAMS

ROUND 20

RAIDERS v SHARKS	DRAGONS v TITANS	BULLDOGS v EELS	STORM v PANTHERS	COWBOYS v KNIGHTS	RABBITOHS v WARRIORS	SEA EAGLES v TIGERS	BRONCOS v ROOSTERS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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INTERCHANGE: Raiders: Sam Mataora, Trevor Thurling, Tom Learyoy-Lahrs, Scott Logan, Danny Galea (one to omitted). Sharks: Josh Cordoba, Broderick Wright, Paul Aiton, Taulima Tautai.	INTERCHANGE: Dragons: Trent Merrin, Jeremy Smith, Nick Enmett, Jarrod Saffy, Ricky Thorby, Mark Gasnier (two to be omitted). Titans: Matthew White, Brad Meyers, Ben Ridge, Luke O'Dwyer, Shannon Walker (one to omitted).	INTERCHANGE: Bulldogs: Michael Paea, Michael Hodgson, Gary Warburton, Blake Gurt, Mark Gasnier (two to be omitted). Eels: Kris Keating, Tim Mannah, Justin Horo, Justin Poore, Jonathon Wright (one to omitted).	INTERCHANGE: Storm: Ryan Hinchcliffe, Todd Lowrie, Aiden Tolman, Jeff Lima, Dane Nielsen (one to be omitted). Panthers: Travis Burns, Matthew Bell, Gavin Cooper, Sam McKendry, Masada Iosefa (one to omitted).	INTERCHANGE: Cowboys: Anthony Watts, Dane Hogan, Carl Webb, James Tamou, Ben Harris (one to omitted). Knights: Wes Naigama, Con Mika, Richie Fa'oso, Antonio Kaufusi, Mark Taufua (one to omitted).	INTERCHANGE: Rabbitohs: Carret Crossman, Eddy Pettybourne, Dave Tyrrell, Jason Clark. Warriors: Ian Henderson, Ben Matulino, Jeremy Latimore, Ukuma Ta'Ai, Jacob Lillyman (one to be omitted).	INTERCHANGE: Sea Eagles: Joe Galuvao, Brent Kite, George Rose, Chris Bailey, Matt Cross (one to omitted). Tigers: John Skandalis, Mark Flanagan, Simon Dwyer, Daniel Fitzhenry.	INTERCHANGE: Broncos: Ben Hunt, Matt Gillett, Mitchell Dodds, Josh McGuire. Roosters: Mose Masoe, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Daniel Conn, Nick Kouparitsas.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								