

# YOUNG POST

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### Giant shirt brings rugby to schools



Students from Hong Kong schools and local celebrities Katy Kung Ka-yan, Kenneth Ma and Selena Li Sze-wan signed the giant rugby shirt. Photos: Edward Wong, Nora Tam, Chris Lau

Hong Kong students are supporting this month's Sevens competition by signing a huge rugby shirt, writes **Chris Lau**

Students are adding autographs and messages of support to the shirt as it tours schools

**T**he annual three-day rugby extravaganza - the Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens - is only two weeks away.

This year's event features 28 teams from around the world - the biggest field in the event's 38-year history.

Last year Fiji beat New Zealand 35-28 in a thrilling Cup final.

This year's tournament, at Hong Kong Stadium, from March 22 to 24, features two competitions - a 12-team pre-qualifier tournament, and the 16-team main event featuring Hong Kong, last year's HSBC Asian Sevens Series champions, and the 15 core teams in the HSBC Sevens World Series, including New Zealand, Australia and England.

Students are supporting Hong Kong this year with the help of a huge Hong Kong team rugby shirt; they are adding autographs and messages of support to the jersey as it tours schools, sports grounds and

mini festivals in Hong Kong. At the Sevens weekend, the giant shirt will appear in the stadium during all Hong Kong team games as a banner in support for the local team.

The shirt-signing tour began on January 31 at King's Park, attended by members of the Hong Kong rugby team, university students and local television stars.

Actor Kenneth Ma Kwok-ming enjoyed picking up rugby tips from professional players.

"I learned the game is all about teamwork, courage, integrity, fairness, respect and sportsmanship," he said. "I hope more people can develop these positive values by playing rugby."

The gigantic jersey was taken to 10 schools. First it toured SKH Holy Trinity Church Secondary School, Holy Family Canossian School, Choi Hung Estate Catholic Secondary School and Good Hope School. Signatures and messages, such as "Go Hong Kong!", were written on

the shirt, before students huddled together to chant support. Good Hope School's rugby team yelled: "S - supernatural, P - phenomenal, I - incredible, R - remarkable, I - invincible, T - terrific, Hong Kong, let's do it!"

Later on, the enormous shirt was taken to Assembly of God Hebron Secondary School, HK & Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association Sun Fong Chung College, HKBU Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School, PLK Fong Wong Kam Chuen Primary School, PLK Women's Welfare Club Western District Fung Lee Pui Yiu Primary School and PLK HKTA Yuen Yuen Primary School.

Going with the shirt on its tour were two cute mascots - Bill, the mascot of the British and Irish Lions, and Wai Bei, the red dragon mascot of the Hong Kong Rugby Team. For more about the shirt-signing tour and meeting the mascots, read *Young Post* on March 21.