



BLUES RUGBY ANNOUNCES HOME VENUES

Ontario Blues, the provinces' high-performance rugby team, have announced home venues and times for their first two games of 2010, and both have gone to clubs with a reputation for success in professional rugby hosting.

The Blues, who play in the Canadian Rugby Championship division with the BC Bears, Atlantic Rock and Prairie Wolfpack, will host pre-season games in Burlington on Saturday, May 15 against the British Police; and in Oakville on Tuesday, June 8 against England Counties.

Head Coach Les Gilson said "We are happy to be bringing our program to such deserving communities, as it is their clubs who have, amongst others, supported us so well as we build the Blues."

The game in Burlington will be played at Sherwood Forest Park, Fairview Rd east of Appleby Line, kicking off at 5 pm against the UK Police. The visitors are on a three game tour of Eastern Canada and will feature a large, fit side that most recently just lost to British Army by 22-18.

The Blues are expected to have most of their domestic players available for this game, and as Gilson points out "there are no easy games at this level, and we expect a huge challenge from BP, especially this early in our season." Ticket information will be available on www.burlingtoncentaurs.com. soon

On June 8, Blues will host England Counties, who are essentially England's third national side, and who have had much success touring Canada. The game, to be played at Oakville RFC (9th Line just south of Dundas St W), will kick off at 7 pm.

Counties were in Canada two years ago and beat Canada Selects by 29-6 in Chatham, Ontario; and also here in 2004, defeating Canada Selects 33-14 in Edmonton. The England side is made up of players playing below the Guinness Premiership level and traditionally supply players to the England side on a regular basis.

Having coached Canada Selects against Counties in 2004, Blues team manager Mark Winokur is under no illusion about the quality of the opposition "Counties are traditionally a well-drilled and highly motivated side and this should be no exception. These guys will be keen to prove they belong in a full England shirt, but they will provide a great measuring stick to show us where we rank against sides like this." England Counties will also play Atlantic Rock in St John's on June 4 and BC Bears in Vancouver on June 12.



The Blues v England Counties game ticket information is available at www.oakvillecrusaders.com

Ontario Blues will also be hosting Midwest USA Thunderbirds in July, and BC Bears in September, with details on these games to be announced later this spring.

For information on hosting Blues games, please contact rugbyontario@osrc.com