

It was the best of times, it was the wettest of times...

It rained a bit yesterday evening...and Noah's Ark was just a kayak. As the first players took to the field from Pool A, there was no denying the ominous black clouds in the distance. A light drizzle like a fine mist accompanied the first two and a half hours, but at about six o'clock the weather decided to stop being coy and the proverbial heavens opened. Spectators rushed into the covered section of the stands and a brisk wind picked out the wheat umbrellas from the chaff. Did play stop even when the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse readied themselves to ride? Absolutely not! The stalwart teams marched onto the pitch and kept going, wet balls and all. Some of the tries scored resembled a slide into home base thanks to the slick ground, but the level and quality of the games was not dampened – neither was the spirit of the supporters. Commentator “Griz” Adams kept up a remarkable patter through the night from his air-conditioned, bone dry box at the top of the stands with only a few dubious player identifications. Friends put it down to the fact that heavy rain impaired his vision, whilst others questioned if old Griz really is as sharp as he should be these days... A rip-roaring selection of music punctuated the evening with everything from “Hells Bells” to an ABBA medley remix and the crowd gamely sang along with some members proving once and for all that white men truly can't dance. Mark Stabler, organizer, was well impressed with the attendance for the first night, especially considering the weather conditions. Bikinis and shorts had been suggested as attire, but even those sporting long sleeved tops were finding it a bit nippy out. A cold head is the only excuse we can think of for Cayman Rugby Club President Derek Haines' choice of hat at the end of the evening.

Team Samurai were true to form, allowing only Nova to score a try against them and are obviously in an excellent position going into today's games. Fiji Barbarians also erased the word “cliffhanger” from their dictionaries, easily winning the top slot in their Pool B. Susies Exiles were in a clean sweep going into the third and final set of games for the night, but Marauders, with the memory of their last meeting still fresh in their minds, were clearly not going to lie down and take it. Coming into the final moments it looked as though Marauders had the win, but Susies lads pulled a try out of their hats and with the added conversion, snatched victory from the jaws of defeat with a 14-12 final score.

Cayman Presidents were hailed by an appreciative crowd through their matches, with feet stomping in the stands and roars of support. They scored a try against the strong Fiji Barbarians side, tied with the impressive Royal Navy side and beat Jamaica with the highest score the Cayman team has ever recorded since the Deloitte Cayman Sevens began.

Despite the fact that the results at the end of the night were not completely unexpected, it will be interesting to see how the second and final day of the tournament pans out. The weather conditions, without wishing to tempt fate, appear to be improving and team members interviewed after last night admitted that the rain added an element of unwelcome difficulty. If all tonight are on a level playing field – literally – the scales may tip unexpectedly. Who will take home the Plate and who will take home the Cup? Keep up-to-date on www.cisevens.com, enjoy the Deloitte Cayman Sevens Tournament

as we are here, and for those who stood in the shower last night a la Rocky Horror Picture Show to really experience the element of being here, we salute you!