

Wednesday October 3rd 2007

LOS PUMAS' "LABORATORY"

Loffreda manages a team which task consists in studying opponents' strengths and weaknesses.



Coach Marcelo Loffreda counts on a group of collaborators with whom he works efficiently and professionally.

PARIS – It is not a coincidence that Los Pumas are achieving a successful path in the Rugby World Cup; there are motives and reasons. Certainly the players are high-level players but they do not do much more than expressing on the pitch a scenario and a work plan elaborated by the technical staff working in a responsible, reliable and professional way. The picture shown above is the one of the coach Marcelo Loffreda who leads a team of collaborators and specialists for every area. Thus Daniel Baetti, Mario Barandiaran, the former Puma Diego Cash, the English advisor Les Cusworth (former English Rugby Rose's technical staff) and the video analyst Nicolas Basdedios Molina, in addition to physical trainers, doctors and physiotherapists.

Each of them is responsible of a specific task. For instance, Cash is in charge of the scrum, and Baetti and Barandiaran, of the backs' movements. Cusworth and Basdedios study the strengths and weaknesses of each of Los Pumas' players, as well as all the opponent players, which are accurately analyzed.

For instance, the game against Scotland is coming and everything is already planned. They all agree on one particular aspect: “there mustn’t be any infringement because they have got a great full-back”. It is Chris Paterson, scorer of 41 points and a 100% success for his goal kicking, according to paper “Olé”.

According to Loffreda, Scotland benefits from a lot of strengths: “It has an important game continuity thanks to individual skills. And forwards are fast and very strong. Before, it was not like this. They based the game on a dynamic and rapid style” he said. Then he emphasized 2 other aspects: “They put their attacking platform together in the line-out. We have to be careful with the strategy we are going to use. And we can not make any mistake or we will be harmed by the infallible full-back.”

These are aspects that will have to be looked after on Sunday. Even if the strategy is not conceived yet, they already made the analysis and know how to play. Loffreda points out that the scrum can be a key element: “It is a point which we can base the game on. I don’t think theirs is weak, but I think we can get an advantage from it”. Until now, in the group’s 4 games, Los Pumas also prevailed on the game without the ball and on tactics. This is what we call the Puma’s laboratory; from which ideas, tactics and strategy proceed. The team keeps going in the World Cup, supported by a lot of work.

The age Loffreda

Date	Results	Venue
VS. Wales		
Games 5	Argentina won 4 – Wales won 1	
10/11/01	Wales 16, Argentina 30	Cardiff
12/06/04	Argentina 50, Wales 44	Bs. Aires
19/06/04	Argentina 20, Wales 35	Bs. Aires
11/06/06	Argentina 27, Wales 25	Chubut
17/06/06	Argentina 45, Wales 27	Bs. Aires
11/08/07	Wales 27, Argentina 20	Cardiff
VS. South Africa		
Games 5	Argentina won 0 – South Africa won 5	
12/11/00	Argentina 33, SA 37	Bs. Aires
18/06/02	SA 49, Argentina 29	Springs
28/06/03	SA 26, Argentina 25	P. Elizabeth
04/12/04	Argentina 7, SA 39	Bs. Aires
5/11/05	Argentina 23, SA 34	Bs. Aires

VS. France

Games 6 – Argentina won 5 – France won 1

15/06/02	Argentina 28, France 27	Bs. Aires
14/06/03	Argentina 10, France 6	Bs. Aires
20/06/03	Argentina 33, France 32	Bs. Aires
20/11/04	France 14, Argentina 24	Marseille
25/11/06	France 27, Argentina 26	Paris
07/09/07	France 12, Argentina 17	Paris RWC

VS. Australia

Games 4 – Argentina won 0 – Australia won 4

17/06/00	Australia 53, Argentina 6	Brisbane
24/06/00	Australia 32, Argentina 25	Canberra
02/11/02	Argentina 06, Australia 17	Bs. Aires
10/10/03	Australia 24, Argentina 08	Sydney RWC

VS. Scotland

Games 2 – Argentina won 2 – Scotland won 0

18/11/01	Scotland 16, Argentina 25	Edinburgh
12/11/05	Scotland 19, Argentina 23	Edinburgh

VS. England

Games 3 – Argentina won 1 – England won 2

25/11/00	England 19, Argentina 0	London
22/06/02	England 26, Argentina 18	London
11/11/06	England 18, Argentina 25	London

VS. Ireland

games 7 – Argentina won 4 – Ireland won 3

03/06/00	Argentina 34, Ireland 23	Bs. Aires
23/11/02	Ireland 16, Argentina 7	Bs. Aires
26/10/03	Argentina 15, Ireland 16	Adelaide RWC
27/11/04	Argentina 19, Ireland 21	Dublin
26/05/07	Argentina 22, Ireland 20	Santa Fe
02/06/07	Argentina 16, Ireland 0	Bs. Aires
30/09/07	Argentina 30, Ireland 15	Paris, RWC

VS. Italy

Games 6 – Argentina won 5 – Italy won 1

14/07/01	Argentina 38, Italy 17	Bs. Aires
16/11/02	Italy 6, Argentina 36	Roma

11/06/05	Argentina 35, Italy 21	Salta
17/06/05	Argentina 29, Italy 30	Cordoba
19/11/05	Italy 22, Argentina 39	Geneva
18/11/06	Italy 16, Argentina 23	Roma
09/06/07	Argentina 24, Italy 6	Mendoza

VS. New Zealand

Games 4 – Argentina won 0 – New Zealand won 4

27/12/01	Argentina 20, N. Zealand 24	Bs. Aires
23/06/01	N. Zealand 67, Argentina 19	C'tchurch
26/6/04	N. Zealand 41, Argentina 7	Hamilton
24/6/06	Argentina 19, N. Zealand 25	Bs. Aires

VS. Samoa

03/12/05	Argentina 12, W. Samoa 28	Bs. Aires
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VS. Fiji

18/08/03	Argentina 49, Fiji 30	Cordoba
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VS. Japan

23/04/05	Argentina 68, Japan 36	Bs. Aires
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VS. British Lions

23/05/2005	B. Lions 25, Argentina 25	Cardiff
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VS. Canada

26/05/01	Argentina 20, Canada 6	Ontario
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VS. United States

23 /05/01	Argentina 44, United States 16	Ontario
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VS. Uruguay

19/05/01	Argentina 32, Uruguay 27	Ontario
28/04/02	Argentina 35, Uruguay 21	Bs. Aires
06/05/03	Argentina 32, Uruguay 0	Montevideo
08/07/06	Argentina 26, Uruguay 0	Montevideo

VS. Others

25/08/07	Belgium XV 8, Argentina 36	Brussels
03/03/07	B'rians Fran. 14, Argentina 28	Biarritz (Special)