

SEOUL SISTERS VS. JAPAN

TATSUMINO MORI RUGBY GROUND
TOKYO, JAPAN

BY BEN MIIN

June 28, 2009 was a historic day for women's rugby in Korea as the Seoul Sisters made a trip to Japan to be the first foreign women's team to play there. Squaring off against a Japan side composed of university and a few national team players, the Seoul Sisters were relaxed, loose and confident heading into the match.

The early going looked rough for the Seoul Sisters as the Japanese were able to score two quick tries within the first 10 minutes. But the Sisters stepped up their game, using their physical advantage to push a ruck through for their first try and a quick pass from Terri Huffman to Lola Jemibewon down the touchline for their second. With the score nearly level at 12-10 Japan, the game looked like it would be a closely battled affair. Unfortunately this was not the case for the Sisters.

As the game continued, it became obvious that Japan's roster depth and technical skill would compensate for the Seoul Sisters' size advantage. The Sisters missed too many tackles in the open-field and the Japanese side fielded a fresh 15 to start the second half. Despite the final score being 44-10, the Sisters never gave up, enjoyed themselves, and continued to hit hard, even breaking out into a spontaneous song midway through the second half. Unfortunately, time ran out as the Sisters were close to scoring their third try. "It is our first time in Japan, but Japan and Korea are so close to each other, it is important for both sides to maintain a strong relationship," said Seoul Sisters President Amanda Joyce, after the match. Expect this relationship to grow with a Japanese visit to Seoul in the near future.

