



Bula Vinaka Netball America and all participants of the 2011USA National Netball Championships

As a Fijian, international athlete, rugby ambassador, coach, community builder and father, I want to congratulate you all on taking time away from your family and friends to participate in such an elite sporting championship.

I recently attended Netball America's Night with the Los Angeles Sparks and was so proud to see my two daughters representing the USA West Coast Representative Team. What an achievement to have netball being played in such a prestigious location as STAPLES Center and to have netball in the USA seen by a crowd of thousands.

I can certainly empathize with you about the challenges that lay ahead to grow an unknown sport in an already crowded American sporting arena. However from what I've seen, Netball America is on the right path. The key will be to support the growth of the game amongst the youth. I encourage you all to consider the role you can play to assist in this growth. It's about having a greater purpose, and thinking beyond yourself, so, in drawing from my culture and rugby experiences I want to leave you with one last thought:

"It is this sense of interdependence, of individuals – bonded together – that makes it possible to perform in an intuitive and create manner. It starts in the morning, when the team wakes up. I prepare tea and breakfast for all of the players. We take a moment to pray or meditate together, we eat together, we even leave our hotel rooms together in one group – we sit together, we warm up together – we have formed a community, a family that is connected long before we reach the field. Our hearts are then ready to play, which carries us when our feet don't know the way."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Waisale Serevi', with the date 'FRI 4:15' and a dash below it.

Waisale Serevi

### **About Waisale Serevi**

Known the world round as The King of Sevens, Waisale Serevi hardly needs introduction! His blend of power, speed and spatial awareness lifted him from humble roots to the fore of Fijian rugby over a career that spanned two decades.

Since making his 1989 debut in the Hong Kong 7's, Serevi has captivated the world with his skills, balance and staggering pace. His creative flair and power led Serevi's Fiji squad to unprecedented success, including Serevi's seven Rugby World Cup appearances and two Rugby World Cup 7's Championships. Serevi was one of the few players to play both fifteens and sevens formats, the former taking him to play for clubs in England, France and Japan.

As a global ambassador for the game, Serevi has served as player, captain and coach on five continents. He was instrumental in working with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to return rugby to the Olympic Games. And in Copenhagen, on October 7, 2009, the IOC voted to include Rugby 7's in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

For more about Waisale Serevi visit [www.serevirugby.com](http://www.serevirugby.com)