



**Media Release**

**2 September 2010**

## **FOUR BAY OF PLENTY TEAMS GET SERIOUS ABOUT THIS SATURDAYS NORTHERN REGION GAMES**

The Bay of Plenty Development and Age Group team Northern Region competition starts in earnest this Saturday (4 August 2010) with all four sides in action in championship games.

Development team management are confident of a good performance from the Bay second fifteen, when they make the long journey to Whangarei, to play Northland. A narrow loss to Waikato and four tries against North Harbour, suggest that the Developments teams first win of the championship could come against Northland.

With players such as Wayne Hughson and Aaron Rameka, who have previously pulled on the Steamers jersey in combat, the Development team has plenty of hard nosed experience in their ranks.

The Bay of Plenty Under 20 side will also meet their Northland counterparts – however in order to reduce the travel involved for both sides, the match will be played in Auckland. The Under 20's showed their potential against North Harbour last week, leading 14 nil before going down 30-21.

A winning performance was put together by the Bay of Plenty Under 18 representatives, when they played Hawkes Bay in a warm-up encounter in Taupo, last Sunday. A try apiece to Gareth Burton, James Wilbore, Te Ohu Hohepa-Balzer, Mike Shaw and nine points kicked by Jordan Ngamata-Poi gave the side a 29-22 victory.

On Saturday the Under 18's start their Northern Region campaign at home, when they meet Auckland B at Blake Park in Mount Maunganui.

Another Bay of Plenty side to make their Northern Region competition entrance this weekend, is the Bay Under 16 team. Last weekend a heartbreaking two point loss was the result of their hitout with Hawkes Bay. A short journey to Paeroa will see the Bay of Plenty side face Thames Valley this week.

**BOPRU Representative Draws 4 September 2010**

**BOP Development v Northland, Whangarei**

**BOP Under 20 v Northland, Pakuranga – 2.30pm**

**BOP Under 18 v Auckland B, Blake Park Mount Maunganui – 12.30pm**

**BOP Under 16 v Thames Valley, Paeroa – 12.30pm**

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