

David Campese with Peter Bills, *On a Wing and a Prayer, The Autobiography of David Campese.* Macdonald Queen Anne Press, London, 1991. Illus., pp. 175. \$29.95.

Ian Williams, *In Touch: Rugby, Life Worth Living.* The Kingswood Press, London, 1991. Illus., pp. 213. \$34.95.

Rugby Union literature in Australia traditionally has been scarce. The release of the two titles listed above, before the 1991 Rugby Union World Cup is indicative of the recent upsurge in interest during the last five years in this field. This was most in evidence in the release of Simon Poidevin's *For Love Not Money* into a second edition early in 1990, which is unheard of in Australia for a Rugby Union publication. Australia's recent success in the 1991 World Cup should only increase the likelihood of the growth and expansion of the game. With television rights going to a commercial station for the 1992 season, there has been a further change in direction for the game in this country.

David Campese, before the 1991 World Cup, had a very high profile in the game. He has now reached superstar status with his performances in the World Cup, particularly in Europe. Like his play, he is constantly on the attack in this book with his criticism of various officials, players, sponsors, the media and the style of coaching under Bob Dwyer and former Wallaby coach, Alan Jones. However, despite

making these criticisms, he has interesting comments to make about the state of the game in Europe, particularly Italy where he has spent many off-seasons playing, and also of New Zealand. However, his last chapter entitled 'A Dying Sport' is an unusual comment to make about the state of the game in this country given his standing in the game. With Australia's recent success and the scope for future development of the code, I believe he will be proved wrong.

Ian Williams, coincidentally like David Campese, has also played for Australia as a winger, representing his country with distinction on seventeen occasions during the late 1980s and 1990s. Unfortunately he was left out of the 1991 World Cup squad and his playing future remains uncertain. At the time of writing, it was reported that he was going to try to re-establish his career in Japan. There are several chapters that look at different aspects of his career - his time spent with Australian schoolboys sides, his experiences at Oxford, where he achieved a unique feat of gaining a blue at Rugby Union, Rugby League and athletics, professionalism in Rugby Union and his experiences in the controversial series against the 1989 British Lions are also dealt with. However, the chapters which engendered the most interest were those in which Williams dealt with his involvement in, participation in and organisation of World XV tours to South Africa and the time he has spent playing and working in Japan. His dealings with South Africa are of note, as he looks behind the scenes at the proposed 1988 World XV tour of South Africa which did not take place and the 1989 trip which did. There was significant pressure placed on Australian players not to go, on both occasions, by various organisations within Australia. His insights into the playing and administering of the game in Japan are a highlight, based on the company structure of the game there. With so little information on Japanese Rugby Union available, these insights are both informative and interesting.

While these books are very different, they both offer a great deal to the Rugby enthusiast or those who are interested in a sport that is trying

to keep in step with a rapidly changing society in which the game is being played. They add to the growing list of Rugby Union literature in this country. Whilst one may not always agree with what they advocate, they are both recommended for those wanting an insight into Rugby Union in Australia and on the world stage as seen through the eyes of two of Australia's leading internationals of the 1980s and early 1990s.

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