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7S SELECTION

New playmaker for Wellington



The dancer ... unpredictable Peni Gaunimeke is the man to watch in Wellington. Picture: JONE LUVENTOGA

Red hot rock

By RODNEY DUTHIE

PENI Gaunimeke ended a dream week by being named in the Digicel Fiji 7s team yesterday.

And he's ready to rock the Westpac Stadium in Wellington, New Zealand, next weekend.

The 22-year-old from Waiqanake, in Lami, on the outskirts of Suva, is one of five newcomers in the 12-member Fiji team that will participate in the HSBC Sevens World Series second leg in Wellington and Las Vegas.

Joining Gaunimeke are Semesa Gonevou, Nemani Nagusa, Kelemedi Bola and Apisai Navuoro.

"I'm going to show New Zealand rugby that Fiji has the sevens talent to rule the world," Gaunimeke said after being asked if he was ready for the Wellington crowd.

Gaunimeke burst from relative obscurity into the sevens spotlight last weekend when he led Red Rock to the Uprising International 7s title.

He said being named in the Iliesa

Tanivula-coached side was a dream come true.

"I want to thank the selectors for choosing me to be part of the squad. I'm very happy with the decision of the Fiji Rugby Union to include me in the team," Gaunimeke said.

"When I was playing at the Uprising 7s, I had a dream that I would be selected in the Fiji team and that dream has come true.

"So now I'll try to do my best in Wellington and Las Vegas. I am ready to fight for the team and my country."

Digicel Fiji 7s team coach Iliesa Tanivula believes Gaunimeke has all the attributes to become Fiji's next sevens sensation.

"I'm thrilled to be able to introduce Peni Gaunimeke on to the world stage and I'm very excited about what he has to offer the team," Tanivula said.

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PLUS WHAT THE FANS SAY

