

WHO WINS THE RUGBY WORLD CUP – EXAMINING THE DETERMINANTS OF SUCCESS

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This paper examines the determinants of success at the Rugby World Cup. Borrowing from similar studies that examine success in other mega sporting events, a model of success is developed that includes key economic determinants, and several questions are examined with extensions of the basic model. To what extent are economic factors determinants of success in rugby? Is there a host country effect? Do past performances matter? Do coaches of New Zealand origin improve the fortunes of the non-native national teams that they helm? The model is estimated using a panel of 25 countries that have competed at some (or all) of the seven tournaments contested to date between 1987 and 2011. The paper concludes with out-of-sample estimates of performance in the 2015 tournament.