



The Rugger

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“...like a sorority, but you get to hit people.”

Shut the F&*# up

From the woman who started it all...

By Nancy Purdin

Long, long ago, when dinosaurs roamed the earth, there was no women's rugby in Tucson. I moved here in 1985, having played hooker in Little Rock for 8 years. After a couple of years, I started MVP Travel with 3 rugby partners. We originally opened our doors as a rugby tour company. In those days, we held a very large rugby tournament in Tucson every fall. As a member of the tournament committee, I always felt as if we were hosting a huge party for all our rugby friends. At the tournament in the fall of 1989, a woman named Vicki Renfro walked up to the tee shirt booth where I was selling tee shirts. She had played rugby in college in Kansas and was interested in playing again. She asked if I would help her get a team started, and I said, basically, thanks, but no thanks. My plate was quite full trying to run my travel company. But Vicki persevered and we started holding practices. Our recruits were mainly the wives and girlfriends of the men's teams and we started recruiting on campus. We only had about 4 members who had ever played before.

We eventually arranged for our first match against UCLA, which was to be held in the spring of 1990. Since there were no other teams in Arizona, New Mexico or Nevada at that time, we realized we had to get some match practice before that first game. UCLA in those days was not a collegiate team. They were a mixture of alum with some college, but mostly they were experienced and older women. So to get some match practice, we arranged to have the guys fill in into certain positions and we held a scrum. We borrowed the Pima County jerseys (a lovely forest green with a big "P" on them) and held our scrum. Looking back, it was hilarious. The guys were not allowed to tackle us, but we could tackle them...if we could. Some of the guys even went barefoot. And there were lots of jokes about hookers and second rows and putting your hand where? It was a lot of fun. So we were off to LA to play our first rugby match. Little did we know that the first person we would meet would be Suicide Sue.....to be continued...



POST GAME NEWS:

02/06 Lightning (47) vs.

LA Coast (0)

02/20 Lightning (34) @

San Diego Surfers (12)



...And the Mexi Award goes to... Lightning awards players with the MEXI award after each match to whoever made a mistake during the match. The Mexi winner must make a rule that all players must abide by during the post-match social or they must pay Mexi a dollar. Proceeds go to the end of the year party.

2/6 match winner went to Ella for a 2nd time, for forgetting to bring Mexi to the game -luckily her boyfriend, wait...brother, brought it- *For forgetting Mexi, Ella did a rendition of Afternoon Delight at practice...delightful!

2/20 match was so spectacular and wet we were too happy and cold to nominate a winner

Until next time...

She said what...?

What our ruggers say on & off the field

While watching footage of our Santa Monica match Bus made the following observation on a penalty called against her:

"The only reason I came in from the side was because the ball was out."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3/14** Lightning vs. Las Vegas- home 11am
- 3/20** Lightning @ Tempe
- 3/27** Lightning @ Los Angeles
- 4/10** Lightning vs. Santa Monica- home 11am
- 4/24** Lightning vs. SLO- home 1pm

MY HEART OVERFLOWETH WITH PRIDE. PROPS FROM A PROP.

With luv from Pineapple

First and foremost props to every drenched freezing being who weathered the weather at Estevan Park Saturday. Props to Tucson Lightning, who plays a team game, it's amazing to see the flow. To tall skinny Amanda run that line lady, stiff arm out. To the sisters who run together, and we try to catch up. To Tanya, always charging through. To April, I know you love being on my ass, it's for the glory. To Yvette, those little hands are always in there, I don't have to worry. To my Hot Poop, don't you let that flag spill your can baby. To Sizzle, who plays with a smile of joy. To Virg, cookies always motivate a team to victory. To Quindizzle, El Toro! need I say more? To Mgay, not even an iron to the face can slow her down. To Bus, your boot is beautiful but get rid of it. To Mya, always the firecracker. To Cheech, you make this game beautiful. To Christina, who still surprises me every time I see her play. To Laura, I think you're getting the hang of it, go rookie! To Caitlin, I'm so happy to have our little backpack back. To Rabbit, every great team has a great ginger on it. To Naomi, always getting off quick, someone wants that tackle. To Becca, quietly capturing the highlights of our battles. To Momma B, leaving your cast in the rain is not a quicker way to get it off, you'll be back soon. To Vdawg, willing to step in where ever needed. To little Nancy, who will always love her girls, even when they sing in the rain. To Brigit, who will play through the pain. To all our fans sitting or running from the cold. To Rusty who has cleaned up my blood more than once and too Dougie who is always a wealth of knowledge. To our missing mates who missed us smash the #1 ranked team in our league!!!! To anyone who was on that field that I may have missed, know that I love you as well. And last but not least to ALL the men and women of Tucson rugby, may your club grow large and strong and your season be victorious!!

DONATIONS:

If you want to donate or sponsor Lightning Rugby Visit our website or email us at:

<http://www.lightningrugby.com/>
info@lightningrugby.com

If you are interested in playing, have comments, suggestions or corrections please email:

lightningprop@gmail.com

Q&A WITH MYA

LEARNING A LITTLE MORE ABOUT OUR RUGGERS:

Q: How long have you been playing rugby?

A: I started playing for the UofA in Fall of 2001.

Q: How did you hear about rugby?

A: I was walking through the student rec center on one of the club sport recruiting nights and Foudy asked me if I wanted to play rugby.....

Q: What is your favorite thing about rugby and why?

A: All types of people can play rugby and every rugby player is PROUD to be one! At the end of a rugby weekend you feel like you are apart of something great!

Q: What is your favorite position and/or play?

A: Favorite position, this is a hard question for me to answer... At first I might say hooker but when I think about it I do have a new love for the backline.

Q: Any good luck charm you do before the game?

A: No good luck charm, but I do try and get my head in the game. I have been working on being positive!

Q. Favorite post-game beverage?

A: BEER! There is nothing like a cold one after working your body.

Q: Any random thing we don't know?

A: I love to play badminton and racquetball! So much fun!

RUGBY INFO OF THE MONTH: THE SCRUM

If there is a penalty, depending on the violation, the opposing team is presented with options from the official. Many penalties result in the other team being awarded a *scrum*. A scrum is the most recognizable of the rugby formations, and yes it was depicted in the show 'Friends'. It is a set play in which both team's pack players bind themselves together to form three rows each (3: prop-hooker-prop, then 4: flanker-lock-lock-flanker, then 1: eight man). With both teams having created this formation, the two masses face each other and lock shoulder, with a tunnel naturally being created between the front rows. At the official's signal, the two teams drive against each other and the ball is thrown into the tunnel by the offensive scrum half. The object is then to drive the opposite team off the ball, carrying the ball underneath your own team (no hands allowed) and into the hands of the scrum half, who is now there awaiting it. Assuming this is successful, the ball is the passed out to the backs and play continues.