



The Rugger



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Shut the F&*# up!

From the woman who started it all...

By Nancy Purdin

So when we last left off, the intrepid first-ever Tucson Women's Rugby side was just arriving at the UCLA campus for our first match. We were a mixed bunch. Only a handful had ever played a rugby match and the rest were more-than-a-little nervous. That nervousness changed to utter fear when the first UCLA player we encountered walking up to the pitch was a very tall, very buff, woman nicknamed "Suicide Sue". She actually introduced herself to us that way! Needless to say, that only amped up our trepidation. As we took the pitch in our borrowed forest green jerseys with a very large "P" on them (for Pima County...picture the "L" on Laverne's sweater of Laverne & Shirley fame), we were both excited and scared shitless. I don't recall the final score. Some things are better not committed to memory. I do remember several pivotal moments. One when our little winger Connie (cute as a button Connie who couldn't have weighed more than 105 pounds) was lying on the ground and our lock Mary literally bridged over her and put her body between Connie and the every-marauding UCLA pack. Another when our pack was backed up about 10 meters on a UCLA put in and then collapsed in a heap. In the end, no one was seriously hurt. Not even Connie, who we took out with a possible concussion, but we were proud. We had survived our first rugby match! UCLA went on to play a match against Air Force and a few of our more hearty souls filled in. It was our first look at the power of Air Force Women's Rugby, one we would experience time and time again at the High Desert Rugby Classic.

At the drink up afterwards at a local bar/restaurant, Suicide Sue arrived on her motorcycle, complete with leather, chains and the whole nine yards. And she turned out to be a sweetheart. One of the best and friendliest women I've ever known, and I'm proud to call her a friend to this day. And, by the way, UCLA was most impressed by my "1 plus 1" song and begged me to write down the words, which I did not. Some things just have to belong to us. However, after 20 years, the team STILL can't remember the words to this song. What's up with that? To be continued.....



POST GAME NEWS:

3/14 Lightning (17) vs.

Vegas Slots (0)

3/20 Lightning (0) @

Tempe (32)

3/27 Lightning (Win) @

LA Coast (Forfeit)



...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 ruggers must abide by during the post-match social or they must pay Mexi a dollar. Proceeds go to the end of the year party.

3/14 winner goes to Mya for kicking the ball sideways and not out.

3/20 winner goes to CC for a nice side kick to DeeDee.

3/27 match was forfeited by LA so no Mexi Award. Until next time...

SHE SAID WHAT...?

What our ruggers say on & off the field

"She wouldn't let go of me, so I elbowed her in the face."

Cheech responded to why she couldn't get the ball during the Vegas match.

"That reminds me, I have to trim."

Tanya responded while watching CC lock.

Doug asked: "You ok?"

"I don't think I can do another scrum. I'm dehydrated." Replied a UA prop

Doug's reply: "Ok then...let's do a few more."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4/10 Lightning vs. Santa Monica- home 1pm

4/24 Lightning vs. SLO- home 1pm

5/1 Lightning @ Las Vegas

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A RUGGER

WHEN...

- You know shooting the boot doesn't have anything to do with a gun.
- You want to fucking kill someone from the other team during a match and then get shitfaced with them afterwards and sing songs.
- You announce a change of your sexuality at a Rugby party.
- You frequently get the songs from the social stuck in your head.
- Even when you aren't at a social, you drink out of your left hand because you think a Rugger might be lurking and make you chug it.
- You rely on pictures to piece together what happened when you went out with your Ruggers.....every weekend

RUGBY HUMOR:

A club president, coach, a prop and a wing are taking a charter flight to the National Finals when the engines cut out.

The pilot enters the passenger compartment and says, "We're going down. There's only four parachutes! Since I'm the pilot I'm taking one," and then jumps from the plane.

The coach says, "Without me the team won't have a chance, so I'm taking one," and jumps out.

The winger says, "I'm the fastest and smartest person on the pitch and without me the team can't win a game, so I'm taking one," and jumps out of the plane.

The club president looks at the prop and says, "You take the last parachute. The team needs you more than it needs me".

The prop responds, "We both can take a parachute. The smartest person on the pitch just jumped out of the plane with my kit bag."

RUGBY FUN FACTS:

- Basketball was invented by a rugby coach in 1891 - Dr. James Naismith was looking for an indoor activity to provide winter conditioning for his rugby players.
- Rugby was an Olympic sport in 1900, 1908, 1920 and 1924. The US won the Gold Medal in 1920 and 1924.
- Famous Rugby players (just to name a few): Sean Connery, John F. Kennedy, J.R.R. Tolkien, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Russell Crowe, Chris Farley, Meat Loaf, Ernesto "Che" Guevara

Q&A WITH CHRISTINA

LEARNING A LITTLE MORE ABOUT OUR RUGGERS:

Q: How long have you been playing rugby?

A: This is my second year.

Q: How did you hear about rugby?

A: I think I first saw it on Fox Soccer Channel about 10 years ago. I later Googled Tucson Rugby to find local rugby.

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

A: There are so many things to like. Rugby is a different world. Sure that girl might tower over me and have 80lbs on me, but that doesn't mean I can't take her. In rugby it doesn't matter if you're the little guy whether physically or metaphorically. If someone takes down your teammate you run to their aid and have a real chance of prevailing. That's not necessarily the case in "the real world".

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

A: I've flanked mostly this year and I like it.

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

A: Nope.

Q: Favorite post-game beverage?

A: Water, I'm boring like that.

Q: Any random thing we don't know?

A: I like to dabble in photography and my first experience with rugby was photographing the Magpies and OP for a season, just for the heck of it.

WORLD RUGBY NEWS:

In England from August 20th-September 5th the 6th Annual Women's Rugby World Cup will take place. It will be a 12 team tournament that will see three-time defending champions New Zealand in Pool A with Rugby World Cup Sevens champions Australia, host England in Pool B with USA in Pool B.

According to IRB Women's Development Manager Susan Carty "the tournament will provide a platform to build on the recent growth of Women's Rugby and should attract significant television audiences, sponsors, fans and new participants."

A Women's Rugby World Cup for 2014 is nearing completion with Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Samoa and the USA looking to host the tournament.

For live updates, news and statistics visit the website: www.rwcwomens.com

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