



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:

4/10 Lightning (5) vs.

Santa Monica (5)

4/20 Lightning (Win) vs

SLO (Forfeit)

5/1 Lightning (15) @

Vegas (0)



...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.

4/10 winner went to Ella for kicking the ball sideways to Amanda

4/20 match was forfeited by SLO so no Mexi Award

5/1 winner went to

Until next time...

SHE SAID WHAT...?

What our ruggers say on & off the field

UPCOMING EVENTS:

5/8

Lightning end of year party

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A RUGGER

WHEN...

- You don't actually know the real names of your teammates, only their nicknames
- You know that Jesus can't play rugby cause his dad would fix the game.
- The number of gay people on your team outnumbers the number of straight people
- When people walk slowly, you have to resist the urge to tackle them from behind.
- You have seen at least 10 of your teammates make out with a fellow teammate
- On the weekends you pee in the bushes more often than in the bathroom
- You have gone home on a Saturday after a game, passed out, and then woken up and kept drinking.
- Your excuse for everything is "I Play Rugby"

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"

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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