

VIRGINIA RUGBY UNION
Fall 2004

CLUB MEN:

Belmont Shore won the Super League.

Boston Irish Wolfhounds won their second straight Men's Division I title. The Connecticut Yankees won the Division 2 championship. Clinton Muddy River won Division 3.

COLLEGE MEN:

No News.

COLLEGE WOMEN:

No news.

WOMEN'S CLUB:

Berkeley won the Women's Club Division I Championship, outclassing their four opponents 225-10! In Division II, Detroit was the winner.

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YOUTH:

David Yancey of Newport News wants to field a youth side next Spring. David writes: "Right now we have about 3-5 kids coming out so we have our work cut out for us but we are recruiting high schools and boys and girls club.

"In fact, we are opening the club up to "at risk youth" because we believe rugby is the perfect environment for these youth. The sport rewards aggression yet teaches discipline and the importance of thinking and being focused. The sport itself is so physically demanding that the kids will get all that energy out of their system and should be spent by the time they go to class the next day.

“Best of all, rugby offers these youth the opportunity to be with a vast range of professional people they can have direct access to and be mentored by these people. On our club alone we have doctors, lawyers, real estate developers, military officers, investors, engineers, ect. These people can help these kids make the right decisions and focus in on a career and making their lives better. Not to mention the fact that these kids can go to a college anywhere in the world, or get a job anywhere in the world, and there will most likely be a rugby club---which means the "networking" opportunities are endless.

“And, the kids are welcome to join the club at our social events. We want these kids to feel as if they belong and part of something positive. Of course, when they attend the club knows to behave professionally, curtail certain activities and the members are happy to do it.

“Plus, we do an annual youth rugby day aimed at all children to teach them the simple, basic aspects of rugby. Its open to all---boys and girls---and each year we get more and more children.

“Any suggestions you have on fielding a team, including how to get them cleats, shorts, etc., any advice you have would be greatly appreciated.”

David can be contacted at deyancey@cox.net.

REFEREES:

From New Zealand international referee Paddy O’Brien’s autobiography, Whistle While You Work: “What makes a good referee? Aside from the obvious attributes of being physically fit, energetic, enthusiastic and knowing the rule book, Paddy says there is no substitute for experience. At the top level it’s more than the ability to simply blow a game. It’s about credibility, about earning the respect of the players and, like everything else in life, if commonsense is applied one will never go far wrong. Paddy says there are a lot of theories about refereeing but nothing he’s ever read mentions the word ‘commonsense’.”

Elected at the Referee Society of Virginia AGM on August were:

President: Jeffrey Anderson
Allocations Secretary: Bob Underwood
Treasurer: Bob Underwood
Training Officer: David Harwood
Sportsmanship Award Officer: Dr. Bill Lucas

The RSV has a new fee structure. Check it out online at www.rugby.org in the VRU Handbook.

The RSV is planning on having a Level 1 refereeing clinic November 14. An announcement will go out later.

MARFU:

Those from the VRU named to the MARFU College Men's All Star team were:

Curt Goddard, Radford
Dave Harbourt, Virginia Tech
Jesse Hilmandolar, Virginia Tech
Tom Sanders, UVA
Nate Scott, Radford
Mark Seiss, Virginia Tech

The MARFU Women's squad for the Cape Fear 7's was as follows:

Dana Creager
Chris DiGiulio
Stacy Bennett
Kathy Blanton
Jess Hammond
Sue Barnak
Liz King
Beth Black
StephieJo Edwards
Kate Phillips

Those from the VRU who were named to the MARFU U-23 team were as follows:

Miwa Ng, UVA
Katie Mandel, UVA
Rachel Warden, UVA
Kerri Fischer, JMU
Lizzy Scerbo, JMU
Lindsey Kinsler, Norfolk Storm
Sarah Foster, UVA
Reserve: Ellie Brin, JMU

At the U-23 National All-Star Competition in Blaine, MN, the MARFU ladies lost to the Northeast and then to the Pacific Coast.

ED AND SANDY LEE CUP:

The Ed and Sandy Lee Cup will be at Pole Green Park in Hanover, VA November 6 and 7.

SEVENS:

The World Rugby 7's Series:

Results to date:

UAE: Winner – South Africa

South Africa: Winner – England

New Zealand: Winner – New Zealand

Los Angeles: Winner – Argentina. The USA took the Shield.

Hong Kong: Women's Winner - New Zealand (USA placed 5th.)

Hong Kong: Men's Winner – England

Singapore: Winner – South Africa

France: Winner – New Zealand

London: Winner - England

World Rugby 7's 2004 champion: New Zealand

MARFU 7's Calendar:

Qualifiers:

June 12 Lehigh Valley 7's Winner: Maryland

July 10 Norfolk 7's Winner: NOVA

July 17 Rocky Gorge 7's Winner: PAC

July 24 Philadelphia-Whitemarsh 7's Winner: NOVA

July 31 MARFU 7's Championship Winner: PAC.

Going on to the national 7's club championship from MARFU were PAC, Washington, and Maryland Exiles.

Riverside won its second national 7's club championship.

Those from the VRU named to the Mid-Atlantic Women's 7's ITT squad were StepheJo Edwards of James River and Katheryn Phillips of Norfolk. Caroline Brickhouse of Raleigh is on the US U-23 ITT squad. For the men, Fred Wintermantle and Ed Stockunas of Norfolk were on the men's Mid-Atlantic 7's ITT squad. Pacific won both the men's and women's ITT titles.

The VRU had two women's seven's team this summer coached by Norfolk Blue Chris Porter. They played in the Cape Fear 7's and unfortunately were put in the same bracket. VRU 1 came through the weekend with a 2-2 record while the VRU 2 team went 0-4. Players on the teams were – and I had only first names submitted to me –

Raleigh- Calley, Jamie, Tracie, Sunny, Danielle
Blue Ridge- Emily, Giza, Lisa, Karen, Julia, Jessie
James River- Marsha, Shannon, Belinda, Cyndy, Alissa
Norfolk- Emily, Cara, Dorothy
VCU- Michele, Leigh

NATIONAL:

The Superpowers Cup was played in Tokyo May 26-30. The schedule was:

May 26: Canada vs. USA: Canada 23, USA 20
Russia vs. Japan: Japan 29, Russia 12

May 30: Loser vs. Loser: USA 41, Russia 11
Winner vs. Winner: Japan 34, Canada 21

The Churchill Cup was played June 12 – 19 in Calgary and Edmonton, Canada. The schedule was:

June 12: Canada Women vs. England Women: England 39, Canada 11
USA Men vs. New Zealand Maori: Maori 69, USA 31

June 13: USA Women vs. New Zealand Black Ferns: New Zealand 35, USA 0
Canada Men vs. England A Men: England A 48, Canada 23

June 19: Women's 3rd/4th Playoff: USA 29, Canada 10
Women's Final: New Zealand 38, Canada 0
Men's 3rd/4th Playoff: Canada 32, USA 29
Men's Final: New Zealand Maori 26, England A 19

Playing for the USA National Women's Team were former VRU players Jamie Burke, Annie Collier, and Heather Hale.

Named to the Collegiate Women's All-America Team were the following from the VRU:

First team -
Lauren Baker, UVA
Fiona Foxon, UVA

Elizabeth Scerbo, JMU
Rachel Warden, UVA

Second team –
Kerry Fischer, JMU
Naomi Sandler, JMU

Congratulations to UVA having three first teamers and JMU for three total on the first and second teams!

Named to the Collegiate Men's All-America Team was Tom Sanders of UVA. Mark Seiss of Virginia Tech was an honorable mention. Congratulations to both!

Congratulation to Lindsey Kinsler of the Norfolk Storm for being named to the National U-23 Team! Joining her were former VRU players Jennifer Starkey (JMU and now NOVA) and Svea Stromme (UVA and now Maryland Stingers). On their tour of New Zealand the ladies lost to Hawkes Bay 39-10, then lost to Manawatu 35-12 before clobbering the Wellington All Stars age grade team 54-10.

INTERNATIONAL:

The IRB have instituted their own world rankings. Here are the current rankings for the top 20 countries:

1. New Zealand 2. Australia 3. England 4. France 5. South Africa 6. Ireland 7. Wales 8. Argentina 9. Scotland 10. Fiji 11. Italy 12. Samoa 13. Canada 14. Romania 15. USA 16. Uruguay 17. Portugal 18. Japan 19. Tonga 20. Morocco. There are currently 95 countries that have qualified for world rankings, with Finland bringing up the rear.

The IRB U21 World Championship was won by New Zealand.

From RUGBYeNews.com:

Concerning the 2003 World Cup -

- A cumulative audience of 3.46 billion in 213 countries around the world followed the 48 matches of the tournament.
- About 300 million people - nearly 5% of the world's population - watched the final between England & Australia live.
- In Britain, 14 million spectators watched the ITV broadcast of the final live - one of the highest figures for sport broadcast in the UK.
- In Australia, 4.34 million spectators - 22% of the population - watched the final live, the highest audience figure in Australia for 2003.

OF INTEREST:

Don't forget about the on-line services for rugby. Some of the main ones are:

<p>The rugby newsgroup:</p> <p>On the World Wide Web:</p> <p>VRU WWW Site: EPRU Web Site: PRU Web Site: MARFU Web Site: US National Team: Rugby Today: Rugby magazine: USA Rugby: IRFB: Planet Rugby: Rugbyrugby:</p> <p>E-mail:</p> <p>majordomo@world.std.com</p> <p>listserv@listserv.uoguelph.ca</p> <p>walshpj@erols.com</p> <p>tacticalrugby-subscribe@egroups.com</p> <p>rugbymag@aol.com</p> <p>info@usarugby.org</p>	<p>rec.sport.rugby.union</p> <p>http://www.rugby.org http://www.epru.org http://www.pru.org http://www.marfu.org http://www.usa-eagles.org http://www.scrum.com/rugbytoday/default.asp http://www.rugbymag.com http://www.USARUGBY.org http://www.irfb.com/ http://www.planet-rugby.com http://www.Rugbyrugby.com</p> <p>USA Women's rugby mailing list. To subscribe, put in the message: subscribe uswrugby-discussion (your e-mail address) without the parens.</p> <p>Rugby coaches' mailing list. To subscribe, put in the message: SUB RUGBYCOACH (your full name) without the parens.</p> <p>This address gets you on the U-15 Youth Rugby listserve. Send your name, address, phone number, and rugby responsibilities to get on.</p> <p>Tactical Rugby listserve. For coaches, administrators, players, and referees.</p> <p>Rugby magazine. Hey, can reporting a tourney result get any easier???</p> <p>USA Rugby's e-mail address. To reach an employee, e-mail (first initial)(last name)@usarugby.org</p>
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vru@rugby.org scompton@usa-eagles.org	The VRU official e-mail address. The U.S. National Team's e-mail list.
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The referees have a mailing list, but it's closed to non-referees. Weekly, more and more Internet rugby services go on-line. Get on-line yourself and see what there is! One great place to start:

<http://www.sportszineuk.co.uk>

FINAL WORD:

The vision must be followed by venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps – we must step up the stairs. – Vance Havner

Jeffrey Anderson,
Newsletter Editor