

VIRGINIA RUGBY UNION
SPRING 2003

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CLUB MEN:

Former Radford rugger Steve Murray is looking to start and coach a new rugby club in Virginia Beach. The Virginia Beach Falcons went dormant two years ago.

Also, Joshua Turner is looking to start a new rugby club in the Fredericksburg area. Anyone interested in this can get in touch with him at EITurner01@aol.com

Winchester RFC is leaving the VRU to go into the Potomac Rugby Union.

COLLEGE MEN:

The VRU Men's Collegiate All-Star team lost to the Eastern Penn "Red" team 32-6.

COLLEGE WOMEN:

The VRU U-23 women's team shutout North Carolina 45-0 and then got shutout by Eastern Penn 30-0 in a shortened game. The ladies had to play back to back games.

Elizabeth Scerbo of JMU was chosen to attend the USA Rugby Girl's U-19 National Team Elite Camp in Austin, TX Dec. 20-24, 2002. She was one of 60 chosen from a pool of 127 nominated for consideration.

Going on in the MARFU Playoffs this Spring will be JMU, UVA, and Virginia Tech in Division 1 and Mary Washington, Longwood, and Radford in Division 2. The first round of playoff games will be on March 22 at the pitches of the higher seeded teams.

WOMEN'S CLUB:

Blue Ridge will be going on in the MARFU playoffs in the Spring.

All-Star tryouts! From Stephe-Jo Edwards - We will hold the Women's Club VRU try-outs on the February 22nd and 23rd weekend in Richmond. This will be a 2-day session with drills, etc. on Saturday and play on Sunday morning. We will be finished early on Sunday. The players selected will go to Charlotte, NC on March 8th to play Atlanta. I will provide more details later. What I need now is for you to inform your club so that people may prepare for this weekend. I am sure James River and Blue Ridge will be the gracious hostesses for anyone interested in a free place to stay. For further info, contact team manager Marsha Clayton at durocher01@attbi.com

Raleigh Venom have been accepted into the VRU as full members.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

It was a clean sweep for the city of Norfolk for the Sportsmanship Awards. ODU won for college men, Norfolk Blues for men's clubs and Norfolk Storm for women's college and clubs. Each team will get a credit of \$150 on their VRU dues and a \$100 credit on their referee fees.

DISCIPLINE:

For the Fall Season, these were the players ejected:

RED CARDS

Nick Bruffey, Roanoke RFC, 3 weeks for a major physical offense.

Ben Bubisar, Radford RFC, 3 weeks for a major physical offense.

David Hess, Southwest Virginia RFC, 3 weeks for a major physical offense.

Jeff Zarbo, Winchester RFC, 4 weeks for a major physical offense.

Francesa LoMonaco, BRATS, 2 weeks for a major physical offense.

These were the ones sinbinned:

Jamie Burke, UVA Women

Svea Strumz, UVA Women

Jim McKinnon, Mary Washington

Mike Aitkin, CNU

Luke Scott, CNU

Patrick O'Brien, W&M

Tim Brown, United

G. Markham, Blackwater

REFEREES:

There were 18 people who attended the Level 1 Referee Clinic in Charlottesville on November 24. Part II is February 16.

SEVENS:

Nova beat Norfolk in the finals of the James River Christmas 7's, 19-12.

Upcoming 7's tournaments for 2003:

May 17-18	Highland Fling 7's	Caroline County, VA	
May 25	Monk Vaughn 7's	Richmond	
June 7	Lehigh Valley 7's	Bethlehem, PA	(Qualifier)
June 14	TBD	TBD	(Qualifier)

June 21	Las Vegas 7's		
June 28	PAC 7's	Washington, DC	
July 5-6	Cape Fear 7's	Wilmington, NC	
July 12	Norfolk Blues 7's	Norfolk	(Qualifier)
July 19	TBD	TBD	(Qualifier)
July 26	MARFU Championship	Washington, DC	
Aug. 9-10	Men's Club Championships	Pittsburgh, PA	
Aug 23-24	Men's & Women's All-Stars	Long Beach or San Diego	

MARFU:

VRU Players named to the MARFU Men's All-Stars included Issac Myers, Brad Bell, and Paul Gilly of Raleigh, and Chris Porter and Ed Stockunas of Norfolk. In MARFU All-Star play v the New Zealand Embassy, the MARFU squad won the first half 13-7, but lost the second half 19-0. Against the NRU, MARFU lost 35-0, but beat the South 27-12.

VRU Players named to the MARFU Women's All-Stars included Emily Pellicia of Blue Ridge, Fiona Foxon of Blue Ridge and UVA, Kara Smith of Blue Ridge, Jamie Burke of UVA, Beth Black of Blue Ridge, and Megan Washburn of Roanoke. The first four played at the ITT's in Tampa; the latter two could not get there. Former UVA captain Stacy Bennett played for MARFU representing NOVA.

Selected to the U-23 national side at the ITT's in Tampa was Angie Marfisi of Raleigh Venom.

MARFU Men's Collegiate All-Star coaches Steve Guiffre and Ken Fraine have resigned.

NATIONAL:

At the ITT's in Tampa, the MARFU Men's All-Stars played in Tier B. They beat Armed Forces 41-28 and then lost in the final to Northeast 26-14. The MARFU Women's All-Stars played in Tier A. They lost their opener to Northeast 23-0 and lost the third place match to Pacific 20-7.

Former Eagle Kathy Flores has been named head coach of the Women's National Team.

The National Team will be playing the winner of Tunisia/Russia in home and away games April 12 and 26 Repechage 1 for a Rugby World Cup place.*

The IRB Superpowers Cup has been launched for 2003. Comprising Japan, China, Russia, and the USA, the schedule is as follows:

April TBD	USA v Russia
May 17	USA v Japan
May 25	Japan v Russia
May 31	China v Japan
June 28	Russia v China
July 12	China v USA

*If Russia won its repechage match versus Tunisia, the USA v Russia match could have been a part of Repechage 1 for the Rugby World Cup. However, Russia was booted out of the World Cup qualifying stages on January 23 for using ineligible players. Spain has taken Russia's place in the qualifying rounds.

Playing in the Bermuda Classic representing America were Norfolk back Chris Porter, former Norfolk and Eagle prop George Sucher, and former UVA women's coach K.O. Onufry, playing on her 50th birthday!

Members of the US Women's Under-23 team tour to England in January included Kathy Borkoski of the Norfolk Storm and Jen Starkey of JMU. Liz King of Mary Washington was also invited, but due to injury couldn't go. They beat Emerging England 7-0, England Students 25-12, and lost to Emerging England 18-10.

INTERNATIONAL:

Here are the current rankings for the top 20 countries:

1. England 2. New Zealand 3. Ireland 4. Australia 5. Argentina 6. France 7. Scotland 8. South Africa 9. Wales 10. Fiji 11. Samoa 12. Tonga 13. Japan 14. Canada 15. Italy 16. United States 17. Romania 18. Georgia 19. Russia 20. Morocco. There are currently 63 countries that have qualified for world rankings, with India bringing up the rear. Rankings are done by Ross Finlayson of Live Networks, Inc.

OF INTEREST:

For those with Cox Cable, Cox Digital Cable has added Fox Sports World to its lineup. FSW carries weekly rugby matches.

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

The rugby newsgroup:	rec.sport.rugby.union
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On the World Wide Web:

VRU WWW Site:

<http://www.rugby.org>

EPRU Web Site:

<http://www.epru.org>

PRU Web Site:

<http://www.pru.org>

MARFU Web Site:

<http://www.marfu.org>

US National Team:

<http://www.usa-eagles.org>

Rugby Today:

<http://www.scrum.com/rugbytoday/default.asp>

Rugby magazine:

<http://www.rugbymag.com>

USA Rugby:

<http://www.USARUGBY.org>

IRFB:

<http://www.irfb.com/>

Planet Rugby:

<http://www.planet-rugby.com>

Rugbyrugby:

<http://www.Rugbyrugby.com>

E-mail:

majordomo@world.std.com

USA Women's rugby mailing list. To subscribe, put in the message: **subscribe uswrugby-discussion (your e-mail address)** without the parens.

listserv@listserv.uoguelph.ca

Rugby coaches' mailing list. To subscribe, put in the message: SUB RUGBYCOACH (your full name) without the parens.

walshpj@erols.com

This address gets you on the U-15 Youth Rugby listserv. Send your name, address, phone number, and rugby responsibilities to get on.

tacticalrugby-subscribe@egroups.com

Tactical Rugby listserv. For coaches, administrators, players, and referees.

rugbymag@aol.com

Rugby magazine. Hey, can reporting a tourney result get any easier???

info@usarugby.org

USA Rugby's e-mail address. To reach an employee, e-mail (first initial)(last name)@usarugby.org

vru@rugby.org

The VRU official e-mail address.

scompton@usa-eagles.org

The U.S. National Team's e-mail list.

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:

Always do what is right. It will gratify most of the people and astound the rest. – Mark Twain

Jeffrey Anderson,
Newsletter Editor