

**VIRGINIA RUGBY UNION**  
**Spring 2004**

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**VRU Executive Committee:**

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Vice-President:	Shannon Plum	<a href="mailto:vp@rugby.org">vp@rugby.org</a>
Secretary:	Greg Markham	<a href="mailto:secretary@rugby.org">secretary@rugby.org</a>
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**For the first time in a very long time,** all VRU clubs were represented that the VRU AGM.

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**CLUB MEN:**

**At the VRU AGM** Charlotte was voted in as a Division I member of the VRU, Full Member, starting play in the Fall of 2004. Virginia Beach was voted in as a Division III Full Member, starting play immediately.

**MARFU Division II South Standings:**

	W-L-T	Points
Washington Irish	8-0-0	36
Norfolk Blues	6-1-0	31
Frederick	5-3-0	26
Raleigh	4-3-1	22
Rocky Gorge	4-2-1	22
Western Suburbs	3-4-0	16
Severn River	2-6-0	9
United	1-6-0	5
Roanoke	0-8-0	0

It is not yet 100% sure what the seeds are in the MARFU playoffs, but Norfolk and Raleigh are guaranteed playoff spots.

**Virginia Division II:**

Norfolk	3-0-0
Raleigh	2-1-0
United	1-2-0
Roanoke	0-3-0

**VRU Division III:**

Virginia	4-0-0
Newport News	3-1-0
Blacksburg	2-2-0
James River	1-3-0
Blackwater	0-4-0

Moving on in the MARFU playoffs will be Virginia, Newport News, and Blacksburg.

**The Porter Cup** will be April 3-4 this year.

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**COLLEGE MEN:**

**At the VRU AGM**, Randolph Macon was voted in as an Associate Member in Division III, starting play immediately.

**Moving on in the MARFU Playoffs** in the Spring are Virginia Tech and James Madison in Division I, and Radford, University of Virginia, and Mary Washington in Division II.

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**COLLEGE WOMEN:**

**At the VRU AGM**, University of Richmond was voted in as an Associate Member in Division II, starting play immediately.

**Moving on in the MARFU Playoffs** in the Spring are James Madison and University of Virginia in Division I and Mary Washington in Division II.

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**WOMEN'S CLUB:**

**Raleigh will be moving on in the MARFU Playoffs in the Spring.**



**SPORTSMANSHIP:**

**The following teams won the Sportsmanship Award for 2003:**

- Men's Club: Blacksburg
- College Men: Virginia Tech
- College and Club Women: Raleigh Venom

These clubs will receive a \$150 credit on their VRU dues and a \$100 credit on their referee fees.



**OLD BOYS AND GIRLS:**

**A group of Virginia old boys** are going to Ft. Lauderdale to play in both the Over 35 and Over 45 brackets at a rugby tournament there Feb 28 and 29. They will be known as the Virginia Cardinals.

**Former Newport News back Sterling Merritt**, who played into his late 60's, is active in the Senior Olympics running the 200 and 400 in the age 85-90 age bracket!

**Attention former Richmond Iris and Norfolk Breakers!** Dr. Megan Shockley of Clemson University (and former James River WRFC player) is doing an article for a scholarly journal on the rise of women's rugby in the South. She would like to talk with any of the former Richmond Iris and Norfolk Breakers players from the 1970's. If you are one of these or know someone who played with them, please contact Dr. Shockley at [mshockl@CLEMSON.EDU](mailto:mshockl@CLEMSON.EDU) or 864-656-4427.



**REFEREES: Eleven people** came to the Level 1 refereeing clinic in Charlottesville January 11. Those joining the Referee Society of Virginia included David Smith of Blackwater RFC, Victoria Starks of William & Mary WRFC, Barry Cross of Blacksburg RFC, John Acquaviva of Roanoke RFC, and Tony Ferguson of Roanoke RFC.

**The Referee Society of Virginia** covered 87% of eligible matches last Fall. This matched the percentage of coverage in the Spring.



**ED AND SANDY LEE CUP:**

**The Ed and Sandy Lee Cup** has been moved to the first weekend in November.

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**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.

**NOVA won the** James River Christmas 7's, beating United in the final.

**The Commonwealth Games** will be in Roanoke this year July 16-18. Rugby Magazine masters columnist Dan Santoro is looking for someone to take the reins of getting 7's in the Games. If you are interested, please contact Dan at [rugbydan@bellsouth.net](mailto:rugbydan@bellsouth.net) or call him at 954-941-8171 (h) or 203-606-1028 (cell), or call the Games director Owen Grogan at 1-800-333-8274. This is great opportunity for a fun tourney! I got rugby 7's into the now defunct Virginia State Games in the mid '90's and it was a blast!

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**NATIONAL:**

**Two former Norfolk Blues** serve on the US National Team's Selection Panel: George Sucher and Mike Coyner.

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**INTERNATIONAL:**

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

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

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**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><a href="mailto:majordomo@world.std.com">majordomo@world.std.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:listserv@listserv.uoguelph.ca">listserv@listserv.uoguelph.ca</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:walshpj@erols.com">walshpj@erols.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:tacticalrugby-subscribe@egroups.com">tacticalrugby-subscribe@egroups.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:rugbymag@aol.com">rugbymag@aol.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:info@usarugby.org">info@usarugby.org</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:vru@rugby.org">vru@rugby.org</a></p>	<p><b>rec.sport.rugby.union</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.rugby.org">http://www.rugby.org</a>  <a href="http://www.epru.org">http://www.epru.org</a>  <a href="http://www.pru.org">http://www.pru.org</a>  <a href="http://www.marfu.org">http://www.marfu.org</a>  <a href="http://www.usa-eagles.org">http://www.usa-eagles.org</a>  <a href="http://www.scrum.com/rugbytoday/default.asp">http://www.scrum.com/rugbytoday/default.asp</a>  <a href="http://www.rugbymag.com">http://www.rugbymag.com</a>  <a href="http://www.USARUGBY.org">http://www.USARUGBY.org</a>  <a href="http://www.irfb.com/">http://www.irfb.com/</a>  <a href="http://www.planet-rugby.com">http://www.planet-rugby.com</a>  <a href="http://www.Rugbyrugby.com">http://www.Rugbyrugby.com</a></p> <p>USA Women's rugby mailing list. To subscribe, put in the message: <b>subscribe uswrugby-discussion (your e-mail address)</b> 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 listserv. Send your name, address, phone number, and rugby responsibilities to get on.</p> <p>Tactical Rugby listserv. 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> <p>The VRU official e-mail address.</p> <p>The U.S. National Team's e-mail list.</p>
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<a href="mailto:scompton@usa-eagles.org">scompton@usa-eagles.org</a>	
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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:**

A few years after Walt Disney's death, Mrs. Disney was watching a big Disney-themed parade going by. One of the Disney Company executives leaned over and said to her, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if Walt were here to see this?" Replied Mrs. Disney, "He did see it. That's why there's a parade!" That, my friends, is vision. – Dr. Adrian Rogers

Jeffrey Anderson,  
Newsletter Editor