

VIRGINIA RUGBY UNION
Winter 2004/05

CLUB MEN:

Norfolk and Raleigh will host first round games in the MARFU Division II playoffs on April 16 as the #'s 1 and 2 seeds. In Division III, James River and Newport News are in the MARFU Playoffs.

Those who played in the All-Star games for the VRU vs. the PRU and EPRU included:

Raleigh: Isaac Myers, Sean Cox, Matt McCullough, Brian Figueroa, Frank Schneider, Brad Bell

Virginia: Bob Sottile, Garrett Thornton, Mike Groenewald

Norfolk: James Young, Isaac Harms, Fred Wintermantle, Chris Porter, Drew Rogers, Victor Passwater

Richmond: Mirza Spahalic, Anthony Montgomery, Brian Patterson

James River: Jason Smith, Jason Foresman, Billy Wallace

The team was run by Norfolk's Chris Porter and Raleigh's Rick Bell.

COLLEGE MEN:

Going into the MARFU playoffs in the Spring are UVA and Virginia Teach in Division 1 and Radford, VMI, and Mary Washington in Division II.

In the MARFU Division 3 Championship game, Lehigh downed Longwood 22-12.

In All-Star play, the VRU men lost to the PRU 36-14 and then blitzed the North Carolina All Stars 67-21. Those who played included:

U of R: Ryan Corken, Philippe Polman, Casey Worderman, Ed Solarz

UVA: Ian Gallagher, Peter Benson, Matt Federicci, Brent Beckner

Virginia Tech: George Davis, Anthony Caron, John Schnibbe, Ben Soroka

VCU: Andrew Parker, Nate Smith, Tom Tourje

Mary Washington: Matt Weller

Longwood: Scott Zavrel

James Madison: Chris Daly, Ben Martin, John Selwood

VMI: Bob Downey, Corey Englehard, Andy Kochli, Eric Lockard

Radford: Brian Hartigan

The team was assisted by Brett Burdick of the VRU, Jon Conrad of UVA, Stephen Parker of VRU, Stephen Peirson-Massey of the Richmond Lions, Carl Schmitt of U of R, and Matt Willson of U of R.

COLLEGE WOMEN:

Going on in the MARFU playoffs in the Spring are UVA, James Madison, and Virginia Tech in Division 1 and Mary Washington, William and Mary, and U of R in Division II.

In All-Star play, the VRU U-23 team beat EPRU U-23's 43-7 and then the next day whitewashed the PRU U-23's 60-0. The team was composed of:

- Blue Ridge: Miwa Ng, Giza High, Naomi Sandler, Carolyn Runyon, Keri Fischer
- UVA: Katie Mandel, Rachel Warden, Diana Bowen, Fiona Foxon, Carrie Perdue, Babe O'Connor, Siobhan Tiernan
- William & Mary: Tiffany Smith
- Longwood: Lauren Demmon
- Mary Washington: Andrea Wyatt, Katie Miller, Emily Newton
- James Madison: Jamie Hill, Britt Conley, Ellie Brim, Sarah Miller, Yen Hwang
- VCU: Lex Emberlose, Kate Farley
- Virginia Tech: Bridgette Smith

Alternates were Erin Rideout and Maire Zezula of Mary Washington; Winnie Chao of UVA; Megan Larkin of U of Richmond; and Meredith Black of Virginia Tech.

Coaching were Nancy Kechner and Jules Comer.

WOMEN'S CLUB:

Blue Ridge will move on in the Spring MARFU Playoffs representing the VRU.

Blue Ridge took second in the Social Division at the Punkifest Tournament in Philadelphia.

MILITARY:

Mike Sorrentino of Newport News RFC toured Europe with the Combined Services team. The team went 2-3.

Norfolk's James Cross and former Norfolk back John Leo were named to the All Tournament Team at the Armed Forces All Star Championship, which was won by the Air Force.

REFEREES:

Congratulations to Peadar Little and John Acquaviva for being promoted to C-3.

MARFU:

In the All-Star Championships, the MARFU Women lost to the South 13-7 and the MARFU Men lost to the Pacific Coast 20-15. The next day for Tier 2 third place the Women blanked Southern California 46-0 while in Tier 1 for third place the men crushed Southern California 50-32.

Playing for the MARFU Men from the VRU were Paul Glatte, You Ji Hwan, Jason Zehmke, and Sean Kim of Charlotte; and Chris Porter and Ed Stockunas of Norfolk. Those on the Development Squad were Mike Groenewald of Virginia; Matt McCullough of Raleigh; and Fred Wintermantle of Norfolk.

Playing for the MARFU Women from the VRU were Caroline Duckworth and Calley Gerber of Raleigh.

ED AND SANDY LEE CUP:

The winners of the Ed and Sandy Lee Cup were as follows:

- Women's Club Final – Blue Ridge 34, Raleigh 17
- Men's Collegiate Final – Radford 22, UVA 9
- Women's Collegiate Final – UVA 31, JMU 5
- Men's Club Final – Charlotte 22, Norfolk 15

Virginia Beach won the Sportsmanship Award and will receive \$100 off their Fall referee dues.

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DISCIPLINE:

Fall 2004 discipline report:

Yellow Cards

J. Logan, BC - repeated infringements
Scott Zavrel, Longwood - punch
Pat Gorham, Longwood - repeated infringements
Eric Paterson, JMU - repeated infringements
Nate Geartner, VT -dangerous play knee in chest of player on the ground
Jennifer Stello, JMU -dangerous play standing up in the scrum repeated
Erin Powers, JMU -dangerous tackle
Jami Sellers, VT -repeated infringements
Eddie Hendrick, Ohio -repeated infringements
L. John, VT -repeated infringements
Richard Bakey, Blacksburg -misconduct
Matt Rea, Blacksburg -unsportsmanlike conduct
Craig Markham, Blackwater -misconduct (retaliation)
Kandra Strange, Norfolk -hair pulling
Corie Folie, VT -repeated infringements
Robert Zullo, Richmond -dangerous play
Alex Hazelwood, Longwood -dangerous tackling
David Ellis, Longwood -punching
Barry Martin, Roanoke -fighting
Michael Nitopi, ODU - dangerous tackling
Joe Tunuufi, Va Beach - dangerous play
Jack Brown, Roanoke -high tackle/punch
Jason Sawyers, Roanoke -dangerous play
Willie Marais, Blackwater -punching
Clive Diaz, Roanoke -dangerous play
Blake Seitz, Roanoke -high tackle
Doug Schmiedel, Charlotte -third man in
James Woodard, VMI -diving over
Cory Lolery, RU -punching
Ben Pollitte, Blackwater - repeated infringements

Red Card

Robert Carswell, Jr., Roanoke -verbal abuse of a referee. Four game suspension and one year probation

SEVENS:

The World Rugby 7's Series for 2004-05:

Dubai, UAE: Winner – England over Fiji
George, South Africa: Winner – New Zealand over Fiji

Wellington, New Zealand: February 4-5
Los Angeles: February 12-13
Singapore: April 16-17
London, England: June 4-5
Bordeaux, France: June 11-12

The Rugby 7's World Cup: Hong Kong, March 18-20. Those teams that will be competing for the 7's World Cup are Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Argentina, Canada, England, South Africa, Samoa, Tonga, France, Portugal, Ireland, Japan, Uruguay, Scotland, Georgia, Kenya, Chinese Taipei, USA, Italy, Russia, Tunisia, and Korea.

The James River Christmas 7's was won by the Norfolk Blues.



NATIONAL:

The U.S. National Women's Team toured Scotland Nov. 19-28. The team included former UVA All American and current Referee Society of Virginia member Jamie Burke former William and Mary prop Annie Collier, and former UVA player Heather Hale. The USA A side whacked Scotland A 72-0 and then the USA beat Scotland 12-6.

The USA Men lost to Ireland 55-6 and to Italy 43-25.

Norfolk captain Chris Porter and former Norfolk prop George Sucher played in the World Rugby Classic in Bermuda. Team USA lost to Australia 17-0 and to the Classic Barbarians 35-10. Porter also played in the Plate Final for the Classic Barbarians, scoring a try against the Classic All Blacks.



INTERNATIONAL:

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

1. New Zealand
 2. Australia
 3. England
 4. South Africa
 5. France
 6. Ireland
 7. Argentina
 8. Wales
 9. Scotland
 10. Fiji
 11. Italy
 12. Samoa
 13. Romania
 14. Canada
 15. Uruguay
 16. USA
 17. Portugal
 18. Japan
 19. Tonga
 20. Georgia.
- 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.

South Africa flanker Schalk Burger won the IRB Player of the Year as well as Newcomer of the Year.

The 2006 Women's World Cup will be played in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

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>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</p>
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info@usarugby.org	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:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. - Anonymous

Jeffrey Anderson,
Newsletter Editor