

RUGBY

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25 NO REST FOR THE WEARY

Eagle and Penn State coach, Pete Steinberg brings his penchant for organization to WNT.

5 EDITOR'S WORD

Alex Goff reminds new college players that their hijinks reflect on us all.

6 A NOVEL NOVEL

Allyn Freeman discovers an important piece of literature that aided the proliferation of rugby.

9 HERRIMAN DUO

Father and son team up at Herriman High School, linking football and rugby.

13 GROWTH IN JCS?

Pat Clifton sees growth potential in junior colleges and looks to leaders like Kevin Battle for inspiration.

17 OFF THE CLOCK

Taylor Mokate, a 7s and 15s Eagle, reminisces about his first days on the pitch.

18 GOFFONRUGBY

Aspiring to be a pro rugby player? There are some important things to know the overseas lifestyle.

22 EAGLES' FALL

The Americas Rugby Championship initiates some of the younger Eagle pool players.

30 SF GATE TO EDEN

San Fran Golden Gate lures rugby aficionados and national championships with their idyllic set-up.

34 FULLTIME

Justin Rutledge has seen rugby evolve over the years but knows some more nurturing is in store.

ALL THE RUGBY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

RUGBYMag.com is the leading source of rugby news, analysis and opinion in the United States. We cover American rugby from the pros to the kids, and everything in between.



New Features

- Exclusive Columns
- Breaking News
- All Scores, All Competitions
- Rugby Magazine Digital

EDITOR'S WORD



As I prepared to write this column, I was struck by three stories we were considering for publication on RUGBYMag.com. One was the story of the Northern Illinois rugby team springing into action during a practice to perform CPR on a passerby who had collapsed; another was about a college team in trouble with their administration for an incident involving alcohol; and another was about a college team kicked off campus for hazing.

Needless to say, some stories are more pleasing to write than others. College rugby, especially, is always teetering on a precipice. Populated, and often run as it is, by young men and women who are at a horizon-broadening time, collegiate rugby can be a place where young student-athletes find themselves and create a meaningful experience, or it can be someplace where they make huge mistakes.

College rugby is where RUGBY Magazine's parent company has found an entry point into the national sporting consciousness with the USA 7s Collegiate Rugby Championship. The coverage of the major college finals on TV

have added to the positive steps the game as a whole can make.

But that's just it. The game as a whole. If you are a college rugby player or coach, you have a huge responsibility. You represent your school, and you represent this sport. Especially if you are new to the game, you are now labeled, for better and for worse, as a rugby player. You do one stupid thing. You get beer for your underage teammate. You participate in some antiquated and sophomoric hazing ritual. You take your clothes off in public. It's not just college hijinks anymore; it's rugby being irresponsible. It's all of us who care so much about this game, because it's the greatest team sport in the world; because it's the sport that honors its opponents; because it's the sport you can play all your life. We who have played or coached or refereed or read and watched all our lives care that this sport continues to mean something good.

Like it or not, new college player, you're on the team of rugby now, and what you do reflect on us all.

SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

We'd love to hear from you! Rugby Magazine welcomes your praise, complaints and comments on anything we publish online or in the magazine. Let us know what you want to read more of, something we've missed, or a story that resonated with you.



E-mail publisher@rugbymag.com and vent away. You

might see your comments in the next issue.

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RUGBY IN TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL DAYS



BY ALLYN FREEMAN

In the mid 19th Century, the game of Rugby football spread throughout England, as many Old Rugbeians attended Oxford and Cambridge to continue playing the game. As everyone knows, it was at Rugby School when William Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran with it in 1823. But another event, not on the pitch, also had a profound effect establishing that rugby would become

the primary running game played by young gentlemen at England's well-known public schools. The occasion was publication of the novel in 1857 of *Tom Brown's School Days* by Thomas Hughes.

Hughes attended Rugby School from 1834 to 1842, and captured in prose the quintessential experience of a boy's boarding school, most notably, the education principles of the Rugby School's headmaster, the real-life Dr. Thomas Arnold, who headed the school from

1828 to 1841. Arnold championed the study of classical languages, history, and mathematics, which became the model for other educational institutions in Great Britain and also the United States. He also believed in the beneficial aspects of competitive sport, namely rugby and cricket.

It was Arnold who also initiated the prefect (or Praepostor, Latin) system which authorized the 6th-formers (Seniors) to act as mentors and guides, keeping order in the school

The home of Thomas Hughes, author of *Tom Browns' School Days*, from 1832-1842.

for the lower-form boys.

Hughes used his brother, George, also a Rugby alumnus, as the model for Tom Brown, who enters Rugby as a naïve, 11-year old, and learns quickly the new codes of conduct for survival skills needed for the transition to manhood. The book achieved remarkable sales in England, the most successful of its time describing life in a boarding school. Yet, although Tom's experience with sport and bullying was applicable to all English public schools, it was Rugby School that would reap the positive notoriety. The book also introduced the first and perhaps the most famous of all literary school bullies, the notorious coward Harry Flashman, about whom the 20th Century writer George MacDonald Frazer would go on to create many humorous historical novels in the famous "Flashman Papers" series.

Tom Brown breaks through the clutter of school anonymity by his surprising derring-do on the rugby pitch. In the contest between school houses, Tom, as the smallish Lower Former, dives on the ball (see insert from the Classic Comic of the novel) to halt the opponents from probably scoring the winning goal. He's the new boy hero that saves the day, and receives the ultimate accolade from East, the top sportsman in his house, who says, "Well, he is as plucky youngster, and will make a player." (See second comic frame for this exchange.) Hughes's recounting of the rugby match represented one of the first mentioning of the sport in novel form, which resulted in its positive acceptance throughout the country. *Tom Brown's School Days* served as the model for two of the other popular England-based boarding school novels, James Hilton's *Good-bye, Mr. Chips*, and the Harry Potter seven-book superstar series penned by J.K. Rowling.

Today, the pitch at Rugby School is pristine and beautifully kept; a tribute to the sport's being invented on the Close. It is easy to think that more than 155 years ago, the Tom Browns of the school played in shirts, vests, and ties with a thick ball, massing feet in the scrum. And which of us would not also have been proud if, in our first game, someone said, "He'll make a player?"

RUGBY COMICS

There was many a splendid scrummage as the boys massed about the ball.



The blood of the Browns was up. Tom threw himself upon the ball, under the very feet of the advancing column.



Here are some excerpts from the Classic Comic of *Tom Brown's School Days*. The hugely influential novel chronicles the life and times of schoolboy Brown, who garners some attention from East, the top athlete in the boarding house, after sacrificing his body to secure the ball during a rugby match.

Based at the Rugby School, the institution received lots of attention as the novel skyrocketed off the sales chart.

East came running up.

It's Brown. He's a new boy.

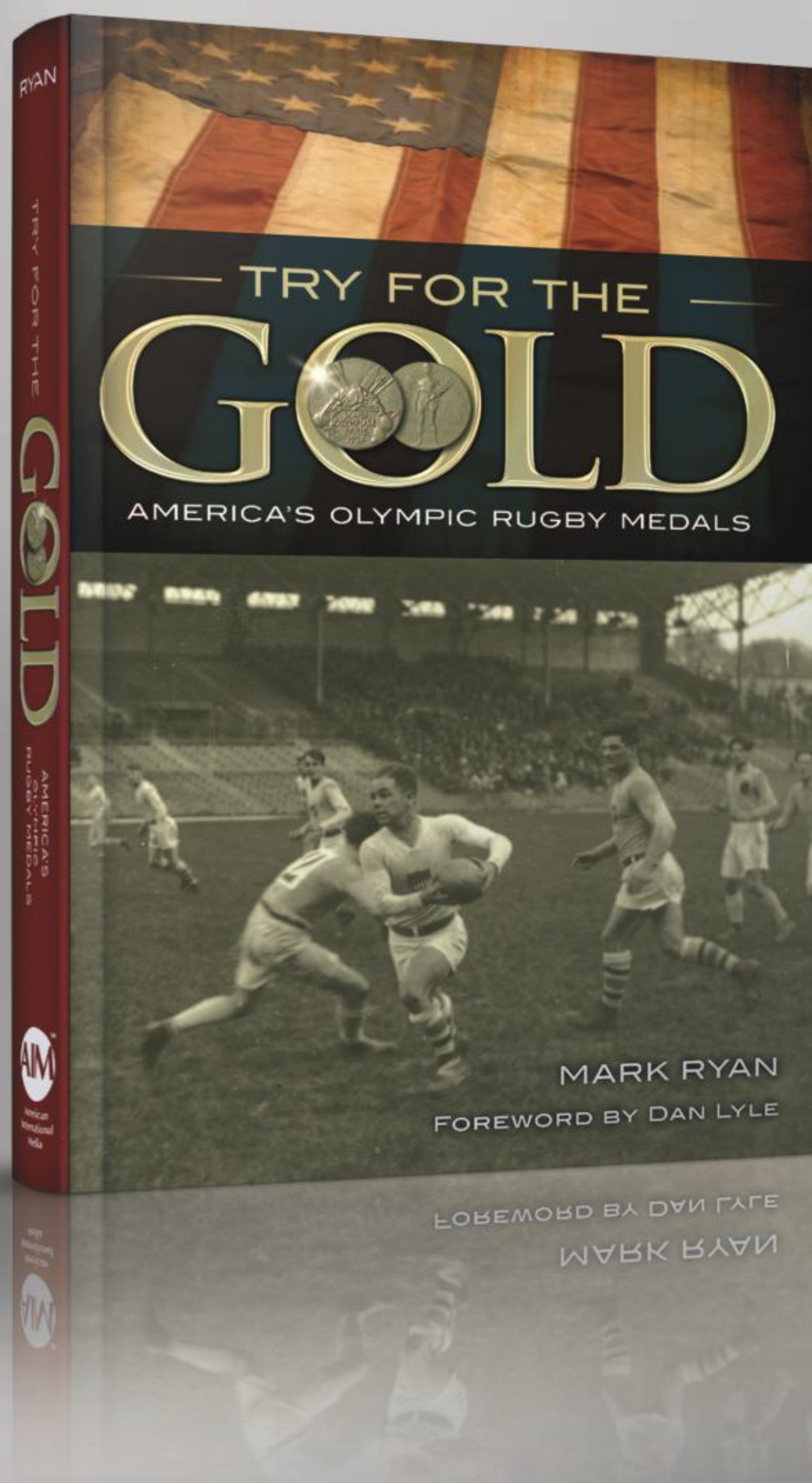
Well, he is a plucky youngster, and will make a player.





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WILSONS of UTAH

BY MARK NUMBERS



FATHER-SON
DUO FORGE
FOOTBALL
RELATIONSHIP

It's late August in Herriman, Utah, a city in the farthest southwest corner of Salt Lake County. A large digital clock stands between practice fields, counting down to let players and coaches know when it's time to transition into the next part of the outlined practice schedule.

Offensive day drills have the quarterbacks, running backs, and receivers together. Linemen are on the other side of the field. It is an unusually cool day relative to the normal Utah dry heat. Overcast clouds give the Herriman High School football team a nice break in the weather for their two-a-day practice. Only a week away from their first regular-season game and everyone is focused with pre-season electricity in the air. Practice is run like a college football program. Team managers are filming plays and scrimmage sessions. Trainers are on hand. Equipment managers have water, balls, and pads available like clockwork. Anyone can see that Head Coach Larry Wilson and son Jeff, as well as other coaching staff, know what they are doing.

The Wilsons are familiar with their relative coaching roles. When spring rolls around, the coaching positions switch, and so does their sport. Jeff takes on the rugby head coach position and Larry is an assistant.

Both father and son understand that football and rugby work well together, and that both sports help in their coaching goals. They have proven that American football and rugby can not only be played by the same players at a single school, but both sports help the individual athletes as well as the whole team excel in reciprocity. And their successes on the rugby and football fields show it.

Larry, now in his 40th year of coaching, has had plenty of perspective on the two sports. He played football at Granada Hills High School in Southern California, Los Angeles Pierce College, and Southern Utah University. Jeff also played football in high school for Highland High School in Utah and college football at Southern Utah University and Rocky Mountain College in Montana. But it wasn't until Jeff's junior year in high school that father and son were exposed to rugby. Jeff started playing prop for Highland Rugby in 1993 under Head Coach Larry Gelwix, and Larry seized on an opportunity to be an assistant rugby coach.

"I didn't know a damn thing about rugby," he said. So he took on a role as a motivator and organizer within the program. Initially a novice of the game, Wilson recognized some aspects of the game.

"The crossover from football to rugby coaching was easy because of the commonalities from sport to sport,"



PHOTOS (previous pg): Herriman's Francis Bernard playing football for Herriman, and Herriman rugby in action. (all photos herrimanhighfootball.com and jjmichaelpphoto.com.)



he explained. "There is still the discipline and competitive nature involved as well as the structure and organization of a team."

And so the interest and involvement grew for both Wilsons. When Jeff completed college he too started coaching the forwards for Highland Rugby with Dad. Both coached for Highland Rugby until 2010. And that's where this story really begins.

While coaching for Highland Rugby, both Wilsons had continued coaching high school football and held jobs as teachers. Herriman High School was a brand new school, opened in 2010, and Larry was hired as Head Football Coach. Both Wilsons were hired as teachers there as well, and Jeff stepped in to be Larry's assistant.

They quickly recognized an opportunity to start not only a great football program, but two athletic programs that would excel. They would be able to lay the foundation for football and rugby. In fact, during the interviewing process Larry made it plain he was interested in rugby too, and wanted to know that he would have support for both sports.

"Having the high school administration and community's interest in both football and rugby was one of the critical components in building a program and having success sooner than later," he said.

In their first year Herriman HS made the state football playoffs, an astounding achievement for a first-year football program, and in their second year, the rugby team won the Utah state championship, beating larger and longer-established club teams such as United and Trybe for the title.

The Wilsons attribute much of their success to having players that participate in both football and rugby. Currently nine offensive starters and seven defensive starters for Herriman football play rugby. Their players recognize the benefits of participating on both fields. Tight-end and lock/flanker Gabe Ruffin said. "Rugby is like having spring football training. There is a very good benefit for physical growth and team building as well."

Players are attracted to the fact that every player can run with the ball, added wing Thad Hay, while scrum-half Vili-Ami Bloomfield said there are many similarities in the two games, especially in an option-pitch football offense.

Having players play both football and rugby allows them to develop their ball-handling, fitness, strength, balance and agility, speed and acceleration, and open

PHOTOS (Clockwise from top left): Coaches and bench celebrate last spring's state rugby championship; Larry Wilson leads his football team onto the field. Larry Wilson on the sidelines. Jeff Wilson reviews a game for Herriman rugby. And the rugby team in action.

field tackling. Some of the mental elements include field vision and spacing, running correct angles, teamwork and leadership.

“The real major difference in the sports is that rugby develops individual decision-making and reaction from the player. And in the actual game, football is more coach controlled, rugby is more player controlled.”

However the actual game flows, having all their players at a single school has its own benefits. The team building aspect is very important.

“As a single school, our players really get to know each other. They have a real bond. They play multiple sports together, they’re in the weight room together, they take the same classes, and they are socializing outside of school,” explained Jeff. “Our guys were beating teams simply because they were not going to let each other lose.”

Any legitimate competitive advantage



is appealing to a football coach, and also to collegiate scouts. In today’s intense recruiting atmosphere for college football, rugby has helped give players and coaches an advantage for scouts. Many college football players have played rugby in high school, and in the NFL, Haloti Ngata of the Baltimore Ravens and Nate Ebner of the New England Patriots are players that credit rugby with their sporting development.

Jeff Wilson takes opportunities to send college football scouts film from his players on the rugby pitch.

“College football recruiters love seeing potential players in a different light using similar ball handling, agility or defensive skills,” he said.

As the weather gets colder in Utah, the snow signals the oncoming end of football season. But it won’t be the end of these kids playing together, and it won’t be the end of the coaches’ time working with the players. Football season ends, at Herriman, and everyone knows rugby season is right around the corner.

PHOTOS: Top, Francis Bernard in his rugby kit this time. Bottom, Larry Wilson works one-on-one with a player.



COLLEGE GAME FINDS ROOM TO GROW

TWO-YEAR COLLEGES ARE UNTAPPED, POTENTIAL RUGBY HOTBEDS. **BY PAT CLIFTON**



American rugby's breeding ground has always been a coast-to-coast network of college campuses. For players on teams ranging from the Olympic Gold Medal winners of the 1920s, which drew heavily from Cal and Stanford, to those which competed in the most recent World Cups, pulling from Penn State and again Cal, colleges have been their most consistent high performance environments. Even today, in the midst of a youth and high school rugby boom, there are more rugby teams and players in the college game than in the youth, high school or senior club sectors.

Varsity programs, for both men and women, are popping up all over the country, and they're paying coaches and handing out scholarships. Small private colleges (Life), big state schools (Cal), Ivy League institutions (Dartmouth) and commuter colleges (Davenport) are all experiencing their fair share of successes. Yet, there is still plenty of room for college

rugby to grow, plenty of unplowed real estate to consume.

What is the next frontier of college rugby? How about two-year schools and historically black college and universities (HBCUs)? Registered as active in USA Rugby's CIPP database within the last year are 12 junior, community or city college teams. Five are in California, two in Utah, and one each in Oregon, Texas, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Iowa.

And while there's no real tradition of rugby on HBCU campuses, at least three schools boast some pretty famous rugby alumni. Virginia State has capped 7s Eagle PJ Komongan, who started his college career at Delaware State. Alabama State can boast Women's Eagle Phaidra Knight. And Lincoln University (Mo.) can claim Northampton Saint Samu Manoa. The former San Francisco Golden Gate and Eagle forward actually played quarterback for the Lincoln Blue Tigers.

Kevin Battle, paid USA Rugby employee and

College Competitions Committee Chair, is a pioneer of rugby at two-year colleges. He recently left his post as head coach of UC-Santa Barbara to focus more on the Santa Barbara Rugby Academy, which represents Santa Barbara City College and is set to compete in DII-AA in the spring.

"The Academy is really living up to its philosophy, which is giving young men and a lot of young women an opportunity to improve their grades, save some money and get themselves into a position where they can transfer into a four-year college and be ready and available to make some strong contributions to teams," said Battle, who, along with Jim Love, founded the academy in 2009.

"I was having difficulty getting kids into UCSB, but yet the desire to still come and be a part of the program was there. I myself was a junior college transfer, and when I started doing the research, I started realizing that only about one-third of high school graduates ac-

tually go onto four-year colleges. So there's a whole subset of rugby talent that has fallen by the wayside."

Six years earlier and 375 miles up the Pacific Coast, Santa Rosa high school coach Dave Ellis sought to fill the same void.

"A lot of our kids didn't go to four-year colleges, because we have such a good junior college here," said Steve Wren, who took the reins from Ellis nine years ago as coach of Santa Rosa Junior College. "The kids wanted to do it, and Dave was available and willing to put the time and effort into getting it started."

In its second year of existence, Santa Rosa JC made it all the way to the DII National Quarterfinals.

"They had a lot of kids from Elsie Allen High School, who had played in the National Championship the year before, and those were the kids that were kind of the nucleus of that team," said Wren. "They had 25-26 kids on that team the first couple of years. Now we're up around the high 30s to low 40s to start the season every year."

Santa Rosa isn't the only junior college to have success on the field, as its Northern California rival, Sierra College, reached the National Semifinals in 2011.

The relationship between the rugby team and the school at Santa Rosa JC is much like it is at many four-year schools. The team is considered a club; it has no funding from the school and it is lucky to get a practice field for half of the season. But, unlike coaches at four-year schools, Wren has regular access to the college's athletic director and president.

In Santa Barbara, Battle and his program have impressed the administration so much that the dean of students has volunteered to be the team's academic advisor this year.

"Because of the standards that we're keeping and because our whole aim is to get kids to transfer, we've found that we've received a much warmer reception and welcome at the junior college than we would at a university, and primarily it's because junior colleges are rated on their transfer rate," said Battle, who's sent 18 players to four-year schools.

PHOTOS: (opposite page) Junior college Sierra (maroon) reached the national semis in 2011. (this page) Alabama State alum Phaidra Knight during the 2010 Women's Rugby World Cup. (Ian Muir photo)

"We attract kids from all over California, but we're also attracting kids from all over America. We're helping the bottom line of the junior college and our transfer success rate is, I think, three times that of the normal student body at Santa Barbara City College. That, in and of itself, has turned a lot of heads and gotten a lot of attention."

The struggle for two-year schools is high player turnover. Occasionally, Wren will get a player for four years if he's in one of the nursing, police or fire science programs. But, usually, players are gone after two or three years. In Santa Barbara, players are only allowed to stay in the program for three years.

While Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa and Sierra have proven that two-year schools can compete on the field with traditional colleges and universities, there's hope that someday they won't have to.

"I think there's an obvious need for more (JC teams) to spring up, and I'm sure that they will. Obviously, it's a bit different with four-year colleges," said Battle. "We're at a tough spot where we don't have a critical mass in varsity programs or junior college programs

that we can start splintering off and have junior college competitions, but I think there's a big need for that."

What could help springboard the creation of more two-year programs is something that could also spark rugby on HBCU campuses — 7s. Now that colleges are taking the abbreviated code seriously and more tournaments, a USA Rugby National Championship and a nationally-televised commercial event in the CRC are on offer, starting a rugby team is easier and more appealing than ever before.

At Virginia State, an HBCU with roughly ten alumni from the famed Pride (formerly known as Hyde) rugby program currently enrolled, starting a 7s team from scratch is a much easier proposition than forging a 15s squad.

"We still catch up and we play pickup games of 7s," said Komongnan, who is currently playing football at Virginia State. "A lot of the guys, we've been playing together for four, almost five years. We're always having fun playing the game of 7s. I think, give us enough time just to play together and get everyone back acclimated to the sport, we could have a pretty good 7s team."





Komongnan's high school coach and Pride Rugby founder Tal Bayer has been contemplating pitching rugby, in particular 7s, to some HBCUs.

"Sort of the same way where we took pride 13-14 years ago in being the first inner-city all-African American team, there's an opportunity for an HBCU to step in and create the first HBCU rugby program and do it in a 7s capacity," said Bayer.

"I think it's a great low-barrier entryway. I also think, to be honest, in terms of financial barriers and perceptible barriers, I think 7s is going to be a lot easier to get into an HBCU because it does have major media exposure, Olympic exposure. With 15s, people see a scrum and a lineout, and they're like what's that? With 7s, they see running and tackling and not as much of that rugby-specific stuff, so they're more OK with it. From a player density perspective, it's a lot easier to attract seven or 15 players and then supplement with football rejects or other athletes."

Just like Wheeling Jesuit, Davenport, Life, Notre Dame College, Spring Hill and Lindenwood, schools which have all started funded, varsity or quasi-varsity programs with paid coaches, most HBCUs are enrollment-driven small colleges in the business of competing for tuition dollars.

"I got a lot of kids that go to HBCUs and don't end up playing a lot of rugby. If they had the opportunity to go to an HBCU that has rugby, not only would my kids go, but there are other programs up in New York or in Los Angeles. I think you could assemble rugby programs with kids that have grown up through

high school and middle school playing rugby," said Bayer.

Pride has sent many rugby players, like Komongnan, to HBCUs to play football. One missed rugby so much he transferred, in short order, to a school that had a team.

"He wanted to be at a school that has rugby, and he's enjoying it," said Bayer. "When he got down to school to do football, he was calling me within a week and saying, 'I think I made the wrong decision.' I said, 'Why?' He said, 'I miss rugby.'"

HBCUs can provide rugby unparalleled passion, pageantry and pride surrounding athletics at 105 campuses across the country, and rugby can offer HBCUs an untapped recruiting resource which leads to new revenue and exposure. Two-year schools can provide rugby a landing place for every rugby-playing high school graduate in the country and access to millions of potential rugby players and fans. And rugby can return the favor with higher enrollment and better retention and transfer rates. Hopefully, these are mutually beneficial relationships we see come to fruition in the future.

PHOTOS (above) Samu Manoa, now with Northampton Saints, graduated from Lincoln University. (below) Kevin Battle, pioneer of rugby at two-year colleges.



▶ OFF THE CLOCK



with
**TAYLOR
MOKATE**

1. You spent a season playing in New Zealand. What was the oddest, perhaps most distinctly Kiwi experience you had? Maybe something odd you ate or a phrase you had to learn. (I remember having to google “box of birds” after interviewing a Kiwi).

The first few months was a huge learning curve. I immediately had a huge family as everyone was calling me “cuzzy bro” and I was constantly made fun of for not knowing how to pronounce street names and towns. Try saying “Whakapapa.” I mean, what is that?

2. You spent that time with a fellow large, distinctly blond American Eric Fry. Was there a nickname given to the two of you? Jokes about how you could both pass as descendants of Vikings?

We did pick up a few nick names. Fry guy received the name “The Pink Dolphin” after a bad sunburn left him discolored. I was Thor and Thorgeous and collectively we were referred to as “The Americans.” Interestingly enough we were called twins a lot and people would strike up conversations with him thinking he was me and visa versa.

3. When the movie Thor came out, was your facebook blown up with jokes or mentions? Have you ever actually been confused for Chris Hemsworth in public?

Ha ha! Every day. It is entertaining but can also come in handy. I once got rushed to the front of a TSA screening line in an airport because the lady thought I was Thor.

4. On a more serious note, what is the

biggest takeaway from your time in New Zealand?

I made some amazing friends and met a lot of great people such as my coach Paddy Gough, but my biggest takeaway would be the experience of New Zealand rugby and the high level of skill and toughness. Coming back from a knee injury is a little unnerving and a place like New Zealand allowed me a platform to build from in developing my skills and aggression in contact. It was basically a chance to relearn the game. I couldn't have picked a better place.

5. Your last year at Oklahoma, you were set to compete in the CRC until you were injured. I imagine it was heartbreaking, but what was it like watching your teammates get to play on that National stage?

Honestly painful to watch any game and not be able to play in it. The only comfort was seeing my friends and teammates play so great and with so much passion. These guys had bled and exhausted themselves next to me all year and to not get to go into battle with them was gut-wrenching. You want nothing more than to play your heart out for your best friends, guys like Arrynn Wilkinson and Blake Hodges, guys who had trained with you year-in and year-out. Watching them carry the University of Oklahoma seal over their hearts and go out and lay it all on the line was amazing.

6. You've been on a lot of tours and in numerous High Performance camps, etc. Who is the biggest prankster or class clown in those experiences? Whether it was a 15s Eagles or 7s Eagles or All Amer-

ican setup. Maybe give an example of a joke or prank?

Wow picking one prankster out of all the teams is impossible. I imagine for the fifteens it would be Scott Lavalla, having grown up with him through the system I know his humor and mischievous ways. With the sevens program I would have to point to Zack Test and Colin Hawley, affectionately known as “The Disney Channel.” I am guessing though if I asked them they would probably point the finger right back at me. I have the unique ability, or curse, of always finding away to cross something called “the line.”

7. You've gotten to play in two pretty awesome environments with a USA jersey on — in front of a record crowd in Houston against Italy, and in front of another record crowd in Las Vegas. Can you compare what stands out in your memory from those?

I remember the Las Vegas game as tunnel vision. I heard coach say my name and I remember standing up but after that your guess is as good as mine. It was my first international game and my parents were in the crowd as well as thousands of others there to watch me play. I couldn't have been any higher because I felt on top of the world for that second half. The Houston game was amazing in front of that crowd. Once again my parents were in attendance and so were the OU friends. I loved every second of playing there. The crowd was amazing and so was the experience of playing top teams such as Italy.

Judy Teasdale photo.



USA captain Todd Clever took any offer he could to play, and only recently was able to command the kind of contract he deserves as one of the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game. NTT Rugby photo.



SO YOU WANT TO GO PRO?

ALEX GOFF LOOKS
AT THE OBSTACLES
AND MISCONCEPTIONS
ASSOCIATED WITH
PLAYING PRO RUGBY

I have reported on dozens of Americans who have played professional rugby, and I've learned a lot about the life they lead, and it's not an easy one.

I've also interviewed many, many young, enthusiastic rugby players with aspirations to play professionally. It's an admirable goal, but one with pitfalls.

So I figured I'd spell it out for everyone what those difficulties are:

A huge percentage of American rugby players are good enough to play professional rugby. This is absolutely true. Almost to a man, Americans who have gone overseas, even on a temporary or trial basis, have impressed coaches with their athleticism and work ethic. Several times I have heard a coach say, "if he were only Australian/Welsh/English I could put him on the Super Rugby/Provincial/Pre-

miership team right now."

What American players lack is immersion in the game. We know this, and we're all trying to fix it. But it's up to the players, as well. If you want to play pro, you have to not only bring the athletic ability and the fitness, you have to show you have the skills.

Playing pro isn't a ticket to financial security. Why did Nate Ebner choose football over rugby, because he liked football better? No. If he didn't make the choice because of the money, he should have. The NFL minimum is more than almost every professional rugby player makes. In the UK, players in The Championship start at about \$32,000 a year, with name players perhaps topping out at ten times that (which is a nice payday, don't get me wrong).

In the English Premiership, players usually start around \$48,000 (although Academy

players are capped at much lower), but major stars can, after time, start to hit \$500,000.

In France, the lower divisions pay more than in England, a reflection of the larger crowds that watch them play.

In almost every league around the world, one or two star players — the players signed to get fans in the seats — are paid very well, while the rest are making perhaps a 10th of that.

Salary caps are a partial reason for this. As in any sport, the players who suffer under salary caps are not the upper echelon, and not the rookies, but the middle-of-the-road veterans who have seen their salary creep up over time. Those are the guys who get cut for a younger, cheaper player.

Some leagues are looking into changing their salary cap structure wherein one salary doesn't count toward the cap. This allows teams to sign their one star player and then manage all the other paychecks separately.

Most professional clubs don't play in front of big crowds. It wasn't that long ago that the Premiership in England was touting that the average attendance had topped 10,000 a game. They got there, by the way, by having an opening weekend double-header at Twickenham, and therefore got to count 50,000 fans twice.

Even today, many Premiership and European Cup game crowds are in only four figures. For the 22 first round matches in the current Heineken and Amlin cups in Europe, the average attendance was 8,656. Two games, Munster at Racing Metro and Leicester at Toulouse, topped 20,000. Super Rugby is a bit better, but averages just over 21,000 a game. Get down to 2nd-tier leagues and you're hoping for 1,000 fans.

Have the skills, size, speed, fitness, and desire? Well **the problem is, you're American.** Professional teams overseas are usually limited to the number of foreigners they can have on their roster, and on the field at any one time. Even if the club wants you, you have to get a work permit that allows you to get paid to play. And good luck bringing your wife or girlfriend — her finding work is even tougher, if not impossible.

Americans have a very difficult time getting pro contracts in Europe because they are not European. The loophole is that through various international treaties I won't go into here, Samoan, Tonga, and Fijian players do count as European (I know, but there it is). So, if you



How to be a regular starter? Be something they've never seen before, like a big, powerful player who loves physicality and can run. Samu Manoa. Red Hat photo.



Chris Wyles, in action for Saracens, recently topped 100 appearances for his club, but he has an easier time getting a starting spot because his parents are English. Ian Muir photo.

are an American of Polynesian heritage, especially if your parents were born back in the islands, look into getting a different passport. It could be the ticket to a contract.

On the whole, more Canadian players play overseas than Americans. This is usually due to the fact that Canada is part of the British Commonwealth, meaning Canadians don't need a work permit to work in the UK. In addition, many Canadian players have a European parent or grandparent who can help them get the right passport, so they aren't counted as a foreign on pro teams.

So if you were born overseas, or if you have a parent from Europe or Australia or somewhere, this might be the time to cash in on your other-ness.

But before you do that, keep this in mind — **the top leagues require foreign players to have been capped by their country, usually as a starter.**

Because it's so hard to find a place on a club, **American players are under even more**

scrutiny than others. Many American players overseas acknowledge that they felt the pressure to be the best, the hardest-working, and the fittest every day. If you go overseas, you will feel that pressure, too, and the only way to not feel that pressure is to keep performing, every day, even if you're not playing on the weekend.

OK, so going overseas might be too much, but what about in the USA?

The big professional option for Americans in the USA is the USA 7s team. This is a wonderful opportunity for the players in the program, but it's also a high-pressure opportunity. The athletes are not paid a high wage — just over \$20,000 — and have to work enormously hard to get up to the standard of international 7s. In addition, there's a whole new generation of players aching to get a spot in Chula Vista.

In the end, there might be a lot of pressure on being an American overseas, but being an American rugby player in America isn't a picnic, either.

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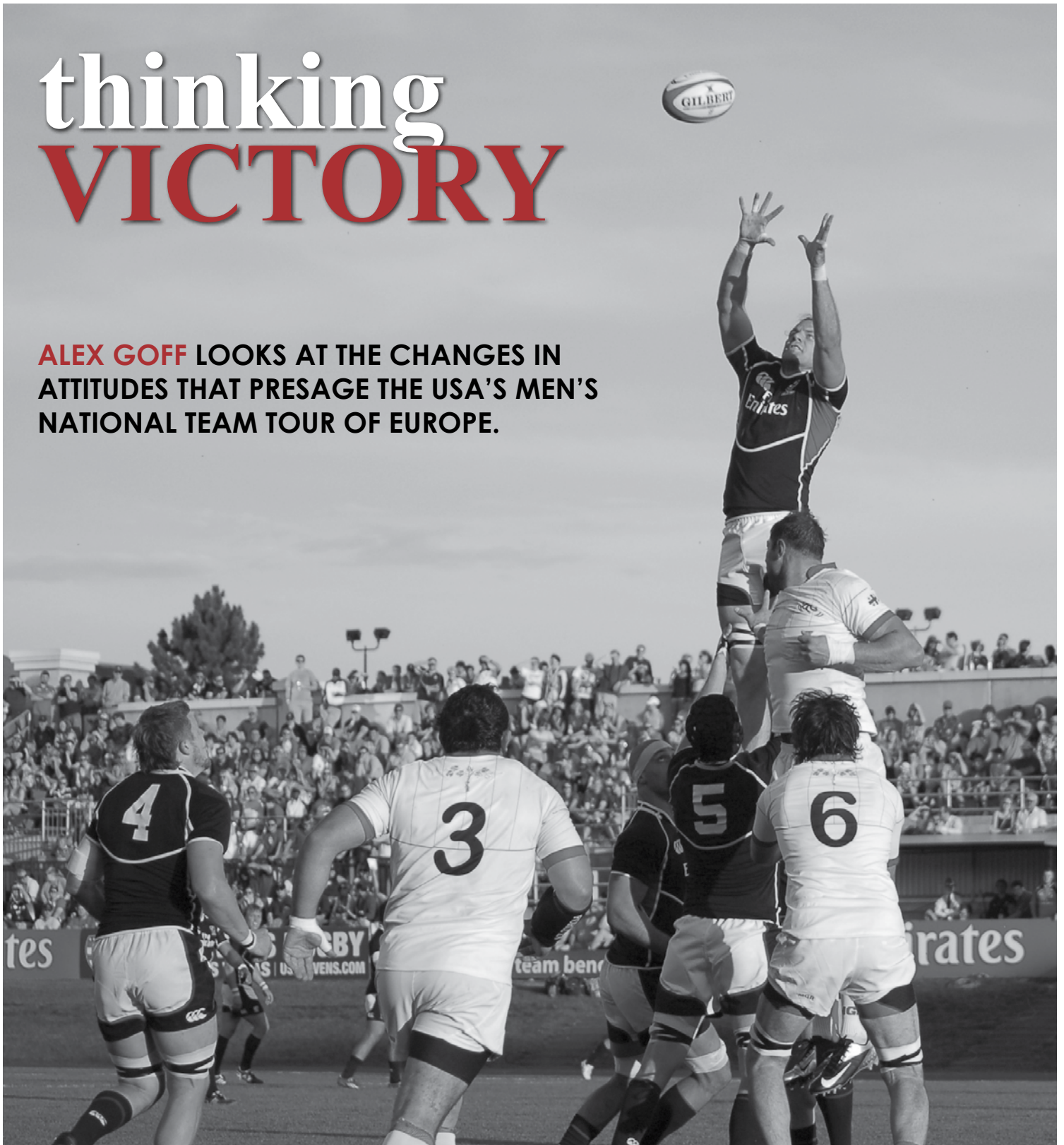
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thinking VICTORY

ALEX GOFF LOOKS AT THE CHANGES IN ATTITUDES THAT PRESAGE THE USA'S MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM TOUR OF EUROPE.



When Mike Tolkin took over the USA Men's 15s team in the spring, he didn't do what most new coaches do.

He didn't talk about how little he knew about the players available. He didn't talk about moving slowly toward a few victories.

Instead, Tolkin said he would go after opponents. He wanted to create a new culture where winning was expected, and the team would play a type of game fans would enjoy.

The results weren't quite there. The Eagles lost a close one to Canada in Ontario, beat Georgia convincingly (a team they had lost to 18 months before), and then lost a winnable game against Italy when the referee decided the Americans had too many players on the field.

Still, the players came out of the assembly feeling good.

"It takes time to change a team culture, but we are changing it," said scrumhalf Mike Petri. "We have a different attitude now and I think we definitely should go into any game expecting to win."

But winning wasn't really the expectation for the Americas Rugby Championship. In that tournament in October Tolkin selected

a very inexperienced squad. No player had more than three caps to his name, and that player, Taylor Mokate, had started only twice. The team was made up of college players, club prospects, and shots in the dark.

Before the tournament, Tolkin said the goal is always to win, but the first goal was to develop players and see who could take the next step.

The results, then, showed that. The Eagles were easily the least experienced team in the competition, and played like it — too conservative at times when not exploiting space out wide, and too wild at times, taking quick taps when no one was ready.

Argentina picked apart the USA Selects 39-3 in the opener, and a few days later Canada were fortunate to win by such a large margin, 23-3. In the final match, the Americans lost again, 26-8. At least they scored a try, a rumbling, powerful run by Air Force officer Eric Duechle.

But going through those growing pains in an 'A' side tournament is a lot better than doing it on the international stage. That tough experience prepared some of the young players for the task ahead.

And the task ahead is three rankings tests



Mike Petri says the Eagles enter the fall with more of a winning attitude. Phillipa Snyman photo



Andrew Suniula in action this past June against Georgia. Opposite page, the lineout is a key attacking platform for the Eagles. Phillipa Snyman photo

against Tier II opponents. There will be no practice games. The USA will spend two weeks in Colwyn Bay, Wales, and there, in the region's new rugby stadium, play Russia on November 9 and Tonga on November 17.

Canada will also be in Colwyn Bay, playing the same two teams, but the North American rivals will not play each other.

Then the USA will fly to Bucharest to play Romania on November 23.

"I really like these fixtures," enthused USA fullback Chris Wyles. "I won't go so far as to say we are going to win all of these games; you can never say that in any sport. But we have to start expecting within ourselves and in our squad that we need to come away with victories in these games."

The USA team will be under a bit of stress, as not all their players are available. Mokate and USA Selects captain Cameron Dolan were injured at the ARC. Andrew Durutalo, Mike MacDonald, and Blaine Scully might all have been selected, but are not 100% healthy.

The Eagles will be without wings James Patterson, Colin Hawley, and likely Taku Ngwenya, all unavailable, and college players such as

“WE HAVE A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE NOW AND I THINK WE DEFINITELY GO INTO ANY GAME EXPECTING TO WIN” - MIKE PETRI



The USA Selects scrum down against the Argentina Jaguars during October's ARC. Judy Teasdale photo.

Shaun Davies, Seamus Kelly, and Will Holder.

But at the same time, they trot out a group of players with significant professional experience.

Eric Fry has been playing and training for Manawatu in New Zealand's ITM Cup (the old NPC for those of you who don't like change). Lou Stanfill has been playing professionally in Italy. Todd Clever at NTT in Japan and Scott LaValla at Stade Francais in Paris are bona-fide stars on their teams. Wyles is the same at Saracens, while Paul Emerick has been in a professional environment all fall and is in terrific shape.

That's a very solid core, and if things work out right, they could add Samu Manoa to that list.

The players matter, as the Eagles coaches, USA Rugby, and the players themselves have worked hard to put themselves in the all-too-rare professional environments. And those players, for the most part, have gone out of their way to play for their country as well.

But in the end, it's all about attitude. The USA will, for the first time in a very long time, go into a fall tour with only one goal — to win test matches. They won't be trying out completely untried players, the ARC filled that role, and they won't be saving it all for the World Cup. They will be playing aggressively, to win. Simple as that, and the players love it.

USA SELECTS AT ARC



Argentina Jaguars 39
USA Selects 3
(Pangelinan Pen)

Canada A 23
USA Selects 3
(Pangelinan Pen)

Uruguay National Team 26
USA Selects 8
(McDonald Pen, Duechle Try)

SQUAD

- Hookers: Derek Asbun, Zach Fenoglio, Stanton Moaalii
- Props: Tim Paulsen, Anthony Purpura, Nick Wallace
- Locks: Nick Civetta, Graham Harriman, Tom Katzfey
- Flankers: Cameron Dolan, Eric Duechle, Kris Headlee, Tayor Mokate, John Quill
- Scrumhalves: Shaun Davies, Benny Mateialona
- Flyhalves: Gearoid McDonald, Zach Pangelinan
- Centers: Casey Clark, Dean Gericke, Zach Mizell, Jack Tracy
- Wings/Fullback: Chris Chapman, Joe Cowley, Miles Craigwell

USA NATIONAL TEAM EUROPEAN TOUR

Nov 9 v. Russia at Colwyn Bay, Wales
Nov 17 v. Tonga at Colwyn Bay, Wales
Nov 23 v. at Romania



STEINBERG

BUSY
ISN'T
HALF
THE
STORY



WHO WOULD ENVY SOMEONE WITH THREE FULL-TIME JOBS? THAT'S PETE STEINBERG'S LOT AND HE'S ENJOYING EVERY MOMENT OF IT. **BY JACKIE FINLAN**

Every time I see Pete Steinberg, I ask him what this week's schedule looks like. He smirks a bit, and then takes a deep breath like he's about to dive underwater. He has three full-time jobs — Women's National Team coach, Penn State women's coach and leadership development consultant (the 9-to-5) — and they all vie for precious time on his calendar.

When we spoke in mid-September, Steinberg had spent the week-end on a charter bus traveling to PSU's game against Ohio State; flew to New York City for 24 hours to visit a consulting client; led PSU 7s and 15s practices; drafted sponsorship proposals for the WNT's fall tour and upcoming year; and was in the midst of preparing for two road games against Michigan State and Michigan. During his down time, Steinberg was reviewing video from the recent Eagles' camp, compiling player feedback, working on the recently released WNT Web site, eating, sleeping and giving interviews.

Steinberg found a way to make it all work, but affording appropriate attention to each aspect of his life means abiding by certain rules that not only make scheduling easier but also respect everyone involved.

"With work, I manage it around rugby," Steinberg said. "I was on the road for two months solid over the summer, because that's when there's no rugby stuff. There are conflicts all the time, though. For instance, I leave next week for Italy and will miss a week of [Penn State] practice and the Army game. But I never have conflicts with the Women's National Team, because they have priority."

Right there, you have Steinberg's pecking order. While the attention afforded the Eagles, Penn State and work depends on the time of year, it's clear that the WNT takes top billing.

But that's only been the case for the last year and a half, when Steinberg was officially named head coach. Since then, the Eagles have only competed in the 2011 Nations Cup, where the USA played England well but then lost to South Africa and Canada. But they will leave for Europe on fall tour in November.

"At the Nations Cup, we learned that we could play with England in the first game, but we couldn't recover [physically] until the last game against South Africa," Steinberg said. "To play three, four games in a week, you can't just be fit; you have to be rugby fit. It's not about Crossfit or training for a marathon; you need to train for your position."

That's where the Eagle Training Centers (ETC) and player-coding comes in handy. WNT analyst Johnathan Atkeison coded the performances of the 2010 Rugby World Cup World team. Those statistics not only counted stats such as the number of tackles that England Maggie Alphonsi averaged during a test, but also determined whether the ballcarrier lost, gained or netted zero meters in contact. All kinds of skills are graded, as intricate as the type of passes delivered — if a ballcarrier was able to catch a pass at full pace or had to check their gait to





complete the pass. Steinberg and staff used national assemblies to gather information and gauge players' progress over a series of consecutive games, as opposed to one outing.

"It's an international environment, replete with ice baths, recovery days, video — everything we'll experience during a tour," Steinberg commented specifically on the 100-player camp in June. "We see them perform over three games — not just one big event."

Meanwhile, players focus on their individual development and check in during ETC gatherings. But Steinberg and staff don't rely on test scores.

"We don't care about what the test scores are," Steinberg confirmed. "Players know their scores for improvement purposes, but we use the [coding] data to grade players."

We'll see how well Steinberg's re-creation of an international tour pays off in Europe, although the team's games against Italy and France (three in six days) represent more than testing theories. Steinberg indicated that 80% of the players present at the September camp and on tour will comprise the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup team.

"This is a chance for us to learn what it's like to travel overseas in preparation for the world cup," Steinberg explained. "We will have a European experience, from the food, to playing in Stade de France with an 80,000-person capacity. It's all about learning; however, our forwards are a really strong, experienced group. The backs are a newer group who are stepping up to play."

Some of the USA 7s professional players will help fill out the 15s' team's backline, but the Dubai 7s conflicts with the Europe tour — set to depart after the Women's Premier League championship in mid-November. After the 2013 Sevens World Cup, the focus will re-shift to 15s and we'll see the inclusion of more professional 7s players beyond camps.

"We had a really good mix," Steinberg said of the veterans and new faces in September. "The younger

PHOTOS

Opposite page: (top) Steinberg awards Eagle and Northeast prop Jamie Burke the MVP trophy at the all-star championships. (bottom) Johnathan Atkinson interviews Phoebe Boone after a match at the 100-player camp last June.

This page: (top) Eagle flyhalf and PSU player Sadie Anderson (right) and USA 7s pro and 15s' lock Jill Potter wish each other luck at the Colorado camp. (bottom) Steinberg visits Rugby Oregon for a skills camp last winter.



kids did well, and I wouldn't exclude Sadie [Anderson] from that group even though she's capped. A number of youngsters — BYU's Monica Jackson, AIC's Jess Davis and recent Stanford grad Molly Kinsella, all 22 years old and younger — stepped up. They have a steep learning curve and get a lot better quicker. It was challenging for some, like [Washington State's] Megan Bonny, who has a lot of potential but didn't feel comfortable enough to express herself athletically."

Considering what's involved in readying a squad for tour and ultimately the World Cup, one might assume that Penn State, a seven-time DI women's college champion, might need more attention. Fortunately for Steinberg, he has an excellent support staff composed of nine assistant coaches. The Nittany Lions' 60 players get ample face time with coaches, who are more than capable of running game day, including PSU's 39-14 victory

"NO ONE SHOULD COME TO PENN STATE BECAUSE I'M THE EAGLE COACH — MAYBE BECAUSE I'M A GOOD COACH AND HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL — BUT ANY OTHER REASON IS A MISTAKE."

over Army, a game that occurred while Steinberg was overseas on business.

PSU still went on to win their division of the Big 10 and most likely the conference this weekend. It's been an exciting transition for Penn State, which used to compete in the Mid-Atlantic territory.

"We can beat Army, and that's great, but on campus, it means a lot when you beat

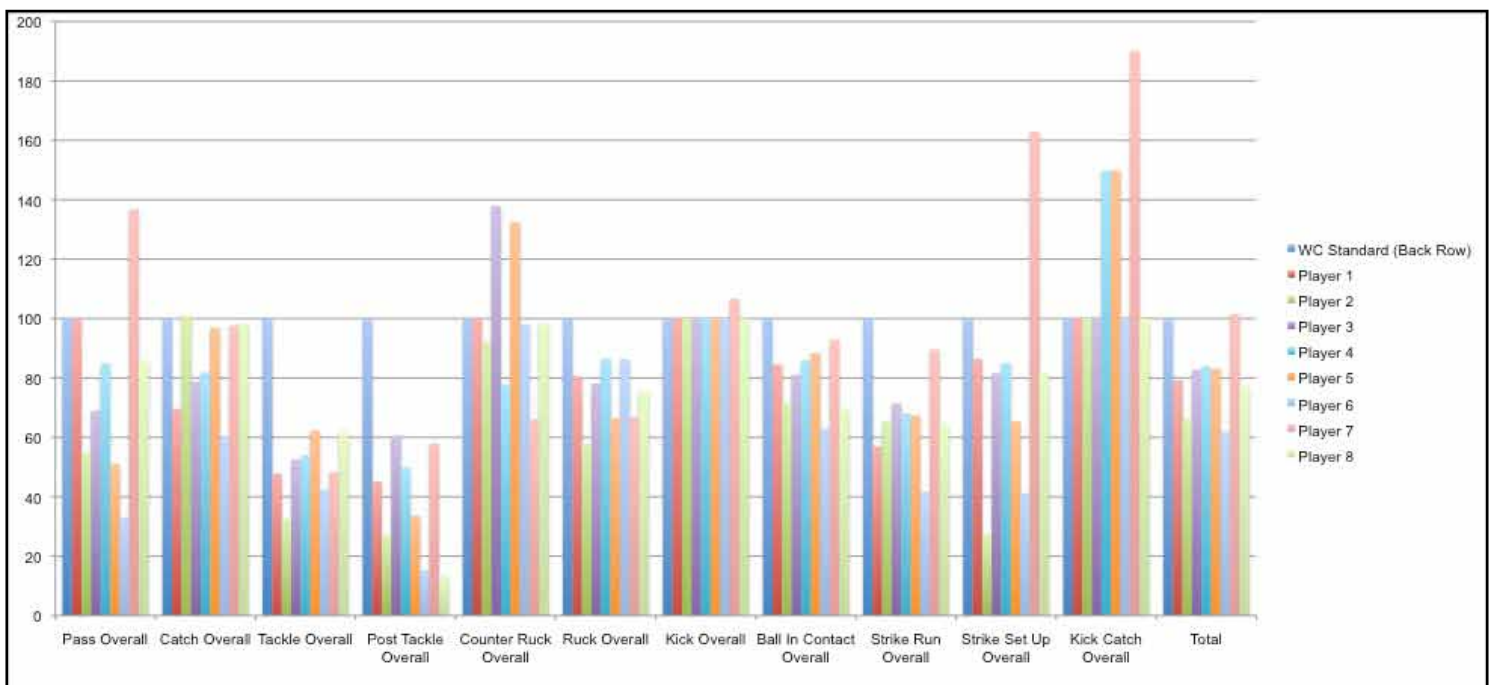
Ohio State or Michigan," Steinberg said. "At Penn State, people really care about the Big 10. And we're only going to get stronger, as a conference, as the Midwest high schools continue to grow and are attracted to Big 10 schools. We realized that we needed varsity recognition as a conference, not as individual programs."

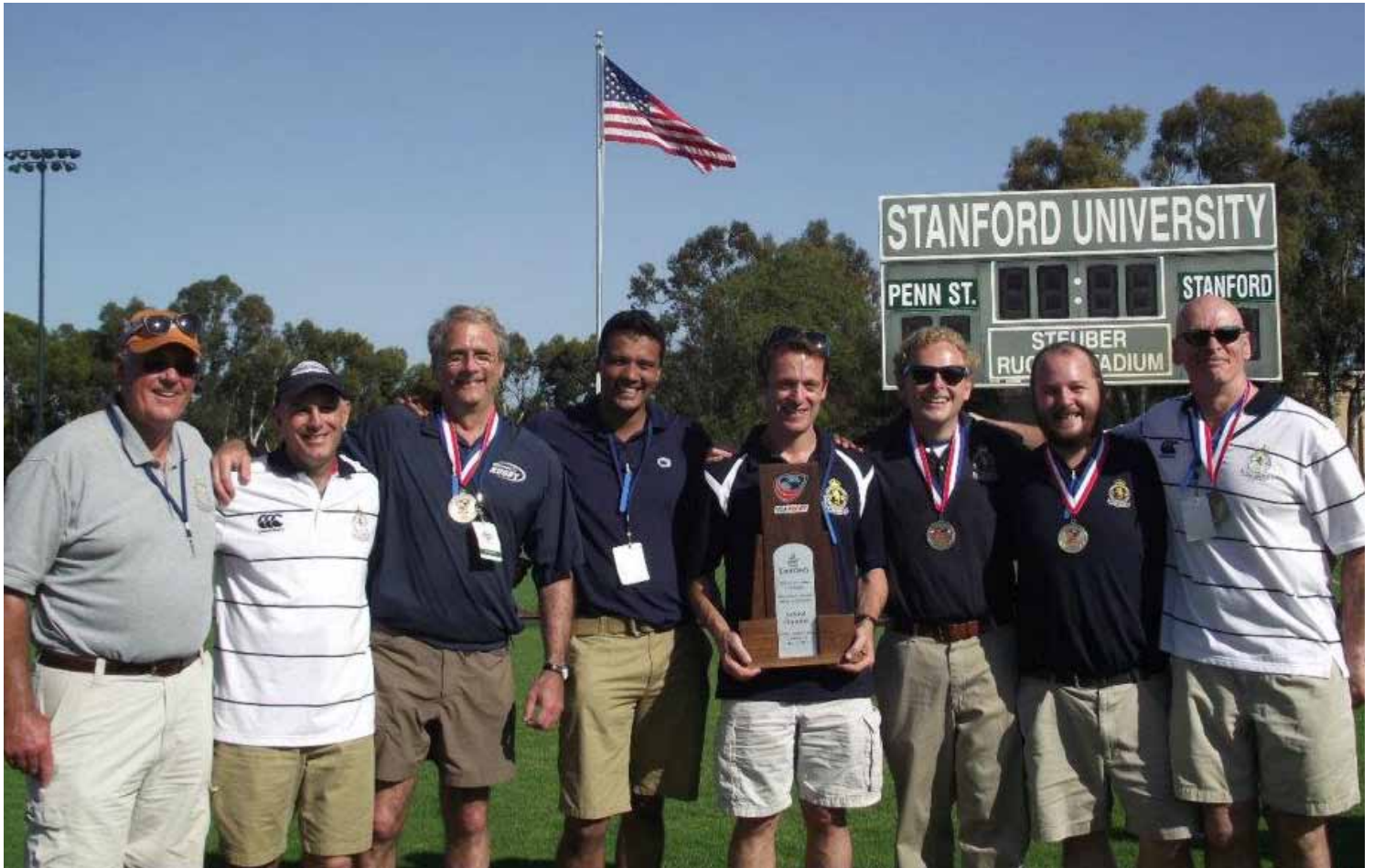
After PSU's game against OSU, which the Nittany Lions won 90-0, Steinberg indicated that a couple of players deserved to be looked at for the USA U20s or All-Americans. However, he didn't use his visit to Ohio to indulge these athletes. And should PSU face Notre Dame in Big 10 final, he won't use that opportunity to check in on Ashley Okonta, the only Big 10 player in the senior Eagle pool. It's another rule that Steinberg has created in order to properly serve the main concentrations of his life.

"I keep my two roles separate," Steinberg

➤ THE SECRET CODE

Compiled by WNT video analyst Johnathan Atkeison, below is a sample graph from the World Class Standards program. This particular graph tracked the overall category totals and score of Eagle back row players and compared them to World XV statistics.





Steinberg (holding DI national championship trophy) with last year's Penn State assistant coaches.

said of his Penn State and WNT hats. "When I'm coaching Penn State and I see a player who might benefit the Eagle pool, I'll follow up with her via E-mail. Same thing if players approach me during at a U20 event asking about Penn State. I tell them to contact me on my Penn State E-mail, because it's not an appropriate time to discuss those issues.

"It's important because I don't want anyone to think I'm abusing one position," Steinberg added. "In particular, I don't want people to think Penn State players have benefits because I'm the Eagle coach. No one should come to Penn State because I'm the Eagle coach — maybe because I'm a good coach and have been successful — but any other reason is a mistake. If anything, Penn State players have a slight disadvantage, as I know too much about them, their challenges, while

I might see others in one great game."

Steinberg has created a great tradition at Penn State, however, he indicated he didn't know how much longer he'd be with the Nittany Lions. It suggests that three full-time jobs is indeed too much, and that he still needs his consulting business to pay the bills.

He actually seems to elevate his job beyond the rugby-enabler. As one who specializes in leadership and management development, one can see the connection between head coach and personnel consultant.

"I have really great clients," Steinberg said, "and I've been able to travel to Sydney, Toyko, and all over Europe. It's tiring, but I'm able to pack everything into time periods where there is no rugby stuff. Last summer, for instance, I was on the road for almost two months straight."

What awaits Steinberg after the tour to Europe? A much-needed break. Heading into December and January, the Penn State and Women's National Team schedules will go dormant for about six weeks (unless you're an USA 7s player). Meanwhile, Steinberg will set up camp in the south of France and work with a client in Europe, before spring ETCs fire back up once per month and PSU starts building toward nationals.

"It'll be relaxing," said Steinberg, looking ahead to Perpignan. "I need breaks; otherwise, this schedule isn't sustainable."

A good formula for a demanding calendar. Two of his three life components have been refined and output successful results. By late November, we'll see if Steinberg's efforts over the last year yield a positive outcome with the Eagles.



CHAMPIONSHIP EDEN IN THE BAY

BY PAT CLIFTON

IMAGES COURTESY OF DOBSON IMAGES

ISCO GOLDEN GATE
RUGBY CLUB



**ISLE OF
RUGBY**

Ray Sheeran Field at Treasure Island is one of American rugby's rarest gems. As you enter the man-made island, which sits in the narrow part of San Francisco Bay between San Francisco and Oakland, you're privy to one of the best views the Bay Area has to offer. The Eastern side of San Francisco's downtown stares across the small channel of water separating the city from the island. After you dodge the tourists taking advantage of the photo opportunity and veer right, you'll soon see uprights in the foreground and the Bay Bridge in the background.

Though SFGG has only occupied the grounds, which include a charming clubhouse that features a conference room, proper changing rooms, kitchen, and full bar, since 2005, when you walk through the entryway of the clubhouse you get the sense rugby's been a part of the building's history forever. Maybe it's the generations' worth of memorabilia hanging on the walls that emits the mystique of the old, moss-green structure.

Coating the wall of the clubhouse are photos, jerseys and newspaper clippings chronicling the histories of both the Golden Gate and San Francisco clubs that merged to create SFGG. Sticking out of the sea of memories is a photo from a *Sports Illustrated* story. "Slim Pickings at the Cabbage Patch" in the Oct. 24, 1977 issue of *Sports Illustrated* tells the story of the Eagles UK tour, and it features a photo of SFGG's Jay Hansen.

"Jay is still an active guy with the club," said SFGG club director and former president Greg Rocca. "He's been a huge proponent of moving things forward. That's a great piece up there."

Treasure Island was built in the late 1930s, and the United



States Navy has owned it for most of its existence. The building that now houses SFGG is the former Post Exchange store for the Naval Base, made famous by the 1968 movie *Yours, Mine and Ours*, in which stars Lucile Ball and Henry Fonda go shopping at the PX. Treasure Island has a long-standing relationship with movie making, as its old airplane hangars have served as sound stages and settings for numerous films, including one building acting as the Berlin airport in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

SFGG began practicing and playing on Treasure Island in the late 1990s, but not at the current site of Ray Sheeran field, which sat idle as an unutilized ex-parade ground.

"Time went on, we got to know some of the people over there a little bit better," explained Rocca. "Through kind of a very fortunate convergence of putting in some effort, the administrator changing over there, having done a lot of work with the administrator ... and there was a lot of talk about public and private partnerships at the time, we said here's an idea that we've been tossing around, and we think you've got a piece of property over there that's really not being used at all."

The field was originally named after Rocca, but he humbly engineered a name change following Sheeran's passing.

"Ray was the guy that every rugby club needs. Ray was the quiet man that got in and did a lot of work. He was talented," said Rocca of Sheeran. "Great personality. Loved rugby. Loved the players."

Under SFGG's control, the rugby grounds at Treasure Island have played host to numerous USA Rugby 7s National Championship tournaments, Super League Finals, Eagle assemblies, camps, weddings, graduations, Hall of Fame dinners, watch parties for big international tests and Pacific Coast and NorCal meetings. Though the cost of operating its own bar can be a burden at times for the club, Rocca says big weekends, like Club 7s Nationals Championships, can be pretty profitable, too.

Johnny does his thing. He's the pirate."

Koko is the club's go-to cook for after-match socials, elevated concession stand fare and team banquets. His sons played high school ball in the club, and he's remained a fixture within the club ever since.

"He's a very reliable guy," said Rocca of Koko. "People seem to like most of the food he gets out there. It's the hearty sandwiches, hot dogs kind of stuff. I wouldn't call it gourmet, but it fills the



In addition to the club's three senior men's sides, the SFGG high school and youth teams, a women's team and a women's netball team all use the facility.

Visit Treasure Island and you're likely to run across two of the club's best characters, Johnny Mac and Koko. Koko is the jovial, mustache-sporting, apron-adorning guy sweating by the grill, and Mac is the keg-shaped, vociferously jocular man driving the four-wheeler around.

"Johnny Mac is Captain Courageous, the troll under the bridge and Mr. Fix-it all rolled into one. He's quite a guy. He runs the place, in a lot of ways," said Rocca. "Johnny takes a lot of pride in the place. He was great friends with Ray, helped Ray a lot with the field. With Johnny, we have minimal issues of security and that sort of stuff because Johnny takes care of that sort of thing."

But don't let him catch you littering.

"Johnny's got a great sense of humor, but he can also get a little bitter also. He can go from A-Z quickly, but I think he's one of life's greatest characters. I don't know how else to describe Johnny ...

hole and people seem to like it."

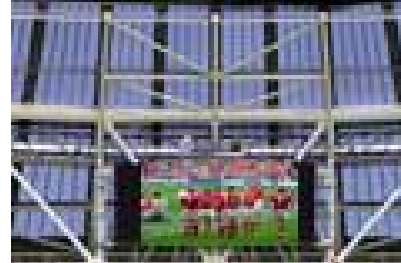
While SFGG has carved out quite a home on Treasure Island, it may not be permanent. The city of San Francisco has approved numerous plans to redevelop the island, and though none of them have come to fruition yet, the current plan is to turn the island into a residential area. It even includes a massive urban garden. Rocca says a home for SFGG will be included in any new plans, but not necessarily at its current location.

So, before the city of San Francisco gets in the way or the island, which has a sinking problem, slowly recedes into the Bay, make a date to see the old girl that is the SFGG clubhouse and Ray Sheeran field in its current form.

PHOTOS (Opposite top to bottom): The entrance to the field named after beloved caretaker Ray Sheeran, the clubhouse in (almost) full swing, and a nod to SFGG's proud tradition. Above SFGG remembers a championship. All photos Dobson Images.

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*JUSTIN RUTLEDGE

HAS SEEN RUGBY
BREAK OUT OF ITS
SOMEWHAT
NEANDERTHAL PAST. NOW WHAT?



Rugby is enjoying a surge of positive attention due to the diligence of people throughout the rugby community working hard to erase the image of the sport's chaotic past.

"A lot of people thought our culture was that party scene, or was that craziness," said Kurt Weaver, youth development director at USA Rugby. "I think the culture of the game, if you really break it down, has nothing to do with that."

Unlike the majority of the purely amateur teams of the '70s and '80s, rugby teams at all levels have their focus set on more than just partying and pick-and-goes. Now their sights are set beyond the bar and on to raising the bar for themselves and their sport.

"I see a major progression from more focused on the social aspect of the sport to actually a higher-level athletic endeavor," said Brian McCue, Head Coach for Notre Dame College's fledgling men's rugby program. "I think there's a lot more focus on the true athleticism in rugby."

While the social elements of rugby are important, players are now, more than ever, looking beyond local play and aspiring to higher stages of competition, even to the international level. With more and more opportunities for top-tier play, it is more important than ever before for players to keep their focus on the game. Competitions like the Rugby World Cup and the upcoming Olympics increase professionalism among players as well, according to Rich Cortez, collegiate director of USA Rugby.

"The focus is really on playing a great game in a safe environment on a high level," Cortez said.

Steps are also being taken to ensure that rugby is safer for its players. Today's incarnation of the sport is a long way away from rumbles in the

mud that persisted in the past. From the top down, the game is continually being tweaked to ensure that injuries and incidents are kept to a minimum while keeping the competitions interesting. According to Cortez, these steps come in the form of everything from background checks on coaches to implementing concussion procedures; and of course the ever-evolving laws.

As rugby becomes more prevalent in universities, it is changing as well. From becoming more attractive to administrators to organizing itself better, the rugby community is improving its image in the college arena. From rearranging brackets to creating more competitions and more focus on sevens, the focus is more on competing at high levels and making sure their programs are viable and valuable.

One way the face of rugby is changing for the better in the collegiate level is copying what worked for other sports. This goes beyond the new divisional lines being drawn as well. According to Cortez, there may be a March Madness-type tournament put into play to give more teams opportunities to play for some sort of title after the season's initial conclusion.

The changes coming from within the rugby community are altering the sport's image for the better, and with continued efforts the improvements will only continue.

"I think the future of the game is so much brighter," Weaver said. "We're doing a better job of getting our right stereotypes out there."

Things have changed — players watch their behavior more, the jerseys match, and now college teams play on TV. But some things, like Dartmouth's joy at winning at the USA 7s CRC in June, are forever. Steve Mitchell photo.

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