

Why Rugby?

Rugby is the fastest growing sport in the United States and nowhere is this more clear than on college campuses. As many do, I started playing rugby my freshman year, but the Union College team has existed for more than 50 years and the history of the sport in this country dates back to the 1920 and 1924 Summer Olympics, where the US triumphed over France and Romania to claim the first two Olympic gold medals in rugby.

The game has changed in many ways since then, but the core aspects, excellence in endurance and awareness, strength and speed, mental fortitude and brute force, remain. During 80 minutes of physically grueling competition, both teams, with 15 players a side, compete in a number of ways for possession of the ball with the ultimate goal of touching it down to the ground in the try zone or kicking it through the uprights to score points.

The physicality and basic rules of rugby are familiar to many, but these are really a vehicle for the game's tenets: integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline, and respect. Some may inquire how a game as violent as rugby can promote such positive values. To them I say, how could it not?

Were this sport played by savages, it would not be permitted anywhere. The nature of the game ensures that anyone who embodies the values and exercises them on the field will surpass the best player who merely picks up the game because they want to hit people. But, don't get me wrong, hitting people is still one of my favorite parts.

Cur lusum harpastum?

Totorum ludorum in sociatis rebus publicis Americanis, lusum harpastum maxime crescit, res qui clarior nusquam est quam in campis collegiorum. Velut multi faciunt, tiro harpastum ludere coepi, sed jugales Collegii Coniunctionis hic amplius annos quinquaginta existaverunt et res gestae in ha patria a certamina Olympica aestiva mille nongenti viginti et mille nongenti viginti quattor anno domini incipit, ubi socius res publica Americana Galliam Daciamque harpasto triumphavit ut primas duas coronas laureas postulaverit.

Hoc ludus in multis modis ab illo tempore commutavit, sed praecepta necessaria, qui superantes alios vi vigiliaque, viribus velocitateque, fortitudine animi et manu beluae, manserunt. Per horam et trientem horae certaminis cum competitoribus corpore defatigantibus, ambo jugales, cum quindecim competitoribus utrimque, in multis modis certaverunt ut harpastum tenuerint ut competitor harpasto terram trans calcem tetigerit aut harpastum per pilas in calce pulsaverit et ergo ratione jugalorum addit.

Petitio corporis et leges primos harpasti lusi multis familiaris est, sed hi vero decreta lusi harpasti transtulerunt: integritas, permotio, concordia, disciplina, reverentia. Aliqui quaerant quomodo ludus tam vehemens quam lusum harpastum tala decreta bona proesse possit. Quibus dico, quomodo non possit?

Si hoc feris ludatur, ubique non licet. Natura ludi satisdat aliquam qui decreta includat et in agrum exerceat optimus competitor qui recente lusum harpastum ludere incipiat ut homines percutiat excessurus esse. Sed, non male interpretas, tamen homines percutere gaudeo.