



PWRFC News

Fall 2010

Fall Schedule

8/28: vs. Village Lions

9/4: @ Providence

9/11 - 12: Pumpkinfest

@ Pennypack Park

9/18: vs. Boston

10/2: vs. CR3 South (TBD)

10/9: Potential Friendly

10/16: CR3 Playoffs

@ Atlanta, GA

10/23: Potential Friendly

10/30 - 31: D1 Round of 12

@ Austin, TX

11/12 - 14: D1 Championship

@ Mesa, AZ

2010 Executive Board

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Vice President: Emily Tunney

Secretary: Suzanne Igoe

Treasurer: Kerstin Nordstrom

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Which Weir What?

By Bobweir & Daveweir

The Philadelphia Women's RFC has a new coaching staff for the fall 2010 season. Head Coach Bob Weir and Assistant Dave Weir have joined the team fresh from a stint down the road with the Wilmington RFC. The following is an interview conducted in a Jeep Wrangler travelling at high speed along the I-95 corridor as they trek to PWRFC training at Grays Ferry.

Daveweir: So Bob, how and when did you get involved in rugby?

Bobweir: Well it was in the dark ages of '73 at West Chester State College. That was after it was called the State Teachers College and before its library expanded to University size. I was on the freshman football team and met the rugby guys in the weight room. I told them (a little exaggeration) that I knew all about rugby and they said, "Great, we're going to a tournament at Lehigh this Saturday and we need players." And that's how I got started.

Bobweir: How about you Dave?

Daveweir: I was a junior at Ridley High School in PA when my older (shorter and uglier) brother asked me to come out to his club, Turk's Head in West Chester and play on their C side and the rest is history.

Bobweir: So you started playing rugby with your older brother?

Daveweir: Yea, most of my career I had to shoulder the burden of explaining why we could never attend family weddings or events on Saturdays, why he always ended up running around getting naked at the rugby parties and why he always demanded that we were the first to practice and the last ones to leave. It's been tough...

Daveweir: Your first touch of a rugby ball (the balls had laces then and most teams had only one) was in '73. You told us the when but how about the why?

Bobweir: At first the sport was all about the new experience for me. Public opinion seemed to border on the fact that rugby players were all beasts. About that same time the book "Alive" came out

about the rugby Andes Survivors which was pretty cool too. "A slice of properly chilled Prop, please." But seriously I wanted to be in incredible physical shape and have fun getting and keeping that way. I was a social animal and the rugby community is legendary for their social activities and their acceptance of everyone no matter what your size, shape or color... A well-known way to get and stay in great shape, party so hard it would make a rock star jealous and have people look at you like the badass that you are, pretty much sums it up.

Bobweir: Well after all these years what has rugby done for you?

Daveweir: Do you mean other than the fingers and knees that don't work quite right, the string of women that loved me and claimed I loved rugby more or the bazillion hours of sharing the greatest sport on earth with my teammates and big Bro?

Bobweir: I think that's plenty for our readers and our new team for this early in the season.

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Who's With Me?

By Marissa Martinez



PWRFC's 7s National Team

Another season of 7s rugby for PWRFC has come and gone. Despite the intensive heat this summer, many current and collegiate players participated in the 7s season, including players from Drexel, La Salle, and Northeastern. Enduring a lengthy drive from Lehigh Valley (the sticks) each week, Tracy Gola committed to coaching the team for the season. Gola, a self-professed lover of 7s, has been playing since 1996 and has been coaching for several years.

The early 7s season started out on a positive note, with significant wins at Lehigh Valley and Harrisburg. At Lehigh Valley, Philly lost a tough match to Harrisburg women in the Bowl final. The Harrisburg tournament was one of the highlights of the

season, with a second place showing of five wins and one loss in the final to Keystone. Back in Baby Blue, sporting some fantastic albeit small, blue compression tees, also played at Harrisburg with a strong showing from both PWRFC alumnae and experienced players.

As the season progressed, the team continued to improve on support and continuity during play. Philly attended three more tournaments, including Cheesesteaks at Brandywine, Princeton, and MARFU, often playing many proficient, well-seasoned teams. Despite substantial individual and team development, Philly was unable to achieve many more wins for the remainder of the season.

For the first time ever, Philly attended the

Women's 7s National Invitational Tournament in Providence, RI. After wading through New Jersey and New York traffic, players arrived in RI ready to play, armed with determination, RockStar, 'sports' candy, and the occasional whole green pepper. Bringing only 7 players to Nationals was challenging, and while Philly did not win any games, a good time was had nonetheless.

Although the win-loss record was less than ideal (dismal really), players were able to gain experience with 7s and improve their overall rugby game. Many players are already looking forward to the next 7s season, where they will hopefully be able to utilize those skills to dominate the competition in the future.

"...players arrived in RI ready to play, armed with determination, RockStar, 'sports' candy, and the occasional whole green pepper."



Bob Weir



Dave Weir

Weir Continued...

Daveweir: Bob, why don't you tell everyone about some of the highlights of your career? (This should be the short part of the interview.)

Bobweir: Should I start with being a player and coach for more than 35 years, my coaching experience with the Men's Super League, Local and All-Star U-19's, a club and union administrator, USA Rugby Coach Development Program Course Leader, an iRB licensed Coach Educator

or the best looking Weir rugger?

Daveweir: Sorry Bob, we are just about out of time... How about a word or two about your experiences and expectations so far for the PWRFC Fall season?

Bobweir: Absolutely have been impressed with the PWRFC players' intensity and willingness to try new things at practice. We are installing a new attack pattern that should highlight our abilities and

really make the opposition chase us on the score board. Our captains, Emily x2 (Record & Tunney) are awesome leaders from in front and every player I have worked with is ready to battle our way to the top. I am feeling sorry for anyone standing in our way of that National stage.

Daveweir: Sounds brilliant. Hey that's the University Ave exit! Do you have a copy of tonight's training plan; I left mine at Buckley's.

Grays Ferry – Cleaning up the Practice Pitch

By Katie Wojtal

PWRFC's practice field is located within a community center complex located between 29th and 30th on Wharton Street in South Philadelphia, in a neighborhood referred to as 'Grays Ferry'. The Donald F. Finnegan Playground, known to PWRFC simply as Grays Ferry, is the place where PWRFC meets each Tuesday and Thursday evening to work out our game plan that we execute flawlessly each Saturday. The field, however, is not without its flaws. It is typically littered with broken glass, and a dust patch sprawls from the 50 meter line out past the ten meter marks.

The community center complex that is also home to a baseball diamond, two outdoor basketball courts, a playground, and a one room community center building. The complex is a hub of neighborhood activities, hosting basketball tournaments, line dancing

classes, soccer leagues, softball leagues, pick-up basketball games and socialization. The field and community center complex is the only well-lit public open space within twenty city blocks. And although the field, playground, and community center are well utilized by various groups, lack of funding from the City of Philadelphia limits the extent that the facilities are maintained.

To do our part, PWRFC organized a clean-up of the field, playground, and surrounding area to coincide with the beginning of our fall season. Using rakes, shovels, brooms, and bags loaned/donated to us by the City of Philadelphia Community Partnership Program (CPP) we removed trash from the field and playground and cleared the field surface of rocks, boulders, bricks, and glass.

The clean-up was a success. Not only did the field and playground benefit from the tending, but we also succeeded in laying the foundation for other long term projects. Manuel Ramos, from CPP, came out to the field during the clean-up to take pictures of the field condition and the work that we were doing. Spurred by PWRFC, CPP is looking to organize clean-up on vacant lots adjacent to the field. Another community connection was made when some members of a nearby church saw that we were out working on the field and asked to borrow some of our borrowed equipment to do some yard work at the church property. Everyone was getting in on the fun!

All in all it was a morning well spent.

"The complex is a hub of neighborhood activities; hosting basketball tournaments, line dancing classes, soccer leagues, softball leagues, pick-up basketball games and socialization."

Giving Back – PWRFC Style

By Suzanne Igoe

On August 13th Philly Women was able to combine the always popular activity of spending time at O'Neals with a great cause. PWRFC has strong ties to Philadelphia youth, both through our players' jobs off the field as teachers, social workers, and mentors as well as the time spent with the youth in the Grays Ferry community before, during, and after practice. Philly's "Back to School Happy Hour" brought rugby friends and family together to

donate school supplies for Philadelphia's most needy students.

From paper and pencils to notebooks, folders, binders, paperclips, and glue... and even the occasional tub of Play-Doh, bags and bags of school supplies were brought to O'Neals. Guests were able to reminisce with a little back-to-school shopping and reconnect after many summer adventures while

enjoying the great happy hour specials O'Neals has to offer.

The team has really stepped up its involvement with the Donald F. Finnegan Playground, and we are happy to announce that all collected school supplies will be donated to the children in the Grays Ferry community. Hopefully the kids will take some time out of practicing with us to actually do some homework now!

Special Thanks to our Sponsor



On the Agenda...

By Suzanne Igoe, Joan Miller, & Katie Wojtal



"Come kick off your Labor Day Weekend with Philly and be back in time to barbeque in the comfort of your own backyard or alleyway."

Go Philly Women! Go Schuylkill River! Go USA!

Talk about starting the fall season off right. Both the Schuylkill River Exiles and Philly Women have home games August 28th, so we are having our First Annual Kickoff Rugby Pub Crawl. Once we have finished getting our eat on and our drink on at O'Neal's, we will be hitting bars along South Street, with a stop at Irish Times at 2nd and Bainbridge to watch the Women's World Cup match between USA and England. Kickoff is at 10pm, so if you cannot make it out for the beginning of the crawl, be sure to catch up with us to root on USA!

VEGAS, Baby, VEGAS!!!

Okay, so we're not going to Vegas, but we are going on a road trip, more specifically, a bus trip. We are headed to Rhode Island to play the Providence Women's Rugby Club Saturday September 4th, and we are renting a charter bus so we can go up and come back together without worrying about carpools and renting hotels and all that nonsense. And the most exciting part is that there are more seats than there are players, so we are inviting alums and friends of ruggers to join us! Rides are \$25 a person. Come kick off your Labor Day Weekend with Philly and be back in time to barbeque in the comfort of your own backyard or alleyway. Contact Suzanne (secretary@pwrfc.org) to make a reservation!

One More for the Kids

The Grays Ferry Youth Rugby Initiative is looking to kick-off with a one-day camp this October. This will be an opportunity to gauge the interest level, impart some rugby knowledge, and hand out Grays Ferry Youth Rugby t-shirts. We are currently looking for folks (current players & alums) to help take the lead on this initiative. Email Emily Record (captain@pwrfc.org) to get on the planning committee email chain.

Fun, Fun, Fundraising!

The team has high hopes of advancing far into the D1 Championships. Lofty goals mean lots of hard work and LOTS of MONEY. To help support all of our potential travel to Atlanta, Austin, and on to Mesa, PWRFC will be holding a classic O'Neals fundraiser in October. Stay tuned for details on the theme, specials, date and time. Just a hint... keep Oct. 9th and Oct. 25th open!

Pumpkinfest!!!

By Angie Marfisi & Emily Tunney

Philadelphia Women's Rugby Club (PWRFC), is proud to host our annual Pumpkinfest Rugby Tournament at Penny Pack Park in Philadelphia on September 11-12th, 2010. Pumpkinfest, which is celebrating over 25 years, is the oldest and one of the largest women's rugby tournaments on the east coast. This premier women's tournament welcomes over 600 participants and fans to Philadelphia every fall. This year we will feature two divisions: club and collegiate and host teams from all over the country including Colorado and Texas. With much enthusiasm, this year's Pumpkinfest Director Marianne Mancini said "I can't wait for Pumpkinfest this year; it has been an honor and joy to organize the tournament especially as an alumna of the team." I asked several current and former players what word comes to mind when they think Pumpkinfest and the answers, I think, sum up the tournament nicely: "crisp air of a fall to come" (more than one word), teamwork, zany, muddy, triumphant, phenomenal, and time honored tradition. I think that says it all and we hope to see everyone out on the pitch!

...and off. Details for the Saturday Social:

Tavern on Broad	8pm - 10pm, Half Price Appetizers
200 S. Broad St.	8pm – 12am, Half Price Drinks
Philadelphia, PA 19102	The first drink of the night is on Philly Women!
(215) 531-5007	

****Under the Bellevue Hotel****

All are encouraged to dress up in a theme (any theme!) at Saturday's social. Philly Women's theme this year is Michael Jackson's Thriller (R.I.P. King of Pop).

Sunday Social will be at O'Neals Pub (611 S. 3rd St. Philadelphia, PA 19147).

Fall Details

Break out your Maroon and Periwinkle! PWRFC is coming to a field near you!

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION	FIELD
Saturday, August 28, 2010	12pm	Village Lions	Home	Memorial Hall Philadelphia, PA
Saturday, September 4, 2010	2pm	Providence	Away	Riverside Middle School Providence, RI
Sat./Sun., Sept. 11 th -12 th , 2010	All Day	PUMPKINFEST!!!	Home	Pennypack Park, Philadelphia, PA
Saturday, September 18, 2010	1pm	Boston Women	Home	Pennypack Park, Philadelphia, PA
October 10, 2010	TBD	CR3 South Game	TBD	TBD
October 16, 2010	TBD	CR3 Playoffs	Away	Atlanta, Georgia
October 30 th -31 st , 2010	TBD	Round of 12	Away	Austin, Texas
November 12 th -14 th , 2010	TBD	D1 Championships	Away	Mesa, Arizona

Home Fields:

Memorial Hall
4231 Avenue of the Republic
Philadelphia, PA 19131

Pennypack Park
7800 State Road
Philadelphia, PA 19136

For complete directions to the fields visit www.pwrfc.org