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THE OPINION

## Sports

# 'Hug a Rugger'

by James Brennan

If you see your fellow classmates limping down the halls with bruises and black eyes, there are two probable explanations for their unwholesome condition.

Either they play hockey with the law school team on the Fort Erie ice or they are members of the Buffalo Old Boys Rugby Club.

Three freshmen and one junior from the law school currently are members of the Old Boys. They are Dave Clark, Mike Gfroerer, Peter Braun, and Jerry Soloman. Dave and Mike are rugby alumni from Dartmouth, who were first round choices in the Old Boys rugby draft.

Formerly called the "UB Queens," the rugby club assumed the name "Buffalo Old Boys" after various club funding agencies at the State University of Buffalo Main St. campus refused to sponsor them as an official university club.

The Old Boys are described by future barrister Dave Clark as "a fine collection of teachers, city workers, graduate students, bartenders, photographers and a burgeoning crowd of happily unemployed."

Rugby, a traditional English sport similar to football, is played with 15 men on a side. There are no time-outs, no

substitutions and the halves of the game run for 40 minutes.

Since there are no time-outs, when a player is injured he is



given two minutes to get up. If he is unable to rise to play, he is carried off the field by players from each team and is usually given a traditional round of applause for his fine playing effort. Also medical attention if it's available.

There are three ways to score in rugby: a "try" (similar to a touchdown in football) for 4 points, a kick or conversion after try for 2 points and a penalty kick for 3 points.

The Buffalo Old Boys Rugby Club hosted a Rugby Festival this past week-end in Delaware Park with teams competing from Notre Dame, Cornell, Cortland,

and Toronto (two teams).

The Buffalo B team opposed Cortland and the Buffalo A team played the Toronto Barbarians Rugby Club. The results of the Old Boy's Cup Tournament could not be obtained before the printer's deadline on this story.

Playing the preceding week-end in two inches of snow, with ice floating on the puddles on the field, the Old Boys mucked out a 7-4 victory over Brockport. Some of the snow melted and left the playing field with large patches of mud. The game proceeds no matter what the weather or playing conditions.

Rugger, as rugby players are formally called, are known for their stalwart propensity to withstand pain and cold and their robust taste for indefinite amounts of stout and bawdy locker room limericks.

After their funds were discontinued, the Old Boys raised money to support their team by selling bumper stickers and buttons reading "It Takes Leather Balls to Play Rugby" and "Hug a Rugger."

Along with monetary support, the Old Boys welcome spectators and new players to join them in their Saturday afternoon romp in the mud. Anyone interested in joining this hearty bunch of lads can contact any of the law students involved or call 875-3953.