

on the bench

by Billy Martin

Approximately one year ago on this campus an organization was founded to promote good and healthy athletic fun and competition. This group is now the Rugby Club of this University. Under their own supervision, as this is not a varsity sport, these boys play a game that is fast, exciting, rough, and wide-open.

Rugby is a game similar to football and soccer. It is a continuous event comprised of two 35 minutes halves. Each team fields 15 men who like to indulge in rough, tough and torrid competition, not to mention beer drinking.

Originated in England and popular in the Commonwealth countries, this sport has long been regarded as the drinking man's sport (after one game you have to drink so as to get so numb you don't realize you are hurt).

In this country, Rugby is now being played in West Coast (where else) in high schools all around the area. It is fast becoming a popular sport in this country, but why not at this university?

A possible reason for its lack of popularity on this campus may be due to the fact it's a club sport. However, Andy Smith, president of the club says, "It helps us by not being a varsity sport." The reason he gives is that the club may want to go its own way and do what they want.

Another reason may be the failure of communication between the student body and the club. If the students don't know about the team, how can they support it? On this campus, you may learn through reading the sports section of this paper.

However, how many times has the sport been given its due representation in the sports pages? It's sad, but true, that Rugby has not been covered very well at all by the Spectrum, so strange as it may seem there is a Rugby team. One last reason is the unwillingness of this country, let alone this campus, of accepting this sport. Lately, as was mentioned, the sport is catching on, on the West Coast. The question is can it catch on here?

Fall weekend game

Comprised of faculty and students alike, the Rugby Club is preparing for its Fall-Weekend

game against St. Catharines of Ontario. This game will be played on Saturday afternoon at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Rotary Field. There is no football game at home this week, so why not Rugby? For excitement, thrills, and a sport that is well worth seeing (and it's free) try Rugby.

It is time the students of this campus took an interest in something better than picketing, burning draft cards, and arguing about the war, and give it up for a few hours and enjoy a sporting event on its way up in this country and on this campus. And if you still feel aggressive, anxious, and willing to let yourself go, there will be not one, but two Rugby teams in the spring. That means that next spring there will be two articles on the sport.

Hopefully, you will give Saturday afternoon a try at watching something different. Be prepared to see a thrilling sport and perhaps you'll take an interest. This is the year of the upset, and it would be an upset to see this university get interested in this sport. A nicer thing couldn't happen to a group of nicer Rugby players.

Bench warmers

Overheard at a banquet given for Clyde Pupick, one of the outstanding football players of the Lackawanna All-Stars was this, "Clyde, being a football player, you must eat, sleep, and drink football." Clyde couldn't believe this was asked of him and astounded everyone by saying, "Eat, sleep and drink football? Are you crazy? A pigskin in my kosher house?! . . ."