

## Dead Ants: Rochester Aardvarks

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On a sunny afternoon, the Rochester Aardvarks defeated the Buffalo RFC 11-6 to win the 1997 Dead Ants Tournament. The Aardvarks were defending champions and Buffalo hoped to regain the title they had won four times prior to 1996.

In the preliminary rounds, Rochester cruised by South Buffalo and Lockport by a combined score of 102-8 while Buffalo, using numerous reserves, bested Finger Lakes (19-12) and Rochester B (29-3).

In the semis, Buffalo downed the Syracuse Chargers 10-0 and Rochester defeated the Barracks

Rangers 19-0.

### Final

The final began with the two rivals testing each other with kicks, center rushes and forward rushes. Buffalo scored first as Rochester was over the top at a ruck and Ian Martin slotted the kick from 30 meters. After another long series of kicks, Buffalo was caught offside at a lineout and Matt Moss leveled the score with a penalty kick (3-3). The kickoff was won by Buffalo and for the first time they moved the ball wide. For the next several minutes, both teams kicked for position until Rochester was awarded a penalty, which Moss converted, 6-3.

Near the end of the half, Martin evened the score with a long penalty kick to make it 6-6.

### Second Half

After a first half of very conservative rugby, everyone expected one team to open up, but the second half was a carbon copy of the first. At the four minute mark, Rochester pushed into Buffalo's end and was awarded a penalty 10 meters from the line. As Rochester lined up for an apparent forward rush, Moss took a quick tap and passed the ball to Hoffman, who touched down in the corner, 11-6.

The ensuing kick off sailed into touch and the packs headed back to midfield for the set scrum. Moss, however, attempted a quick lineout to himself and Buffalo's Jablonski alertly bundled him into touch. Moss and Jablonski scuffled briefly and were standing chest to chest as referee Jim Dale arrived on the scene. For what appeared to be a minor flare-up, Dale ordered both players off, hurting Buffalo more because the 6' 5" Jablonski was dominating lineouts and had been a force in the loose.

The life went out of the game as Rochester was content to sit on their lead and play defense. At full-time, Rochester had the victory and

a second straight championship.

Rochester	Buffalo
Syfert 1	Lewis
Greenaway 2	a-Coleman
Prorushi 3	Coons
Stewart 4	Duffy
Schmidt 5	b-Livingston
Hoffman 6	Hann
Edmunds 7	Blunt
Van Zeiland 8	Jablonski
Moss 9	Graney
Gates 10	Bogdanowicz
Courtney 11	Hankinson
Page 12	Nadiak
Rodney 13	Martin
Ty 14	Calabrese
Cole 15	Terech

a replaced by Mistretta

b replaced by Hackbush

Referee: Dale (NYSRS)

TJs: Hammer and Vendetti (NYSRS)

The Dead Ants Tournament was well run and enjoyable. Held on the second weekend in June, the tournament signaled the end of the 15s season in upstate New York and is highly recommended.

The host Genesee Creamers want to thank the Elba Central School District and EMT man Bill Hilchey, who helped all players with injuries.