

THE SPORT OF RUGBY

Rugby football began in November 1823 at Rugby School, England, during a game of pre-soccer, when William Webb Ellis seized the ball and ran with it. It is basically a handling game.

In many ways Rugby is the most elemental game of all. Each side attempts to ground the ball beyond their opponents' goal line. Their opponents attempt to stop them by tackling the man who has the ball. Nothing could be simpler: no pussyfooting about, as in soccer, no World-War-III-plus-committee-organization, as in

American football, no bludgeoning your way to victory, as in field hockey, lacrosse, or hurling. Rugby is a simple, man-to-man contest for a pregnant football. Each side has 15 players: 8 forwards and 7 backs. The forwards deliver the ball to the backs who advance with speed and cunning, passing it to one or another, or not, as the passion takes them. Thus they try to cross their opponents' goal line and ground the ball.

This (worth 3 points) is called a "try," because they try a kick

at goal worth 2 points. This kick is taken anywhere on a line perpendicular to the place of score. Play is continuous until someone scores, breaks a law, or propels the ball out of bounds ("in touch," as the inexplicable British say).

Any player may run with the ball, pass it, or kick it. It is illegal to pass it forward, fumble so that it bounces forward, lie on it, throw it into touch, or hold onto it after a tackle. There is also an offside law which several players understand. Minor infractions result in a scrum; blunders bring the other side a penalty kick.

Armor is prohibited: there is nothing under a Rugby shirt but steaming flesh. If a player is injured, his side plays without him, for there is no substitution. Blocking, tripping and obstructing are barred; only the ball carrier may be tackled or otherwise molested. It is, as you can see, a handling game. Rugby is an amateur sport, played for its own sake. The beer is incidental.

On this campus it was started in the fall of '66, by a few interested students with Dr. Jean La Rue of the Classics Dept. as the faculty advisor. The club managed to scrape together a fall schedule, of sorts. They had a game against University of Rochester at Rochester, and two against St. Catharines of Canada, one here and one there.

Although the team was defeated in all three, they definitely showed improvement, and great promise for future matches. Some members of the team went up to Prudhomes for Boxer Day and made a great show against Hamilton, who are to represent Canada in the World Cup Matches this year.

Several members of the team plan to make the trip across the big lake to England, with the Philadelphia Club this August.

Because Rugby is a game that is played whenever the weather permits, the club has again put together a schedule with the hope that the sun may yet shine again on dear old Buffalo. There are seven games on the Spring calendar with all but one of them at home.

Practice will begin Tuesday at the Beef and Ale, and workouts Thursday at 4 p.m. on the intramural field in front of Clark Gym. Interested parties should get in touch with Jack Krajewski, TF 6-6445, or Jeff Berger, 836-6696.



Rugby . . . definitely a contact sport.



Why is our top so way out?

The top of the Volkswagen Convertible is way