

Cherry Blossom:

Washington 29,

Buffalo O.B. 12

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Washington D.C.

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This year's Cherry Blossom Tournament was highlighted by top quality play, good refereeing, a prompt start to all the games, magnificent weather and a beautiful setting. The National Capital Parks Service laid out four fields on West Potomac Park near the Tidal Basin and Jefferson Monument, for an eight-team men's tournament, a women's tournament (decisively won by Towson State) and a four-team high school tournament.

Smaller Field

Unlike previous years, no U.K. club participated - and there were last minute withdrawals by clubs that had conflicts with club championship games or other excuses. Another reason for the small field was the Virginia R.F.C.'s decision to schedule the Commonwealth Cup on the same weekend.

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Buffalo Old Boys 12

In the final, played on a good, if rather narrow, pitch in warm sunshine, the Buffalo fly-half scored first on a drop-goal but Washington soon countered with an Ed Gulyas try after each back had handled the ball. Tommy Smith, at fly-back, then dropped the first of his two goals.

As the Washington forwards established mastery in all phases of play, the experienced and talented backline, ably supported by a young, fast back-row, proved too much for Buffalo's suspect defence. The crowd of about 500 was treated to a display of strong running and precise passing from the Washington backs. Andy Shetterly gave

Preliminaries

Buffalo reached the final by defeating Washington B and Roanoke.

Washington A, after a stern tussle with a scrappy Georgetown team, overwhelmed Montgomery in the other semi-final.

excellent service at scrum-half and the Washington pack gave their opponents a lesson in winning the ball.

Buffalo tried hard and mounted several promising attacks but kicked too much ball away, especially when it landed in the hands of former Eagle full-back, Rob Bordley. Tommy Smith (U.S. Cougar, E.R.U.) played a near faultless game at fly-half, varying the attack skillfully, and Dave Fisher was an able replacement for the injured Danny Wack.

Scores: Washington, 2 goals, 2 tries, 2 dropped goals, 1 penalty goal. Buffalo O.B., 1 goal, 1 dropped goal, 1 penalty goal.

Referee: Mr. Dick Orgias,
Potomac Society.