



Buffalo Rugby Club Rucker-Mauler

Ellicott Station, P.O. Box 1656

Buffalo, NY 14203

www.BuffaloRugby.com

September, 2002

Log on to www.BuffaloRugby.com to get all the latest Buffalo Rugby updates!

From the President:

By: John Baldwin

Fellow Ruggers,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2002-2003 campaign for the USA Rugby Div. II National Championship. For those of you that haven't been around over the summer; let me introduce our returning Welsh scrum-half; Chris Alford, and our new English fly-half; Nick Howe. Please make it a point to welcome them when you run into them, as they are both great additions to the team.

This fall we have some great things planned for the club. In addition to our happy hour fundraiser at The Pearl St. Grill, tentatively Fri. Oct. 11 (more info to follow), we are planning a Buffalo Rugby Club Evening with John Valby (thanks to Mike Lazkowski and High Falls Brewery) for a Thurs. Night in November. The two events will be our major fundraisers for the season and all are encouraged to attend.

Let me take a second to thank our major sponsors for all of their support; High Falls Brewery, The Pearl St. Grill, Towne Automotive Group, CB Richard Ellis, Red Bull, Webster- Szanyi and Tom Finn, Allstate Insurance. Without the help of our sponsors, I don't believe that we would be enjoying the success that we have over the past few years. Please make it a point to support the people that support Buffalo Rugby.

I would also like to take a second to thank Chuck Mosey and Vince Mistretta for providing employment for our foreign players over the past year. Please make it a point to buy them a beer at Coles.

This year will hopefully prove to be the best year in club history. We have many returning veterans as well as a great new stock of players that have come out over the summer. Coach Chester has the team in top physical condition, which is a testament to the commitment that the players have given to the club over the off-season.

I wish everyone the best health and good luck this year. Here's to another successful season!!!

Cheers,
JB

Captain's Corner:

By: Paul Vallone

It is hard not to be excited as we prepare for the upcoming season. Following a disappointing second place finish in the Midwest Eastern Division last fall, we were able to turn things around with a fantastic spring that led to our second trip to the Division II Final Eight in the past three years. However, we cannot dwell on our past accomplishments.

With the Cleveland Rovers dropping out of the division, we only have six league games this fall, home and away matches against Rochester, Pittsburgh and Eastern Suburbs (Cleveland). Accordingly, there is no room for error this season if we are going to win our division and ensure ourselves of a home playoff game next spring to avoid a difficult trip in the first round. Nothing short of an undefeated season will be sufficient to accomplish our goals for this fall season. We have added a team goal of not allowing a try to be scored against us, so this should fire everyone up.

We had a very strong showing at Saranac Lake and its time to pick up the momentum from there as we head into the fall season. Let's not spend the winter kicking ourselves over another unnecessary playoff trip next spring by letting our guard down this fall. The road to the 2003 National Championship begins on Saturday, September 14 so let's be ready.

Fall Training Schedule:

Training continues at Delaware Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:15 sharp. We will be moving to Houghton Park Beginning Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00 sharp.

Fall Schedule:

9/14	Pittsburgh	Away	"A" Side: L: 10-13 "B" Side: W: 27-25 Man of the Match: Jim Lehner
9/21	Rochester	Home	
9/28	Cleveland E. Sub	Away	
10/5	Pittsburgh	Home	
10/12	OPEN		
10/19	Cleveland E. Sub	Home	
10/26	Rochester	Away	

BOBCAT Tournament:

Once again, Bob Bogdanowicz is organizing the BOBCAT tournament this fall, sponsored by the Buffalo Rugby Club and showcasing Western New York's Collegiate All Stars. The date and details will be available soon. Anyone interested in helping with this event should contact Bob directly at 673-8457.

Fund Raising:

Call John Baldwin @ 855-3700 or jbaldwin@cbre.com with any potential sponsors or other fundraising ideas.

Jerseys:

Jerseys are in. Anyone who ordered a jersey and has not yet picked it up, contact Ted Graney after practice or at 842-2800.

Player Spotlight:

By: Pat Laczkowski

Missing Hammer Brother Returns

You heard it here first, rugby fans! Finally re-united with his brothers, Jack and Sledge, Tack hammer is back in town. The three Laczkowski brothers have not played a match together since the early 90s. We started playing with Buffalo in 1986 and slowly, but surely, we each moved away- as many Buffalo Rugby players do. Let the proclamation read that on this day in 2002, the Hammer Brothers will use their wonder-triplet-powers for good against the evil of USA DII Rugby.

Now that I'm an official, dues paying, CIPP'd member of Buffalo, I would like to let you know how good you guys have it! This is the third or fourth year that Buffalo has been a top tier Division II team. Many teams in this position will do one of two things; either they crumble and fold because they can't get over the hump, or they do what it takes to win the DII crown (I hope and pray, we'll do the latter.) The City of Buffalo needs us to bring home a Championship. For the last 7 years, I've been in Arlington, TX where, on a weekly basis, I played the likes of Fort Worth and The Woodlands RFC. As you may, or may not know, both of those teams have won the DII National Crown in years past. They've both followed a similar path to Buffalo's. They made several appearances in the Sweet 16 prior to actually winning it. Please keep in mind that as

cliché as this will sound, this is a pivotal year for Buffalo Rugby. You can't always be a bridesmaid without someday being a bride. (I told you it would be cliché!)

On a personal note, I need to thank you guys. This "summer training camp" has been very refreshing for my Rugby career. You guys take practice, and the game, much more seriously than the team I played with in Arlington. Even though we have yet to play a league match, the winning attitude is much more prevalent throughout the team. Practice is (for the most part) well-attended, sharp, and crisp, with very little goofing off. We're also very lucky to have Bob Chester as a coach. He may be a little bit ugly, but he certainly gives a lot of himself. See if you can back me up on this one....Next time we end practice when it's pitch dark (try to notice this when Bob's giving his end-of-practice speech), after a long training when Bob's thinning hair stands up on end...If the light catches it just right, he sort of looks like a balding Don King! Am I right?

In closing, if you're ever in trouble on the pitch, don't bother asking a hammer brother. Just look for Paul Vallone- he'll take care of 'em for ya.

Alumni (AKA Old Boys) News:

By: Tom Surwill

Old Boys Win 2002 Dead Ants – Score: 27 to 5

The BRC Old Boys team won the first place trophy in this year's Dead Ants, Old Boys Division, on May 11 in Batavia.

Man-of-the-Match awards to Jerry Wojcik, Alan Donatelli, Randall "Goose" Luce, and Vince Mistretta. Vince got knocked out cold for 3 minutes on the last play of the game on a goal-line stand when they ran a forwards penalty play at us. Dr. Jose' nursed Vince back to life. Jose' and Bill Laczkowski were M.O.T.M. honorable mention.

Players: Dave Knowl, Jackson Schweigel, Dan Drury, Jerry Wojcik, Kirk Merritt, Paul Knight, Tom Surwill, Dave Cidale, Roar O'Connor, Lex Maccubbin, John Phinney, Pete Johnson, Rock Donatelli, Tom Finn, Terry Lee, Paul Frauenhofer, Randall "Goose" Luce, Bill Laczkowski, Joe Coyne, Gene Adams, Jose' Perez, and Vince.

The last time we entered Dead Ants in 2000, we also won the OB Division in a lopsided victory over a combined Rochester/Creamers team.

2002 and 2000 Dead Ants Championship Team Pictures

8 X 10 team pictures for 2002 Dead Ants have been mailed. If you'd also like a picture of the 2000 team, please contact me.

Some Alumni sightings at the August 2002 Saranac Lake / Lake Placid Tourney

Ron Astridge, Lex Maccubbin, Rege Tift, Jackson Schweigel, Alan "I'm Not An Old Boy" Donatelli, Matt Szkotak, Terry Lee, Paul Frauenhofer, Gene Adams, Randall "Goose" Luce, Dave Hill, Tom Surwill, Mike Lewis, Mike McGuire, Paul Clift, Jon Burton, Mike McNerney, Paul Keeler, and Dan Kennedy

Still time to pay your 2002 Alumni Dues

With the fall season under way, we ask you to send in your 2002 Alumni Dues if you have not done so already this year. We very much need and depend on your yearly generosity to help the Club financially, as well as fund our own OB activities. Each 2002 alumni donor will be recognized in all of the 2002 *Rucker-Mauler* newsletters. **All \$50+ donors will receive a very cool Buffalo Rugby bumper sticker or window decal, while supplies last.**

The four levels of membership are:

Lifetime Member \$500+
Select Side \$100+
"A" Team \$50+
Member \$25+

Please send dues today to:

**Buffalo Rugby Club Alumni HQ
30 Brantford Place
Buffalo, NY 14222**

Wine and Cheese party at the September 21 BRC vs Rochester Game at Delaware Park.

The BRC **Alumni** will provide a wine and cheese reception (for everyone) just off the pitch behind the south touch-line, near the choice game-viewing area usually inhabited by kids in strollers, barking leashed dogs, family and friends. You know the spot!

A beautifully decorated table laden with flowers, imported cheeses, snacks, and fine wines served from bottles with corks (no box wine, please) will tease your plate, and sate your appetite for the exotic.

We ask that alumni and friends donate all of the food and drink, so we don't have to dip into the sacred Alumni Bank Fund. If you can bring something, let me know via email or phone prior to September 20.

Remember the rugby rule of consumption: If it has weight or flavor, it **will** be consumed.

Buffalo Rugby Club Alumni

"Buffalo Old Boys RFC"

2002 Year-to-Date Alumni Donors
as of September 5, 2002

Lifetime Members (\$500 +)

Dave Cidale, in 2000, + \$100 in 2002
Cole's / Dave Shatzel, in 2001
Terry Lee, in 2002
Chuck Mosey, in 2002
Rory O'Connor, in 2000
Jose' Perez, in 2002

Select-Side Member (\$100 +)

Randy Bailey (Virginia)
Will Beckwith
Jim Dunnigan (\$200)
Eddie Dzurilla (Texas)
Tom Finn (\$200)
Jim Haberstro (Washington State)
Jim Hess
Frank Holden (\$250)
Fred Jelonek (Texas)
Pete Johnson
Lex Maccubbin (NJ)
John Phinney (\$200)
Bob Schoff (Connecticut -- \$200)
Jack Schweigel
Rob Stirling
Tom Surwill (\$200)
John Walier (Rochester)

"A" Team Members (\$50 +)

Dick Basile (Massachusetts)
Joe Coyne
Mike Dahm
Dan Drury
Barry Ferguson (Ohio)

Gary Hackbush
Randall "Goose" Luce
Mike McGuire
Chuck Mosey
Matt Szkotak (PA)
Jim Walier (PA)
Ed Woods

Alumni Team Members (\$25 +)
(None at this level...yet)

In the Next Issue:

Welcoming New Members to the Club: Patience, Understanding & Acceptance

By: Alex Nadiak & Paul Vallone