

# The Old Man



Women's  
Rugby

## Extra! Extra! O.S.U.W.R.F.C. Formed!!

by Mar. Cline, Co-Editor-The Old Man (Idiot)

In a game where bent noses, cauliflower ears and five inch scars are commonplace among its participants-one might be led to believe that the game of Rugby is somewhat brutal. Although many of us realize that the majority of these wounds have occurred not on the field but in the bar, the basic U.S. hardcore rugby with its late hits and high tackles still continues to leave opposing teams and players with something less than fond memories of each other. Hatred and viciousness still set the pace for many of the current "pop-kick and smash the hell out of 'em" American teams.

With these ideas in mind I must ask if the fair young maidens that have recently graced our adjacent pitch in their effort to form a women's R.F.C. are aware of the brutality of the game. We have stood in awe of their beauty and grace when they run through their passing and catching drills. Their spirit de corp can only suggest a light hitting yet highly emotional game. Surely they don't want to end up looking as ugly as we do.

The quest for an answer to this question was the fundamental reason why I accepted our Captain's offer to coach the women's team this week. And you, they

are aptly lead and coached by the energetic Linda Bishop who was also the driving force in the creation of the Michigan State W.R.F.C..

We initially ran them thru some of the basic running and passing drills that the men's team has used in the past (excluding several Parthenorean creations, of course). After running thru several of these (at which I was quite impressed at their performances) I decided to inquire as to what the maidens wanted to try next: "Scrum! ruck! tackle!" came the answers. After momentarily being taken aback by the form of the response I then attempted the almost impossible task of making up a scrum out of the lovely listeners. After all, how do you expect me to ask a shapely lass to play in a position where I am used to seeing warts like Edgar and Dimick play? Finally we placed eight volunteers into a form of a scrum and then put part of the remaining girls into the backline positions. The other 7 or 8 girls were placed in a defensive backline while I played the defensive pack- for coaching reasons only, mind you.

As play began the scrum-half placed the ball into that mass, received surprisingly good ball from the 8-woman then made a pretty pass to the flyhalf. (Cont. on

What followed was vicious. The poor girl with the ball was blasted by a hurricane which looked alot like the seven girls on defense. Afterwards there was a four minute movement that ended in an 80 yard try leaving a multitude of fallen bodies and an hysterical bunch tossing the poor scorer some 20 feet into the air. I was personally knocked to the ground four times just following the play.

After the cheering had calmed down the dismayed defenders asked me to show them how to make a correct tackle (some may question their choice of the demonstrator). But to make sure that the proper idea was firmly in their minds I demonstrated the technique with a hearty volunteer over and over again with painstaking detail. With this addition another scrum was attempted. This time the ball made it out to the wing, was dropped and then fought for in a 25 girl ruck. After several minutes of shouting I broke the thing up, pointing out that a smaller girl wearing a black sweatshirt had, with the aid of almost complete darkness, scored a try with the ball soon after the pass was dropped.

Despite the plea for more play with the women in the scrum and the backs switching positions, we decided to run some relay races and call it a night. Most of the girls are in suprisingly good condition.

Thus ended my first night as a coach. Plans for Thursday night include warmup drills, a 7-a-side game, tackling practice, the eating of a raw steer and the tearing down of the goal posts. Then we will start practice.

In all seriousness though, I am really happy that I got the chance to help that spirited group and will gladly help out again at the asking. I am sure that my position is shared by all of the OSURFC. We will be looking forward to watching you display your arts in the future.

GOOD LUCK!!!

Hello Dirk!

Special thanks to Dirk Baker in Pretoria, South Africa for his \$20 contribution as social member and Old Man subscriber. Dirk was an outstanding hooker and loose forward for many seasons, serving a year as captain. Dirk's grandmother also played occasionally and was known for her vicious tackling.

day's match.) The game was scrappy but clean and Greystones managed a 6-3 win. The strong sea breeze was a detrimental factor which inhibited play but the truth was that both teams were pretty bloody poor which enabled my own inability to fit in virtually unnoticed. The victory has restored my confidence, however, and I have already been back to the pub, training for next week's match. I am anxiously awaiting the selections for they say I have a chance to move up to the 3rd A's since there were a lot of injuries this week. At this rate of advancement I should be on the All-Irish Team before I leave next month.

I will keep updating reports in the weeks ahead as I move on to Cirencester, England to win a spot on the All-English Team. I have allotted 2 weeks for this, so I am fully confident. A few other news items--Davey "Boy-o" Walker still acts like Rapid Robert; Sean McGettigan still thinks Merks moved his in the middle of the night; and they all miss the VC, Dick's Den, Raggedy Ann's, and the Stroh's bus!

Until next issue, this has been Jeff Torrence, The Old Man's Wild Rover reporter saying good-bay and Go Bucks!

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

There are still a few Leeds and 7's T-shirts left and will be on sale for \$1.50. All the 7's shirts are medium with two X-large, two large, and 6 mediums remaining of the Leeds. Bring your money to Barry Adelman.

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