

WIVERN RFC Tour to England and France 15 November to 2 December 1985

Goals, policies and daily schedule of events.

- 1) This is the strongest women's rugby team of American players ever assembled for an overseas tour. Relative to our competition, this is the strongest American rugby team ever assembled. That it should have happened years ago is not important now. What is significant is that we finally have the closest thing to a U.S. women's national rugby team that has ever existed. It is the first step down the long road of making women's rugby a nationally and internationally known sport. I am glad that we are all getting the opportunity to share this experience. Over the last decade and a half many people, women and men, have helped to lay the groundwork for this tour by contributing to the development. <sup>of women's rugby.</sup> We are the lucky ones for we are reaping the benefits of their work. We are now charged with the responsibility of making the best of this opportunity.
- 2) This tour will be a challenge for each and all of us, on and off the field. We are representing the dreams and aspirations of many others during the 18 days and 12 matches we will experience throughout England and in Paris. We have many goals for which we are aiming. Our primary goal is not to win games - I, and we, expect that. Our primary goal is to provide the greatest display of running and handling rugby ever seen in the British Isles and France by either women or men. We want to score as many tries as possible to show the rugby "purists" that women can play rugby as well as men, if not better. We also want to show women ruggers from Britain and France how good they can be someday, but also how hard they will have to work to attain greatness. You are each and all encouraged to express your rugby skills at the highest level you are capable of attaining while remaining team players. Do not be conservative - take chances - you have 14 of the best rugby players in the world supporting you! Every one of you is getting a chance to shine, use it.
- 3) When you are on the field, you are unequivocally under the leadership of the team captain - no questions asked. The captain is charged with implementing the style of play we deem most appropriate in successfully accomplishing our goals. Her word is law. If you talk back to the captain, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, including the possibility of removing the offending individual from the playing roster. You will be instructed in the proper way of lodging a complaint about the captain or any other aspect of the tour.
- 4) Our tour captain is Kathy Flores of the Florida State University WRFC, the number one team in U.S. women's rugby. Kathy is one of the most talented, respected and classiest players in American women's rugby. That is why she was appointed captain. Support and respect her. When Kathy is not selected for a match, another player will be appointed as field captain based on performance on the tour. The field captain receives as much respect as Kathy.
- 5) The tour management will consist of the two coaches, myself and Lisa Riehl of the Midwest Union; the tour manager, Darilyn Million; and Kathy Flores. The tour management will meet each morning to discuss the previous days activities and the events of the present day. An at-large rep will be elected by the players upon arrival in England. If an individual has a complaint that she does not personally bring up to the tour management, she may go to the at-large rep who will approach us about the problem, and will keep the individual's name concealed if so requested. Any discipline problems will be handled by the tour management and the at-large rep. Severe disciplinary problems will result in the ejection of the offending

person from the tour party, and a one way ride to the airport. We do not anticipate any problems, and we certainly hope that there are none, but rather than handle difficulties in an ad hoc manner when they arise, we would rather that you know the policies now.

6) Whenever you are representing the Wivern RFC at a social event or while traveling, you will wear the tour sweater, a white shirt or blouse with a collar, and charcoal grey pants, slacks or skirt. On your free time you may dress as you see fit. However, as most of your time will be spent playing, travelling, or socializing at a rugby event, please do not weigh yourself down with superfluous clothing. You will receive a schedule of the day's activities at a team meeting each morning. Any special requirements for clothing will be noted. Obviously, while involved in a match as a player or a reserve, you will wear complete kit including team sweats, if appropriate.

7) There will be many opportunities for socializing. Please use your discretion when drinking, and refrain when you have a match the next day. British teams are not above having their second side get the tourists drunk the night before a match while the first side is snug abed. In addition, we will be trying to overcome jet lag, many miles of road travel, unfamiliar and constantly changing sleeping accommodations, and unfamiliar food. Do not add a hangover to your problems. Any player whom the selection committee deems unfit to play will not be chosen for that day's match even if originally scheduled for it. By all means enjoy and socialize, but do not be a weak link on the team. Too many people have worked too hard for this tour's success to see a problem emerge because an individual is irresponsible.

8) For those of you who anticipate a lot of scoring off the pitch, kindly be considerate of your teammates and of American women's rugby, and keep your sexual activities, with whichever gender excites you, to your hotel room or some other private place. This includes everything from the warmups to the final whistle. We do not want our hosts to think that we are non-drinking, asexual automatons, but we want to make our headlines on the pitch -- remember that!!!

9) The policies outlined above should not prove too onerous, and, in fact, should be second nature if we are all the responsible adults we expect we are. However, should a difficulty arise, I did not want anyone to feel that they had not been warned.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for your participation and enthusiasm. I think that this whole venture is going to be greater and more enjoyable than any of us can imagine. Many persons, companies, and organizations, some with only a very peripheral connection with rugby contributed to the success of this tour. However, <sup>are</sup> the persons to whom I am most thankful, and I hope that you all share this gratitude, your teammates who went out of their way with contributions of time and effort. Hoping that I have not neglected anyone, I thank the non-playing members of the tour, Mindy Fener from Beantown, who is our publicity director charged with getting out the good word to the world; Darilyn Million of Illinois St., who is the tour manager; and Lisa Riehl, the coach. I also thank Kathy Flores for accepting the challenging, and I hope, rewarding position of captain. In Boston, special thanks to Kerri Heffernan who designed the program cover and the T-shirts, and who handled many late night phone calls and strange requests with ease, aplomb, and never-failing good humor. Also thanks in Boston to Mary Money, and in Florida to Connie Jakubcin and Fran Gilbert, all of whom jumped in to drain the swamp when my

time and patience got short, and I found myself still up to my ass in alligators. Because of their efforts we have ads in our program, plaques for our hosts and programs for all. In Chicago, special thanks to Margo Bausch for acting as my liaison to the Windy City and environs, and who provided the occasional prod to get me in gear when my lazier half would have rather called it a night. Also, thanks to Patti Purcell, who in one visit to the East Coast and a couple of drinks at Quincy Market, managed to coerce a reluctant rucker out of retirement and into tour organizing on a grand scale. Finally, I would like to thank my family, all of whom think I am a raving lunatic for doing something like this, but who also provided residence and sustenance so that I could lend my time, effort, and limited funds to this tour. Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have been so encouraging over the phone, and when I would speak with you at various rugby events.