

SPORTS

Inexperience cited...

Rugby club loses

by Chris Lambie

The Kings' Women's Rugby Football Club played their first game of the season on Sunday; they were beaten by the Halifax Wanderers at a rugby pitch in Spryfield. I talked to the sweaty women while they relaxed over a

few beers and cigarettes after the game.

Jennifer, an inside center, was happily suprised at King's performance. "It looked kind of like we knew what we were doing," she said. "We lost track of the score, I think it was something like eighteen-nothing. It sounds a little lopsided, but only about five out of our twenty people have ever played before."

The team is composed of players from Kings, Dal and a few local high schools. It seems as if they are having a slight problem in recruiting interested parties.

Kings demonstrated some good tackling ability in the game, but they seemed to be in poor physical shape. "The coaches are just trying to teach us how to play the game before worrying about conditioning" said Jennifer, admitting that "aerobic capacity is easily one of the most important aspects [of a game that entails three twenty minute bouts of mad sprinting]," she casually lit-up another cigarette in a brave show of thoracic defiance. "I love it," she said, while pulling on a huge pair of sweatpants and chortling, "I'll fill these buggers by the end of the year."

The new players agreed that they had enjoyed their introduction into the sport of gentlewomen, mostly because they feel like they're "always involved and doing something." A one hundred and ten pound monster grinned as she told me that "It's great to be able to tackle anyone who has the ball; its such a foreign concept for me."

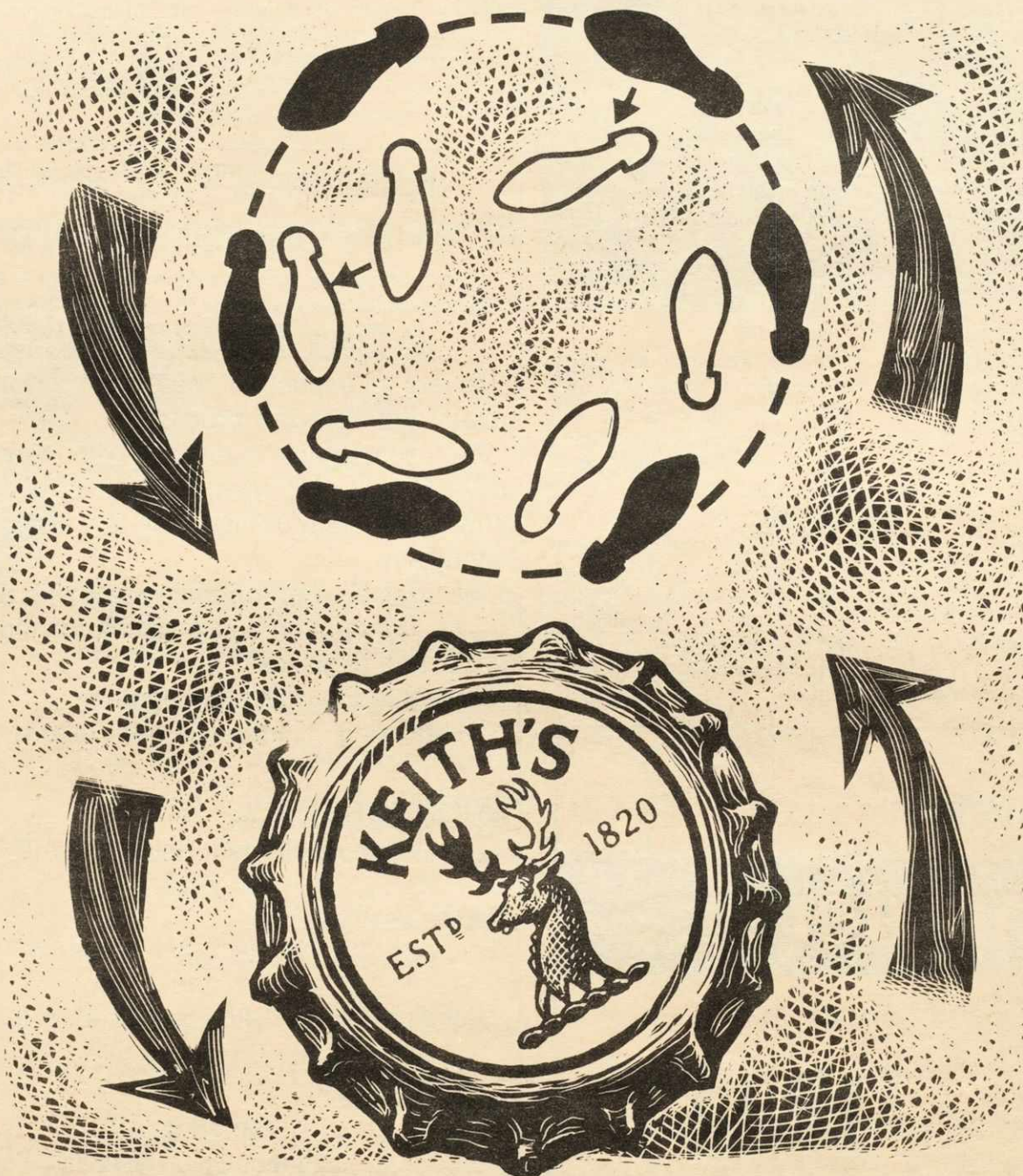
While rugby is quite rough, it's a very structured game. Only one Kings player [Mimi] suffered a concussion. She was carted off to the hospital after she "head-butted someone, wow, she's a wild woman," said one admiration-filled teammate.

The women from the Wanderers' seemed to think that Kings has a lot of potential. Another sort of battered looking player from Kings said "They've got some scary people. They're not that much bigger, but their asses outweighed us by about twenty pounds. One of the big problems is that we aren't used to tackling, so we don't always do it properly. There was also a lot of wandering around the field screaming "Where the fuck am I going?" on our part."

Catherine, an experienced player out of the P.E.I. high school league, said "I think we did well. People really pulled together where I didn't think they would in the first game. The Wanderers' had a strong scrum, but we won all the line-outs."

Well, it's a lot of thrills and spills for your money. The team is scheduled to play another exhibition game in two weeks. While Jennifer admitted that she "really should be reading the Republic," she seemed happy sitting pretty by the rugby pitch. The club has two weeks to hone their skills before they rush headlong into a league that's always looking for new and exciting talent.

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