

## A comical look at the sport of rugby in England

There is more to sport than just ice hockey, as witness the dispatch that came into the office the other day on the UPI press wire.

Dated in Plymouth, England, it read, in full:

"The rugby game stopped, and the spectator swarmed out onto the field to join the players — in search of a piece of David Rodgers' ear.

"The piece of ear, bitten off during the height of frenzied play, was not recovered, despite a diligent 30-minute search."

Curiously, there was no word in the brief story as to why the search for the tattered member was

suspended after a mere 30 minutes. However, local one-time rigger star Buzz Moore offers what seems to be a quite reasonable explanation. Says he:

"If it was a dirty piece of ear, as is quite likely, it would be well-nigh impossible to find it in the grime of a rugby pitch, particularly after a lively scrum, when these things happen. Why, I've known whole fingers and thumbs, which are larger than the average ear and made easily distinguishable by the prominent knuckles, to disappear without a trace at Brockton Oval.

"Yes, I would say that 30

minutes is ample search time for a missing piece of ear, especially if the pubs are open."

Yet while accepting the unsailable logic of this approach, there are still some who find it somewhat difficult to accept. As for instance, David's mother. Long after the search party retired, with her son to the nearest pub, the poor lady was to be seen wandering about the pitch in full dusk, plaintively calling out "Halloo... halloo...!"

But even as old campaigner Moore makes light of the incident,

it must be noted that the bite-ee, David Rodgers himself, appears to be making no fuss about or claims for damage to, loss, or theft of, personal property.

The fact is that rigger players are a breed apart. The techniques of their game, especially the subtleties of the scrum, which are unfortunately denied public view by a mass of heaving rumps, lend themselves to such mishaps and are accepted with small complaint. Or less.

Many's the strapping young pro who has come home very late for

tea badly torn around the gills and reeking strongly of brown ale to inform his anxious wife off-handedly, even proudly: "The beggar bit me right in the bloody scrum."

This sort of goings-on is of course nothing when compared to what transpires in the English North Counties, where they play a much more uninhibited version of the game, called Rugby League.

This code is said to have been originally devised by Attila the Hun as a rape-and-pillage exercise, later copied with great success by Ghengis Khan.

In Rugby League scrums, in addition to the nominal blood-lettings and disfigurements, entire persons have been known to disappear, never to be seen again.

There is for instance the not extravagant but yet singular Lancashire affair that became famed as The Mystery of No-Nose Pilkington.

To relate just the bare facts of the case as known to the general public, No-Nose, a huge and highly unpopular visiting prop forward who had in trouble before, went into a crucial scrum toward the end of a big game in the historic Lancashire village of Soot-on-Tees, and just never emerged.

An inside version of the strange affair as related by a grieving if slightly sloshed team-mate that same Saturday night at the Cock'n Bull went like this:

No-Nose, who had been in a particularly surly mood all afternoon, had been set upon by the home-town forwards, who had simply turned him upside down and screwed him firmly into the ground.

They then stamped down a bit of earth and went on with the scrum, leaving poor No-Nose there to sprout, like a seed potato.

Although this story was coolly dismissed as hearsay evidence by the Chief Constable, whose son Alfie had just signed on for a trial with the local side, it has never been disputed.

And poor No-Nose himself — even by the bereaved Mrs. Pilkington, who still grieves nightly at the Cock'n Bull — was just written off as a bad seed.

In the light of stuff like this, just as Buzz Moore suggests, last Saturday's Plymouth rip-off is really not all that much.

Yet in the interests of mere morbid curiosity, if not of justice of compassion, the thoughts persists that the case of the missing piece of ear at least rates a special hearing.

Oh well.

### Volleyball deadline

The final date for entry is Tuesday, November 5th so organize your class team now.

Manager's kits are available through the Athletics Department.

The League Organization Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 5th at 7:15 p.m. in Room 209 of the Lady Beaverbrook Gym. Please have a team representative in attendance.

Individuals can register at the Athletics Department.

## Varsity Schedule for months Nov.-Dec.

### NOVEMBER

1 & 2	Fri. & Sat.	Field Hockey AUAA Play-Offs				
1 & 2	Fri. & Sat.	Hockey - Sectional Tournament				
2	Saturday	Football	U.N.B.	at	Dalhousie	1:30 PM
2	Saturday	Soccer - AUAA Ch'ship Play-Offs				
3	Sunday	Soccer - AUAA Ch'ship Finals				
9	Saturday	Football - Play-Offs				
9		Cross Country Championship - C.I.A.U. at Guelph, Ont.				
9	SATURDAY	HOCKEY	U. de M.	at	U.N.B.	7:00 PM
13	WEDNESDAY	HOCKEY	S.T.U.	at	U.N.B.	7:45 PM
15	FRIDAY	HOCKEY	ACADIA	at	U.N.B.	9:00 PM
15 & 16	Fri. & Sat.	Basketball, Men	U.N.B.	at	Acadia - Tip-Off Tourn.	
15 & 16	Fri. & Sat.	Volleyball - Atlantic League Tournament at U.P.E.I. (Men & Women)				
16	SATURDAY	SWIMMING	HUSSEN	at	U.N.B.	
16	Saturday	Football - Atlantic Bowl				
19	TUESDAY	BASKETBALL, MEN	PRESQUE ISLE, ME.	at	U.N.B.	8:00 PM
22	Friday	Swimming - Men	U.N.B.	at	Orono, Me.	
22	Friday	Hockey	U.N.B.	at	S.M.U.	8:00 PM
23	Saturday	Hockey	U.N.B.	at	Dalhousie	2:00 PM
23	Saturday	Football - College Bowl				
23	SATURDAY	BASKETBALL, MEN	St. F.X.	at	U.N.B.	8:00 PM
26	Tuesday	Basketball, Men	U.N.B.	at	Machias, Me.	7:00 PM
29	Friday	Basketball, Men	U.N.B.	at	Mt. Allison	8:00 PM
29 & 30	FRI. & SAT.	VOLLEYBALL, ATLANTIC LEAGUE TOURN. at U.N.B. (MEN & WOMEN)				
30	Saturday	Swimming, M & W	U.N.B.	at	Mt. Allison	1:00 PM
30	Saturday	Basketball, Men	U.N.B.	at	U. de M.	2:00 PM

### DECEMBER

6	Friday	Basketball, Women	U.N.B.	at	U.P.E.I.	6:00 PM
6	Friday	Hockey	U.N.B.	at	Mt. Allison	7:30 PM
6	Friday	Basketball, Men	U.N.B.	at	U.P.E.I.	6:00 PM
7	SATURDAY	GYMNASTICS, MEN	MONCTON & DAL.	at	U.N.B.	1:00 PM
7	Saturday	Basketball, Men	U.N.B.	at	U.P.E.I.	2:00 PM
7	Saturday	Hockey	U.N.B.	at	U. de M.	