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Sports



Rugger week begins March 24th

Rugger: the forgotten sport of millions

By NICK MITCHELL

The mention of Rugger at York usually either prompts a vacant stare or else a sly smile because of its association with a vigorous social life. Both reactions are understandable. While football has become part of the Canadian culture with the support of big money and crowds, rugger, traditionally wholly amateur, has neither warranted the publicity nor the attention that the other sport attracts. The Ontario Rugger Union, to which the twelve Toronto clubs are affiliated, relies on donations and the proceeds of charter flights and dances to support itself while referees and officials provide their services solely for the love of the sport. This is why so few people know anything about rugger, despite the fact it recently celebrated its one hundredth birthday.

The game which evolved from Rugby School in England, spread to all countries where Britain exerted an influence. A professional version known as Rugby League also sprang up at the turn of the century (incidentally the game played in the film, *This Sporting Life*), and when this reached North America it gradually evolved into football as we know it now. In New Zealand and South Africa, Rugger (the original amateur version) became their national sport, while in Canada it relied on a constant supply of immigrants to retain popularity.

In the last twenty years, however, a multitude of Canadians have adopted the sport partly because after graduation from school or college, football was no longer available, and also because it offered much more than rigorous exercise during the game but an entertaining social life off the field as well. Because Rugger has always been amateur, the

fanaticism of winning as the ulterior motive has never equalled that exhibited in professional sports. The traditional ethic involves playing the game to ones fullest potential in the most aggressive manner possible so that win or lose the satisfaction comes from knowing that one has played their hardest. When the final whistle blows, this aggressive attitude towards the other team later metamorphoses into one of friendliness and good cheer, symbolized by the exchange of beer and the occasional communal song, and to which wives and girlfriends have been able to join part.

York has had a rugger team since 1965 and each year we have had just about enough players to fill two teams and have shown a fairly impressive record. While we do not intend to play down the values of football, certainly not to compete with them in popularity, I think it's important to at least explain what Rugger is all about, not only to increase our own strength with new members, but to at least offer, as I already suggested, the alternative to football after graduation.

March 24 - 27 is officially York Rugger Week designed with just this idea in mind. On the Wednesday at 7:30 at LH 2 E we will show films of the finest Rugger teams in the world. South Africa's "Springboks", New Zealand's "All Blacks", Wales and Australia. Also you can see Canada vs Fiji, filmed by the phys. ed. department last November. A bonus attraction is Richard Harris in the *This Sporting Life* directed by Lindsay Anderson. All these films are free and promise to be highly entertaining. On Thursday evening we are holding a beer and song night at the Cock and Bull where you can either listen (with a liberal attitude) or sing-a-long. Admission



Rugger at York at its best.

photo by Tim Clark

is one dollar which will go to our 1972 European tour. On Friday afternoon, field conditions permitting, we will hold our "season kick-off", Simon Elmsley's XV vs Rick Hodder's XV, where you can see a slightly cruder version of an

International Rugger game live! The week ends on Saturday with a big dance at the Sun Yat Sen Hall on Hagerman Street behind the new City Hall in conjunction with the Barbarians Rugger club. Admission is \$4 per couple and

there is a licensed bar.

That then, is York Rugger Week. Hopefully we can now dismiss some doubts and mystery surrounding this ancient institution and we can look forward to seeing new faces in the Spring and Fall.

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Uof T Blues win CIAU championship

By PHIL CRANLEY

In last Saturday's televised final, the U of T Blues made an exciting third period comeback to beat St. Mary's of Halifax 5-4 and retain their title of college hockey supremacy.

The Blues took the CIAU championship for the fifth time in the last six years by scoring four goals in the final twenty minutes of play. St. Mary's had been leading 3-1 going into the last period.

The Blues caught the Huskies flat footed and the game was tied 3-3 after only fifty seconds of play in the third. The two quick goals by Gord Davies and Bill Buba were followed five minutes later by Terry Peterman's go-ahead marker. But St. Mary's tied it up on a breakaway goal which resulted from an errant pass at the Huskies blueline. It then seemed that overtime was imminent until at the 16:10 mark, Brian St. John whisked a shoulder high shot past the confused Chuck Goddard in the St. Mary's net.

Scoring for St. Mary's were Ron Hindson (with two) Ken Martin, and Ed Hebert in that order. The other Blues goal came on a deflection off the foot of Mac Hickox.

York's Murray Stroud made the All-Canada coaches all-star team.



Boxing is alive but financially flagging at York every Wednesday and Friday 5:30 - 7, third floor, Tait Mackenzie.

Tom Kinsman is seen here being presented with the Yeomen of the Year award, by Dr. David Slater.