

July, 2014

OLD BOY QUARTERLY



The Old Boy Quarterly is targeted to the alumni rugby players of the Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club.

These issues chronicle both interesting parts of the club's 50 year history and inform the readers about the club's current status & future plans.

It is meant to supplement and not replace the information on the club's website <http://www.kurugby.org/>

The club also has actively managed information on Facebook. (Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club)

We are seeking to expand this publication's distribution. If you are aware of KJRFC alumni who would like to be added to the distribution, please forward this e-mailed newsletter to them.

If you are interested in financially supporting the club, charitable gifts can be made to:

The Kansas Rugby Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1074
Lawrence, KS, 66044

Featured In the next Issue:

Pre-Reunion Edition

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Law Student Seeks Rugby Enthusiasts

By Glen Phillips
 Needed: At least 30 rugged individuals who are interested in learning to play rugby.
 George Bunting, Kansas City, Kan. first-year law student, with friends at colleges in this area, is trying to organize a team and eventually develop a rugby circuit among schools in the Midwest.
 Bunting describes the rough European game as great for persons who want to keep in shape without buying a lot of equipment. About the only things you need are football shoes, someone with a rugby ball and the desire to play.
THE GAME IS A cross between football and soccer. Players move

the ball downfield by kicking it, dribbling it with their feet, or picking it up and carrying it. When they pick up the ball they are fair game for tacklers on the other team. There is no blocking allowed for the ball carrier as in football.

The game is divided into two 40-minute halves with a five-minute rest period between halves. Play

is continuous without timeouts. It is played on a regular football field.

There are 15 men on a team, divided roughly into two groups called the scrum and the backfield. These divisions correspond to the line and backfield in football.

Backfield players do most of the running in rugby. Scoring is by a touchdown over the goal line, a drop-kick through the uprights, or by place-kick through the uprights on a penalty.

BUNTING, A June graduate of Dartmouth, played rugby for three years on the school squad. He took the Dartmouth second team to

Nassau last spring while the first team was touring Europe under People-to-People sanction. The Dartmouth team is rated as the best team on the East Coast.

Bunting recommended the game highly both for keeping in condition and for the good sportsmanship it develops. No matter how rough-and-tumble the contest may have been, there are no hard feelings at the end. In fact, the host team usually has a keg or two of beer for all the players, he said.

There will be a short organizational meeting tonight in Rooms 305 A and B of the Kansas Union, Bunting said.

Weather

The weather bureau predicts a low temperature tonight from 45 to 50 with fair weather through tomorrow.

Wed. Sept. 23, 1964

← Seeking Posts from Alumni, especially those who will not be making the reunion event. What comments would you like to share with your alumni friends?

This newsletter needs your scanned photos and your personal stories. Send material to pd4bicycles@aol.com before August 15, 2014. Please provide your contact information.

Notes on the end of Spring Season 2014

Well it is the end of another season of KU Rugby. Man they go by fast! **Since this is our fiftieth year that means we have had one hundred seasons.** That is a lot of water under the bridge. Lots of good & bad, and stories, stories, stories. I guess that is what you call memories. This season was like a lot of them with some great individual progress and some not so good team success. We struggled with numbers again. It seems like that is the one constant with our team over the years. I know I have said it before, but **I really think we have made some inroads into the branding and publicity of the club** and I believe we are on the right track, but it will be a slow one. We still have funds for recruitment and a good plan in place. I believe with the new executive committee, we will have some guys that can follow through and get us out of our slump.

Dave Butyen is the new college president and his twin brother **Danny Butyen** is the new college captain. Both are great players and outgoing personalities and very enthusiastic about their new roles. **Bart Dean** (KU advisor) has been active and I foresee more cooperation with the University. **We will practice the first half of the Fall at 23 & Iowa and we will have some indoor workout facilities at KU for the Winter.**

On the coaching front **Scott Adamson** resigned as Head Coach at the end of the Spring season. We have great news. **Matt Schwartz** will be the new Coaching Coordinator for the KJRFC and **Billy Pryor, Doug McCauley and Rick Renfro** will be assisting. All of these have a long and diverse history with the club and are committed to recruitment & retention of players and members. I am sure we will see results in both areas.



Matt Schwartz
Former Jayhawk Player
Coaches Club into its
50th Anniversary Year

As always we will be losing some great members of the club to graduation and jobs. Congratulations to **Jacob Orburn, Sean Rothwell, and Chris Farley** for walking down the hill. Jacob will be going to Arizona for graduate studies and Sean will head back home to Wichita while he looks for a job in the aquarium field. Chris has a job with the Lawrence school dis-

trict and will stay on as our publicity chairman. We also lost **Kyle "Caveman" Richardson** to a job in Colorado with an outdoor camp. Perfect fit! Way to go **Cody Weber** making the 7's all-star team. We had a slow turnout for the alumni game so **Dan Katz** got to play. Way to step up to the plate Danny.

Looking forward –

If you are coming to the **50th anniversary in October**, please remember to **book your hotel** and let **Jimmy Bartle** know what you will be attending for the fiftieth anniversary celebration. **Email westwick@sunflower.com**

The 2015 Ireland tour will be from Wednesday March 11th to Sunday March 22nd 2015. Interested parties should contact **Dave Hamill**.

Email davehamill@sunflower.com

Looking forward to seeing you all on October 4th.

Rick Renfro ****

You Should Join the Club's LinkedIn Group !!!

The idea is to link the Old Boys' in the business community in a "members-only" group on LinkedIn.

We can also link with current under-grad players on the club. Student-players pursuing a degree and are interested in a summer internship (or a job) in a specific industry could post their interest to the Old Boy network on LinkedIn. Then Alumni could either offer the student a summer internship at their company if a fit, or see if they can facilitate it with a friend.

The easiest way to do this without a mid-

dle-man is for the Old Boy Alumni and the current student-players to use LinkedIn and join the **Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Alumni Group**.

All interested in participating should:

- 1) If you don't already have one, establish a LinkedIn page. That's free and easy. Just go to this website and fill in the screen. www.linkedin.com
- 2) Then search out "groups" and join the **Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Alumni Group**. It's a "members-only" group and I will let you join.

3) Players can then post their interest in the "discussion" area and alumni can post their open positions in the same "discussion" area.

Both ends of the internship deal can then contact each other and work out the details.

Your company needs to encourage bright young people, so why not consider your club's rugby players? ****

Celebrating 50 Years of Rugby at the University of Kansas 1964 – 2014

Join us in 2014 as we celebrate 50 years of Jayhawk Rugby! There will be numerous opportunities to renew old friendships and reflect on all that has happened over the past half-century. **The celebration culminates on Saturday, October 4, 2014, with a reception and dinner at the Adams Alumni Center on the campus of the University of Kansas.** Former players from across the country and around the world are expected to attend. Don't you dare miss it!

In addition to the events scheduled for October 2-4 (see details below), we've listed other activities taking place in the months leading up to October. For further information, please contact the persons designated. You can also reach out to other alums and arrange your own get-together. The whole idea is to rekindle happy memories and enjoy the off-the-charts hospitality that has characterized our Club since its inception. Remember that as an ex-KU rugby player, you can never be accused of having squandered your youth!

August

Can't beat fun at the old ballpark! Attend the baseball game between the **Kansas City Royals and Minnesota Twins on Thursday, August 28 at Kauffman Stadium.** Contact **Don**



Harris at (913) 915-6774 or dharris@rewwmaterials.com.

September

Embark on the ultimate rugby road trip – the annual **Aspen Ruggerfest** – in which KU has participated since the 1960's. The event takes place on **September**

11-14 and includes matches for old boys teams in several age brackets (Over 45, Over 50, Over 55). If there is sufficient interest we may be able to organize a Grayhawk team. If not, Aspen is still a great place to kick back, relax and enjoy. Contact **Gregg Jarvis** at (817) 690-1791 or gjarvis1210@aim.com.

Grand Celebration **October 2-4**

On the evening of **Thursday, October 2**, plan to meet in the **Turn 2 Sports Bar at the Hollywood Casino in the Legends Entertainment District**, which is conveniently located for those who live in Lawrence, Kansas City and also for those flying into KCI.

On **Friday**, a **golf outing will be held at Alvarado Country Club** in Lawrence. Lunch will be



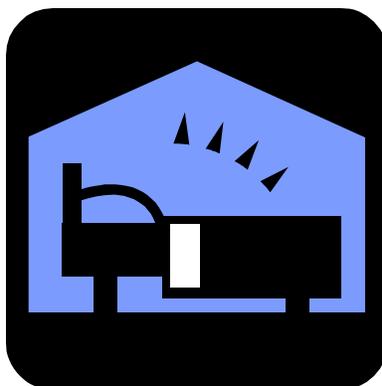
served for everyone (golfers and non-golfers) beginning at 11:30 AM. Golf scramble starts at 1:30 PM. Other afternoon activities (cigars, shotguns, and single-malt) will be arranged for non-golfers. Reserve your spot by contacting **Paul Diedrich** at (785) 841-1084 or die-drich@ku.edu.

On **Friday evening**, **Johnny's Tavern welcomes everyone** to its flagship location in North Lawrence, the spiritual home of the KU Rugby Club since the 1970's. **Visit the clubhouse on the second floor where decades of rugby memorabilia is displayed.**

On **Saturday afternoon**, rugby matches will be played at **Westwick Rugby Complex** located two miles west of U.S. 59 Highway (South Iowa Street) on County Road 458. Picnic-style food and drink will be available.

You and your guest are cordially invited to attend a **banquet** honoring the Club and its members on **Saturday evening from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM at KU's Adams Alumni Center**. This is a formal event. Seating is limited and **advance reservations are required**. Contact **Paul Diedrich** to reserve. You will be billed at a later date.

Costs for the above events are yet to be determined, as they are contingent upon the amount of participation for the respective events. Be assured we are doing everything possible to keep these events accessible to all who wish to join the festivities.



Lodging Options in Lawrence

There are many fine hotels in Lawrence and you are sure to find one that suits your needs. Here are several suggestions.

The Oread, 1200 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66044. Located 1/2 block north of the Adams Alumni Center. Contact (785) 843-1200 or

www.theoread.com (Ask about block of rooms reserved for "Rugby Alumni Reunion").

Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, 3411 S. Iowa Street, Lawrence, KS 66046. Close to rugby fields, cinema complex and restaurants. Contact 1-888-465-4329 or (785) 749-7555.

Comfort Inn & Suites, 151 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044. A new hotel near the West Lawrence turnpike exit. Contact (855) 849-1513.

Holiday Inn Holidayhome, 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044. Contact (877) 859-5095.

Hampton Inn, 2300 W. Sixth Street, Lawrence, KS 66049. Contact (855) 271-3622.

Best Western, 2309 Iowa Street, Lawrence, KS 66046. Close to KU. Contact (800) 568-8520.

The following hotels have limited availability during October 2-4 (not all nights available):

The Eldridge Hotel, 701 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, KS 66044. In the heart of historic downtown Lawrence. Contact (800) 527-0909 (toll free), (785) 749-5011 or info@eldridgehotel.com

Marriott Springhill Suites, One Riverfront Plaza, Lawrence, KS 66044. Just across the bridge from Johnny's Tavern. Contact (785) 841-2700. ****

Is Rugby “Important?”

By Fritz Edmunds

We’ve all heard the sloganeering that typically starts with something like, “Rugby isn’t just a game ...” And while it’s true that rugby is more than just a sport, it is fair to ask – as we work to promote junior level rugby and build a lasting foundation for the club at Westwick – whether rugby provides enough of a benefit to be worth the effort. Each potential participant must answer that question for himself, but some personal experiences and reflections might provide some perspective.

As any true rugby player can tell you, the reality of rugby goes much deeper than it appears to the casual observer. And although you’ll never meet a *momma’s boy* who’s played rugby (for long), its enthusiasts are much more than the oft-portrayed ruffians. There is a reason – actually, a host of reasons – why men of substance are drawn to the game of rugby and its community. Those blessed with great athletic prowess and those with sheer determination; those large in stature and those who are not so immense. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, businessmen, salesman, tradesmen, educators, artists, and laborers alike; blue-collar, white-collar; military backgrounds and civilian; conservatives, moderates and liberals – all can be afflicted with a passion for rugby and its distinctive culture, well beyond active playing years. If nothing else, rugby serves as a commonality in our ever-more divisive world. And the allure is greater than just the seeming paradox of fierce competitiveness and equally fierce camaraderie that embodies the rugby way.

Despite the game’s reputation for raucous celebrations or occasional, shall we say ... “unrefined” participants, rugby enthusiasts are literally some of the best men I know. Not that every rugby stalwart is perfect, mind you – far from it. But the universal rugby community is generally comprised of “good people.” Without need for a vote or rules addressing off-the-pitch conduct, rugby clubs tend to winnow out the weak, the weirdos, the lazy, and the predators in a law-



of-the-jungle sort of way.

The exceptional quality of women drawn to the sidelines and to rugby parties as dates (wives, girlfriends or hopefuls) is perhaps the best barometer of rugby men. I remember back in college looking around at our dates to Rugby Banquets and being struck by both the caliber and beauty of our ladies – unrivaled by the companions of athletes in the more popular, mainstream sports, including the varsity basketball or football teams. And that standard has continued in the wives and girlfriends who attend the matches and who appear every year as we’ve attended the banquets as alums. It is an unsolicited complimentary testament to the balance between raw masculinity and gentlemanliness that is the essence of rugby.

No other culture tests a man’s mettle and encourages his development, while providing an outlet through which men can be men within the bounds of decency, quite like rugby. At a time when society in general seems to be sending mixed signals, promoting hypersensitivity and victim mentality across the board, men of all ages can benefit from connection to a community that unabashedly embraces

hard work, toughness, competition, success, and celebration. Promotion of the traditional masculine roles of provider, protector, and leader while allowing a chance to blow off steam is a rare but much-needed influence in today’s finger-pointing, “politically correct” society. Even the most ruggedly independent of us can derive support through affiliation and association with a “tribe” that shares similar positive values.

It’s more than just an athlete or team thing. There is a unique bond at home and abroad between men who have participated in a grueling sport that offers almost no opportunity for fame or fortune but who have nevertheless left their sweat and sometimes blood on the dirt and grass of rugby pitches and then shared in beer and song. Instant connection can occur between complete strangers who are rugby adherents and that connection may well result in “war stories” over a couple of beers in cities or towns across the country and around the world. But the special bonds with one’s “mates” after training, practicing, toiling and fighting together for victories as members of the same club are the kind of bonds that can and do endure a lifetime.

If you’ll indulge me for a bit, mine is a story (perhaps long-winded) that emphasizes the importance of living life to the fullest as long as we are able and simultaneously cultivating relationships with solid folks along the way. My time as an active player with the Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club came near the middle of its existence as we now approach the Club’s 50-year anniversary. It will always be treasured, and not just because it was my athletic “swan song.” In only two and a half years (my senior year and my “second senior year”) I had the opportunity to play the best sport I’ve ever played with some of the greatest guys I’ve known, on a club that is the envy of many. I was fortunate enough to forge several lifelong friendships and was also privileged to serve the club as social secretary while living with

my “flatmates,” **Pete Knutson** and **Paul Berardi**. They also served the club as a field secretary and equipment secretary, respectively.

Actually, the relationship started out rough. Paul and I clashed on the practice field, as one might expect from two competitive, headstrong, young “bulls.” One time, we actually punched each other in a maul during practice (I can’t remember who hit who first but I’m pretty sure I deserved it; I had a similar punch-throwing run-in with my friend **Don ‘Duck’ Harris** so you can see the common, cocky denominator). Not long after that, Paul saw me on campus and asked if I wanted to ride with him and his buddy Pete to the Arkansas Rugby Tournament

in Little Rock. I didn’t know either of them very well, but considering our conflict, I was stunned and instantly knew that Paul had to be one hell of a guy and that his buddy must be also (sure enough, Paul has gone on to be the Chief of the Kansas City Fire Department, and Pete is a Captain). So, I accepted their surprising offer and was further impressed when Paul invited me to join him and Pete for an authentic Italian dinner at the very gracious Berardi family home before embarking for Arkansas. The beginning of two solid new friendships was born as a result.

After we laughed and sang rugby songs on the drive to and from Little Rock, stopped for free coffee “refills” at every McDonald’s drive-through along the way, and told war stories into the morning

hours, they later asked if I wanted to get an apartment with them the following school year. I will never forget the year we lived together in a simple “flat” within walking distance of the fields at 23rd & Iowa (and a “training run” away from Johnny’s). We were always competing, on and off the field – be it darts, backgammon, or fitness (they were both better than me at rugby so I had to settle for fitness) – and we had more fun than Rosie O’Donnell at an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Another rugby buddy and I were roommates for a couple of years in Kansas City after college. **Quint Nufer** invited me stay with him at his place in Dodge City when I was the only college punk with no



Fritz Edmunds' 1984 Club

SITTING (L-R): Paul Berardi, Thad Millard, Jimmy Bartle, Pat Kennedy, Rod Randel

ON KNEE (L-R): Unknown, Louie Riederer, Roger Walter, Chris Nicely?, Ted McGrade, Pete Knudsen, Kenny Dunn, Paul Mason, Rick Renfro, Unknown, Unknown

STANDING (L-R): Bill Mills, Unknown, Eric Peterson, Unknown (partial face), Unknown (partial face), Larry Krizman, Randy Renfro (hat), Quint Nufer, Paul Diedrich (ears taped), **Fritz Edmunds**, Unknown, Doug McCauley, Archie Byers, Chris Nicely (hat)?, Don Harris, Doug Gunn, Sean Daw, Bill Boyle (sunglasses)?, Bob Borchardt, Lou Blanco, David Kim, Unknown (jumping guy) maybe Mike Vanderbosch or Chris Woll?, John Pruett, Unknown, Dominic Barneo?

money for a hotel room making the trip when the club played there in the summer of '84 (the team also attended the Dodge City Days rodeo, courtesy of **Louie Riederer**). When Quint and I lived together after college, it was not uncommon for us to head back to Lawrence on Thursday nights for the weekly festivities at Johnny's and the Up & Under (we still had the college life in our blood and neither of us was very focused on business at the time; Quint is now a successful Wall Street-type financial whiz in Chicago). Our trips to Lawrence were no small task for old 'Nufe' because he had to drive both ways and cart my carcass around in a chair.

You see, in the summer of 1985, four days after we hosted a tutoring club from South America, which was my last rugby game ever, I broke my neck in a diving accident and was paralyzed from the chest down. I mention that not to be "dramatic," but to illustrate that life can change in an instant, so it should be lived with gusto (okay, maybe that was included for a little dramatic effect, but you see my point). I was glad to have had the opportunity to play and fall in love with rugby. I still live life with gusto – it's just a bit different now as I "get by with a little help from my friends." And the friends I made through rugby have stuck with me through thick and thin (mostly thick) helping me out for many years.

On one of several trips to Chicago for rugby weddings and other events (it might have been **Lou Blanco's** wedding), **Nufer** and **Bobby 'Bouché' Borchardt** were hauling me back out of a cab on Rush Street when the three of us ended up in a pile – half on the curb and half in the street – all three laughing uncontrollably (there might have been some drinking involved). They helped me out like champs and no injury substitutions were necessary. Similarly, **David 'Bear' Hay**, **Martin Evans**, **Scott Riley** and others helped me out during a trip to and from Aspen for the Ruggerfest. And years before that I'll never forget the Winnebago, on its way back to Lawrence from Aspen in 1985. The boys stopped at the hospital in Denver where I was doing my rehab. I wasn't supposed to leave the "compound" but my faithful rugby bud-

dies snuck me out, hoisted me into the Winnebago, left my wheelchair in the hallway, and took me out for some food and a much-needed beer. It was not exactly what the "doctor ordered" but it was just what I needed. They then delivered me safely – quietly – back to my chair at the rehab unit. They didn't have to stop in Denver and add time to their long, road-weary trip back. But they did and I'll always remember it.

The same kind of love (yeah, love) was shown at **Pat Roberts'** wedding outside of Philadelphia. A bunch of us flew out for the festivities and the guys helped me the whole time. I remember them hauling me in and out of **Doug McCauley's** rented, hillbilly-style Cadillac, and remember going back to a bar to retrieve my chair from the parking lot after someone forgot to put it in the trunk. It might've been that we thought **Mark 'Boomer' Mitscher** was getting it while he was instead being escorted to the County Line after a swishy bartender didn't particularly care for what Boomer had to say about him serving us \$12 pitchers of beer.

I work hard to be as independent and self-sufficient as I can. But over the years the rugby boys have stepped up to help without hesitation – shuttling me to and from the Rugby Banquet and matches, helping me around the fields, hauling me and my chair up and down flights of stairs (I remember one flight in particular in Columbia or Jefferson City where Nufer and Roberts nearly came to blows, and another descending from the Up & Under when **Jim 'Hairball' Laurie** ended up on top of me in a heap at the bottom). Other great guys like **John 'Bulldog' Brooks**, **Mike 'Spike' Hammond**, **Paul King**, **Derek Mannel**, **Matt O'Donnell**, plus all of the aforementioned and too many others to name, have really stepped up and never expected or accepted a thing. They are, in the parlance of an 80s rugger, "good dudes." I never played with **Dave Rockey**, **Scott Almsberger**, or **Mike Meenahan** but they all were connections through the rugby team who also helped out as roommates for years and all became good friends too.

I've stayed involved to some degree as a board member for the Westwick Foundation (thank you **Jimmy Bartle**), and a donor for the *First 15 Forever* that helped acquire our property at Westwick. I make it to every rugby banquet I can, and to occasional matches when I know some other Old Boys will be there. We've celebrated birthdays, weddings, children, and anniversaries with rugby mates and their families. We've taken a trip to Vegas for a bachelor-party, and gathered to remember lives well lived, but ended too soon. I've always been welcomed and embraced despite the fact that I'm a stark visual reminder of the harsh potential reality we athletes would rather not think about. My career as a lawyer and M&A investment banker keeps me busy and maybe even "distracted" from my rugby brothers-in-arms or the club, but for 30 years – ever since the Fall of 1983 – I've always felt a part of the KU Rugby family. It is an important part of my sometimes overly-compartmentalized life. It matters and I appreciate it more than words can express (even a lot of them).

Fritz Edmunds

Fritz Edmunds lives in Kansas City where he is Managing Director at Frontier Investment Banking, a Mergers & Acquisitions intermediary firm.

He also practices law through Edmunds Law Office, LLC which he started in 1991.

He was appointed 1991 to 1994 by the President to the US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board in Washington D.C. responsible for promulgating rules for compliance with the ADA in facilities and transportation.

Jacob Ornburn

The Jayhawks' Home-Grown Jumper Talks About Recruiting High School Players

At age 22, Jacob Ornburn has already played for the Jayhawks for 6-straight years. He played for both the Lawrence High School and KU Rugby Clubs. He is wrapping up his senior season for the Jayhawks. He will next get his Masters in Russian Socio-Economics at Arizona. We interviewed Jacob two days after the K-State Game of April 12. (See article in this Newsletter edition) In the closing minutes of that game, with the score tied, the Jayhawks captain, **Cody Weber** put much of the game's outcome in Ornburn's hands. Weber repeatedly kicked up-field for touch and counted on Ornburn to win the lineouts as a jumper. Jacob had done very well in the lineouts all day.

Q: How big are you?

6'3" 210 lbs.

Q: Tell me about how you got started playing rugby at Lawrence High School.

I had never even heard of rugby. In 2007, when I was 16 and a junior, a friend at Lawrence High School named **Ryan Covert** encouraged me to come out. I'm glad I did. It was one of the best decisions in my life. Ryan was an outside center. They put me at 2nd row and we both played on the high school team together.

Q: Did you recruit anybody to play, like Ryan Covert recruited you?

I guess my biggest recruitment was **David Buteyn**, because I recruited both David and his twin brother **Danny Buteyn**. Dave was playing scrum half in the K-State game. (See Photo) I recruited Dave 2 years ago at "Hawkweek" during Dave's freshman year. David had played HS rugby in Minnesota, but had not heard of the club at KU. Dave came out and he brought out his twin brother. Both still play for the club.

Q: What is Hawkweek?

It's a fall event for in-coming freshman,

the week before class starts. It's a way for freshman to get to know the campus, get to know Lawrence, and make some friends. They close down the street in front of the Student Union and set up big tents. All the student organizations and sports clubs have recruiting tables. The rugby club gets a table. I was there with **Conner Rollins and Chris Neugent**. We usually wear rugby club t-shirts, but last year we wore full uniforms. We really wanted to broadcast that we were up there.

Q: Speaking of team gear to wear that publicizes the club; do you guys have warm-up jackets that say "KU Rugby" on the back? We used to have that type of jacket.

We got a supply of warm up jackets for the South Africa tour in 2013, but they just have a Jayhawk crest on the front. No writing on the back. I haven't seen any orders for club jackets in recent memory. It would be great to have a jacket with the name on the back that you could wear before and after a game. It would save you from having your good clothes getting dirty. You could wear it up on campus to recruit. It would also make you look like a real team when you go play a game, if everyone has a jacket that has the team name on the back. **You look like a team – think like a team – play like a team.** It makes so much sense; I don't know how we ever got away from that.

Q: Tell us about your Lawrence High School team.

The high school team had 18 to 22 players. We were pretty dominant. In both of my years on the team, Lawrence played in the state finals against St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Thomas Aquinas won both of those matches, but both were close games. The STA team had larger player numbers; they fielded two full teams.

The Lawrence team played at Westwick and practiced with the KU college players and the club players. The coaches were



Jimmy Bartle & Rick Renfro. After graduating from HS, I continued on to KU and kept on playing rugby at the same Westwick facility and with the same guys. It was seamless.

Q: What has the KU club side been like while you have played?

When I started in the fall 2009 season as a freshman, we had 25-30 college players. The overall practice including HS, college, and club was about 45 players at practice. We started out strong, but the college side goes through cycles. We can have 40 college players out and then it will drop to about 20 players. The good thing about a college team is that it's like smoldering fire. If you get some good athletes and build up your numbers, you can quickly have a great team again. We are in a lull right now and hopefully we can get some good players again to build up our numbers. Then we should work on avoiding the down-cycles in the future.

Q: The alumni passed the hat to make a fund to buy advertising to assist in recruiting and generating buzz on campus. Have you seen the impact of that?

Yes. We are putting up flyers around campus on bulletin boards. We have business cards with the schedule and we leave those on tables in popular locations where lots of people will see them. I think we are in a position to make a big

push this fall and get our numbers up.

Q: The club would really like high school guys from teams like St. Thomas Aquinas, Rockhurst, and the Junior Blues come play for the Jayhawks during their college years. How can the club encourage high school players to come play at KU in college?

I think the Jayhawks need to get a lot more out of the state high school tournament that is played at Westwick. It's such a valuable resource and we have a huge advantage because we host that event. We should have 10-15 Jayhawk players out there passing the ball around and playing touch. They could go up and talk to the HS players. Not doing heavy recruiting; but just talk to them and get to know them. The Jayhawks players should say we aren't just looking for players; we want to get to know players as people, too. Doing that wouldn't cost anything. Most people play for a rugby club, because they like the guys that they play with. For me; playing in Lawrence, the continuation on with the college side was seamless. The same could happen with other HS players, if they get to know the college players at KU.

Q: What have been some of your most memorable games as a Jayhawk?

We played at Oklahoma State in spring 2013. It was a tough, back & forth game. We got a penalty kick opportunity in the last 2 minutes that was 40 meters out. **Sean Rothwell** was the kicker. As soon as he hit the ball, we new it was good. We finished strong. The KU basketball team was also playing that night to go to the Final Four. We came back to Lawrence, KU basketball won, and it was just a great party after that.

Then there was Aspen tournament two years ago in 2012. (See [October 2012 edition of the Newsletter](#)) We had a great team of players. We got a lot of respect, beating Aspen in their own tournament and beating the Denver Highlanders. We moved on to pool play in the finals and were paired with the incumbent national club side champions, the Glendale Raptors. The Jayhawks had already suffered a number of injuries to



Jacob Ornburn feeds a lineout ball to David Buteyn (# 9).
Photo from spring 2014 K-State game.



key players that weekend that depleted our ranks. We lost to Glendale, but the overall weekend was great, because we felt like a power-house club.

Q: What's it like to have a pair of 300 lbs props in Kyler Sanford and Griffin Hastings?

It's awesome to have two big, dependable props that you can count on in both set play and who can insert themselves in open play. They can catch a kick or a pass and link up. They can influence a whole game. Both props move to the ball well in open play. **Griffin Hastings** has scored a try in most of the games this

year. He is our "go-to guy" when we are close to the opponents goal line.

Q: What next for you?

I will enroll for a Masters in Socio-Economic Issues of Russia and Eastern Europe at Arizona next fall. I intend to keep playing rugby at Arizona, not only because I like the game, but because you can count on it to instantly give you a great circle of friends in a new town. That especially applies for me, since I will be going to Arizona and I won't know anyone. ****

Griffin Hastings & Kyler Sanford – Powerball

Imagine this...during the past spring season the Jayhawks had a **PAIR** of 300 lbs. props on their starting club side.

These guys are so big and strong, that the scrum sometimes loses the hook, but regains the ball by driving their opponent's backwards. The two big props have been working to link up in open play, creating mayhem as a tandem. One will carry the ball and hit the opposition and then hand the ball off to the other one to keep rumbling up field. The more they play together; the better they get. They look forward to the coming fall season.

Kyler Sanford joined the club at the beginning of the 2014 spring season. **The club's social media efforts paid off when Kyler moved to Lawrence and saw there was a rugby club on Facebook and posted contact questions on the page.** The Jayhawk club officers scrambled to get ahold of Kyler and get him pointed towards Westwick for practice.

Kyler is 23 years old (young!) and at 6'1" is a mountain of a man. He played just one season of rugby in Atlanta, so his spring season with the Jayhawks rounds out his first full year of playing the sport. Kyler said he previously played 12 years of organized football and has always been interested in a wide variety of sports. He has even played lacrosse.

If you want to see a terrific sports photo of Kyler in action, go to the club's Facebook page and look at the photos posted by professional photographer **Phil Peterson** from the March 29 game against Central Missouri State. In one photo Kyler is running with the ball and gives an opponent a stiff arm that literally lifts the guy off the ground and bends him as Kyler powers by.

The other prop, **Griffin Hastings** has a story that shows both the power of rugby to radically improve someone's life and

highlights the special contribution of alum **Dave Hamill**.

The 24 year old, 6'2" Griffin Hastings was a former defense tackle in high school at Olathe North (Kansas City) at 285 lbs. He injured his knee in a game and steadily gained weight over the following years. He went to Johnson County Community College in Kansas City for 2 years and then took a job in Lawrence. The job ended up not working out, but he liked Lawrence and decided to stay in town and find another job.

Alum **Dave Hamill** owns a bunch of Lawrence residential rental property and hires young men (many are rugby players) to do renovation and maintenance work. Many of his tenants are rugby club members, too. Hastings' high school buddy was **John Hamill** (son of Dave Hamill) and through him, Griffin landed a job on Dave Hamill's crews in the fall of 2012. The guys were bringing 75 lbs. boxes of tile into an apartment. All the guys were carrying one box at a time, except for Griffin. He was bringing them in two at a time. **Hamill was a flanker for the club in the 1980's & 90's and had a keen eye for someone who could be effective in the forwards. Hamill took Griffin aside and**



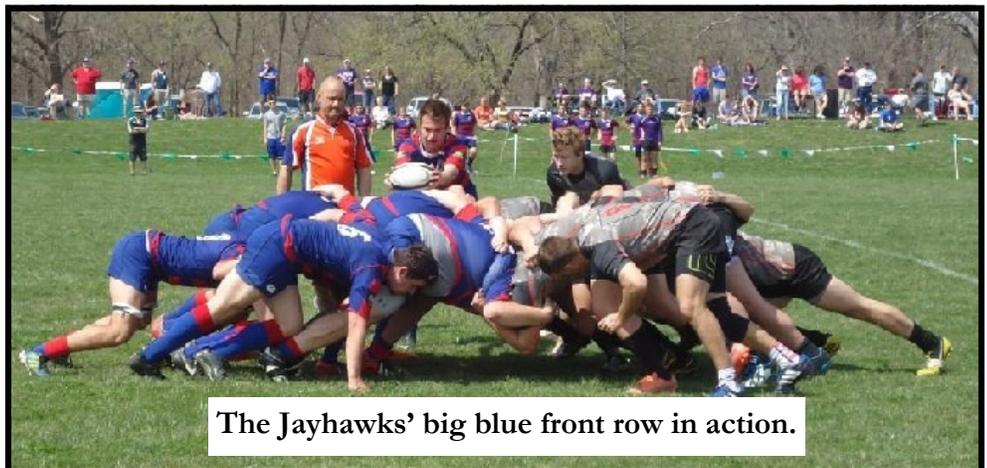
Kyler Sanford



Griffin Hastings

told him that he ought to be playing rugby and gave him directions to Westwick.

Hastings said that at that point in his life "the scale was not my friend" and had no idea how much he weighed but it was probably more than 400 lbs. He had really not done any physical activity since getting hurt in a football game years before. He came out to a practice and was surrounded by all these incredibly fit guys. The game and players clicked with Griffin, even though he had obvious issues trying to play a running game while carrying so much unproductive weight. The highlight of that first season was going to the 2012 Aspen Rufferfest and the club making it to the final round. Along the way they beat the home-town club, Aspen. It was a terrific introduction to the game.



The Jayhawks' big blue front row in action.

Griffin decided to take the game seriously and devoted his non-practice time to weight lifting and running. **Over the past two years, Hastings has lost over 100 lbs. Rick Renfro** frequently mentions Griffin as one of the most positive players on the club. His attitude is infectious. Griffin is one of the most frequent authors of the club's Facebook posts, bringing news and commentary to his teammates and other Facebook readers.

A turning point for Griffin's playing development was going on the 2013 Tour of South Africa with the club. "I really saw things start to click for me on the field on that trip. It was the highest level of rugby matches I've ever played in as far as quality goes."

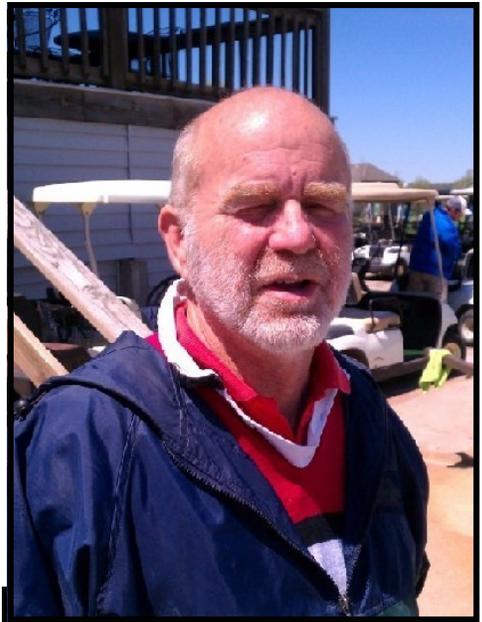
Although once a "project" as a player; Griffin is now a starter on club side and has worked himself into part of their scoring offense by being the ball carrier on plays when they get close to the opponent's goal. Hastings says "My eyes get big when we get close to the goal line and get a penalty kick opportunity. I can't wait for them to give me the ball." He has scored a try in most of the games this season.

Griffin still has several years of college playing eligibility available and playing on the rugby club has given him additional

interest in returning to school for a degree. "I would like to play on the Jayhawk's college side and try to play for a title. The club side is officially just a "social team" and therefore does not compete for any rankings."

We asked him if the opposing front row ever makes any comments when they see a pair of jumbo props facing them. Hastings said "My opposite prop will have a few initial scrum downs against me and then urge their teammate prop to switch sides, to see if they can become more effective. Then he goes over on the other side and has to face Kyler...They realize it just doesn't matter; both sides are going to be a daunting task. They try to joke about it, but we know we have a mental edge on them."

"In a recent game it got to the point where one of our guys would knock the ball on and I would go tell them all not to worry because we were just going to get it back in the scrum. It's nice to be able to provide that mental boost after something as frustrating as a knock on." ****



Dave Hamill

Griffin Hastings said "Dave Hamill has done a lot for the club for a number of years by providing housing and jobs to players. One house at 14th & Massachusetts has 4 players living in it and has become the club's "rugby house".

Dave started playing for the club in 1978 and played for 20 years as a utility back and flanker.

When not helping the rugby club or managing his rental properties, Dave is part of an architectural team that has built NFL foot-



Hastings & Sanford

Jayhawk Women's Club Ranked # 5 in Nation in D2

Reported by Shelby Williams

In the Spring 2014 season, the Kansas Jayhawks Women's Rugby Club had a great time joining the men's team and building the float for and being in the St. Patrick's Day parade. It was a great opportunity to boost both teams' presence and visibility in the community. The kids in the crowd particularly enjoyed playing catch with us and watching the men's team lift lineouts.



Lawrence St. Patrick's Day Parade

We took some great trips to tournaments in Nashville and St. Louis and got good experience playing teams from across the country as well as playing against and **beating Mizzou and K-State. We remained undefeated in league play.**

The weekend of May 3rd and 4th we went into the Frontier regionals tournament as the top seeded team. I am so incredibly proud to say that **we defeated Mid-Mo (33-0) and Boulder (20-17) to win the tournament and progress to the USA Rugby Women's DII National Tournament.**

We traveled to Dallas the weekend of May 17th and 18th to face the Las Vegas Slots in the first round of the tournament. The Jayhawks Women's lost our game on Saturday and won our game on Sunday, so we will end up placing either 5th or 6th for D2 clubs in the nation. I can get you our final placement as soon as I know.

The score for the game on Saturday was

55-17, with the Las Vegas Slots winning. **Abby Vestal** scored (12 pts) and **KJ (Kjrsten Abel-Ruch)** scored (5 pts). **Cat Boone** went out with an injury to her shoulder and chest and would have to sit out on Sunday.

On Sunday, we beat Houston Athletic, 50-0. Scorers were **Abby Vestal (30), Haley Robb (5), Carlie Solis-Hall (5), Erica Rudoff (5), and KJ (5).**

We were so excited to be able to represent Kansas and our Jayhawks at the national level and we would like to thank everyone, especially the KJRFC men, for their support this season. We'll give it our all and left everything on the pitch! ****



Above (L-R) Erica Rudoff & Abby Vestal

Below: Carlie Solis-Hall



Lauren Lawson



Standing—Heather Hellum, tackling - Shelby Williams



Ball carrier - Bri Slayton





**We salute the Womens Rugby Club's terrific year!
5 in Nation**



Running-Krista Delaney, support-Haley Robb

K-State – A GREAT Game!!!

On April 12, the Jayhawks lost 17-20, but the game was a thriller. Besides this being a classic rivalry, the game featured a direct match-up of locomotive outside centers. The Jayhawks' **Cody Weber** was marked by Wildcats' **Walt Elder**. Both were on the 2013 South Africa rugby tour and knew each other well.



Cody Weber (helmet) awaits pass on K-State's goal line in early 1st half. His opposite number, Walt Elder is to right with red hair in ponytail.



Opening kickoff—note wind on flags

The Jayhawks played the first half with a stiff, 15 mph wind behind them. The Jayhawks drove to the K-State end and were awarded a penalty kick on the right side of the field about 25 meters out. The usually-steady **Sean Rothwell's** attempt for a field goal was pushed to the right by the wind.

ters out. Sean Rothwell went for the posts, but sliced it right. Score remained 0-5.

for dangerous play. That forced K-State to play a man short the remainder of the game.

Later, the Jayhawks had a penalty kick from 10 meters out in the center of the field. Rothwell made the easy kick. Score 3-5

Later, the Jayhawks' open play attempt at a pop-kick backfired. The Wildcats scored under the uprights on a counter attack. Score 3-17.



Rothwell's 1st attempt

Halftime

In the opening moments of the 2nd half, the Wildcats were awarded a penalty kick on the left side of the field, 5 meters from the Jayhawks' goal line. They tried to do a quick toe of the ball and run for a score, but botched the "quick toe" part. A scrum was awarded on the spot. The Jayhawks won the scrumdown and fed the ball to their backs, who attempted to kick the ball to the sidelines, up field. The wind limited the kick and it never found the out of bounds. The Wildcats ran a counter attack and scored under the posts, which was easily converted. Score 3-12.



Jayhawks won most lineouts

In the play that followed, K-State got a breakaway run going that went the length of the field; leading to a try on the right side. The Wildcats could not manage the conversion kick against the wind, so the score was 0-5.

The Jayhawks kept the ball in their hands as they fought up field against the wind. They ran a dummy scissors and a Wildcat hit the Jayhawk player without the ball with a devastating high tackle. The Wildcat player was ejected

The Jayhawks were awarded another penalty kick in the middle of the field, 40 me-

“The Play”

The Jayhawks did a great job all day in the lineouts; feeding the ball to their tall # 8, **Jacob Ornburn**. They won a line out at mid-field and fed the ball all the way to their wing. It was executed absolutely perfectly. The passes led each back, so they took the ball out of the air at full stride. When the movement got hemmed in by the far sideline, the ball was passed back inside to Cody Weber who ran for a try under the posts. Score 10-17.



(Above & Below) Cody Weber takes it to the house in “The Play”

One of the bright spots of the game is that Jayhawks have a pair of 300 pound props in **Kyler Sanford** and **Griffin Hastings**. Those two have so much power that the Jayhawks pushed the K-State team backwards in most of the scrums. This allowed the Jayhawks to retrieve some balls after losing a hook.

The Jayhawks won a scrumdown. The ball was fed to Cody Weber, who buzzsawed through some tackles and scored right of the posts. Sean Rothwell made a very difficult conversion kick into the wind from that angle. Score tied 17-17 with 11 minutes left to play.



In the closing minutes, the Jayhawks used their penalty kick opportunities to punt the ball to the up field sidelines to try to get field position and depend on Jacob Ornburn’s lineout skills to get the ball.

K-State was finally given a penalty kick opportunity dead center, 30 meters from the posts. They made the kick with that favoring wind to close out the game.



Final Score: Jayhawks 17 – Wildcats 20



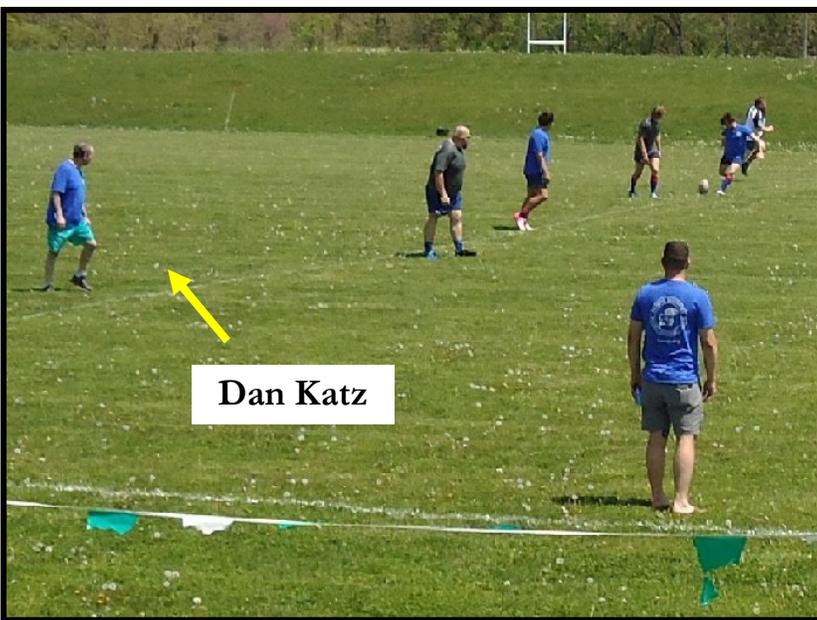
Alumni Weekend — Etc.



Top: Scramble Golf event on May 2 in Desoto, KS.

Above: At Johnny's after April 12 K-State game (L-R) Steve Lange, Paul Diedrich, Pat Rapp, Don Harris, and Bryan Hunter (Harris & Hunter had played for both K-State and the Jayhawks)

Above: At March 29 CMSU game, a gathering of coaches: (L-R) Matt O'Donnell, Derek Mannell, and Rick Renfro



(L-R) Dave Hamill & Joe KIELTYKA watch the touch 7's game

May 3 Alumni Game had a light turn out. Rick Renfro said that many of the alumni that would normally have returned were saving the return trip for the October anniversary event later this year.

The “game” itself ended up being a shirts & skins game of touch 7's rugby. The only truly vintage alum to play was Dan Katz (late 1970's). He exhibited some wizardry with a dummy pass and after making a short break, passed the ball for a try.