

A Box of Photos & Clippings From George Bunting

In February, the club's founder mailed us a box of his photos & newspaper clips from his time with the club. It's a great "time capsule" from the period 1964 -1967. There is so much in the box that we have presented it over the two editions. The early photos show how much the Jayhawks & the Kansas City Rugby Club's paths intersected.

For more about Bunting and the formation of the club, see the January 2012 edition of this newsletter.

Bunting was the absolute perfect guy to start our rugby club.

- He focused the newspaper on the club and was a terrific recruiter who attracted a talented 40-man squad.

- He negotiated with the football team for the use of old practices jerseys and got permission to use the athletic fields near Allen Field House.

- He personally purchased the club's first set of rugby jerseys in their second season.

- He orchestrated a tour of Ivy League Schools during spring break 1966 and proposed similar tours should occur every year.



- More than anything, he stressed that the sport should be played as a fun past-time by the students. He notes it was relatively inexpensive to buy the equipment to play, the game was pretty easy to pick up, and the players could be all sizes.

Thank you George for the memorabilia *and* for starting the club.



Pat Rapp - One of the first centers on the club. He was the club's 2nd president after Bunting. As a former QB on the KU football team, he recruited many talented players in the initial years of the rugby club. He coached the club even after he graduated. He owned the club's first bar, the Bierstub. Pat now is manager of catering at KU and will supervise the banquet for our 50th anniversary in October.

Pictured is Rapp kicking a penalty kick for 3 points. Holding the ball is teammate Jack Lembeck. (Both were interviewed in the 2nd edition of the Old Boy Quarterly.)

You can listen to Pat Rapp's 10 minute comments about playing for the Jayhawks on YouTube by searching for Pat Rapp to KU Rugby Club 2013 or by clicking this link.

<http://youtu.be/dMkv3aYGXRs>

Lawrence, Kansas, Wednesday, May 3, 1967.

LAWRENCE DAILY J



Ball is put in play after going out of bounds with a "lineout," which resembles basketball's jump ball with no restraining circle to keep players back. Forwards on each team form parallel lines facing the player making the toss in. The ball must be tossed between the lines

but the tosser attempts to throw it in the vicinity of his best Forwards attempt to bat the ball to their backfield men. Wohlford is at lower right.

Friday, Sept. 25, 1964

Univ

Rugby Club Opens Work

The KU Rugby Club held its organizational meeting Wednesday evening, with 20 people attending, according to George Bunting, Kansas City, Kan. first-year law student.

Bunting, a former player on the Dartmouth team, said the KU team has a game scheduled in a few weeks with a team in Kansas City.

Anyone interested in the sport is invited to attend practices at 4

p.m. every day until Oct. 1 on the field east of Allen Field House, or to call Bunting at VI 3-0077.

Lawrence Blades, assistant professor of law and also a former Dartmouth player, will be advisor to the club.

Graduate Grant Held

The \$1575 Boeing Company graduate fellowship in engineering is held by Gary Ray Muller, Ellinwood, in the 1964-65 academic year.

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

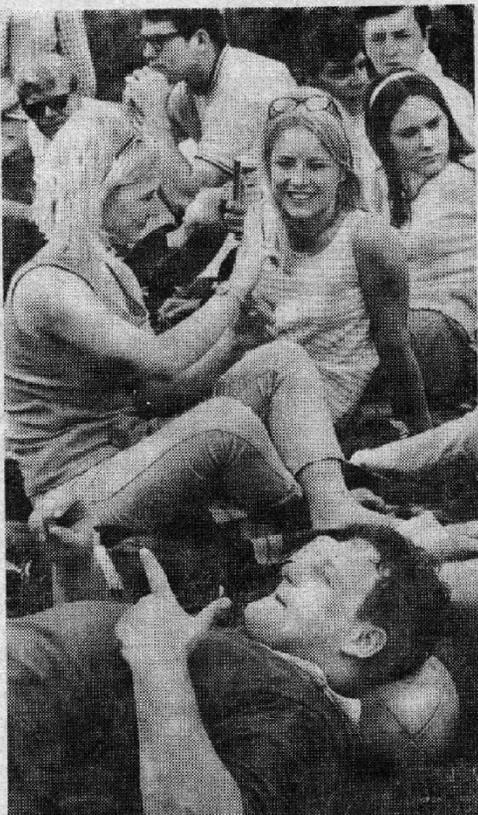


GH-OH!—A player from the Kansas City Rugby Club decides the time has come to get rid of the ball as two KU players close in on him. The Jayhawk club played the Kansas City group Saturday afternoon on the intramural field. The Kansas City club won, 8-3.



mⁿ is similar to football's line-of-scrimmage. Eight forwards assemble in reverse wedge and try to kick ball with heels from center of scrum to backfield. (Journal-World Photos by Mike

The KU player in upper right corner is wing, Bill Chambers. Bob Wisdom is the near side KU flanker. The strange selection of jersey numbers by the player positions is because in the early days of the local clubs; they didn't know that the numbers were linked to positions. That's why the KC Rugby Club #13 is getting ready to join the scrum as a flanker.



Rugby's informality doesn't ban fraternalization with fans or opposing players. John LaRocca relaxes among fans during half-time.

U.D.K. TUES APRIL 20, '65

Sports Shorts

The KU Rugby team held the University of Missouri at Rolla to a scoreless tie Saturday at Forest Park in St. Louis.

It was the second game of the season for the KU squad. The Rolla team was playing their tenth match. Rolla finished in a tie for second in the ten-team Missouri Rugby Union. They scored 94 points and only gave up eight points to opponents in their regular season.

A crowd of approximately 3,000 watched the afternoon of Rugby which included the KU-Rolla contest and six other games. The Missouri Rugby Union held their annual post-season banquet and dance that evening for all the participants.

John LaRocca - The 270 lbs prop had been a guard on the KU football team and was recruited by Pat Rapp. LaRocca was Rapp's fraternity brother. They live a few blocks apart today.

This may be the best picture of all time. LaRocca, resting during half time, surrounded by beauties.



Wisdom

Michael

Greason

Ball may be kicked at any time to score or gain field position. Field goals and penalty kicks count three points while conversions (shown here with KU's Pat Rapp kicking and Jack Lembke holding) after three-point "tries" (touchdowns) count two.

Blocking isn't permitted in rugby so ball carrier is vulnerable if he fails to kick or pass off soon enough. KU's Lane Creason is tackled in game with Kansas City Rugby Club. Other KU players are Bob Wisdom, John Michael and John LaRocca.