

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.

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:

1968 – 1972
"Dead Dog" & Aspen

Halfway Mark of the Spring 2012 Season

BY RICK RENFRO

Wow, the weather has been perfect and we have taken advantage of it. We started practice (outside) on Jan. 24th and haven't looked back. Remember all that running in the field house and the horse barn?

We have been getting 35 to 50 out to practice. The club has been getting a lot of good work in and it has shown on the field. We have about 40 CIPPED college kids and 25 club players. Unfortunately, the "under 19" team is very thin and we are having a hard time getting kids out. **Ed Mills** (Irish Ed) has taken over the technical skills part of practice. The training sessions are very organized and professional. **Jimmy Bartle** has taken some time off for family and **Joe Kieltyka** has been recuperating from some health issues (he is doing great). **Josh Hobart** and **Dave Hamill** along with some of the senior players are filling out the coaching staff.

We have high expectations this season. We expect to play more competitively against better competition and field a B/social side so everyone has a

chance to play. Although the won-loss record is not what we wanted, we have played very well in our matches.

The club side (with A side college players) had a very exciting game with the **KC Blues**. We were ahead most of the match and lost by a try in the last 10 minutes. Everyone I talked to said it was a great, hard hitting game, showing good rugby skills. The final score was 22-29.

The second week of the season saw us put out three sides B/social vs. **Topeka** for a fun 15-10 victory (a lot of guys playing their first match). We had the **College vs. MU "Border War"** game in Kansas City. **Steve Lange** has included a nice match report (See page 2).

We also had a big misstep against **KCRFC** with a club loss.

The third week we played in the **Topeka St Paddy's Tourney**. We beat **Northland St (Iowa)** and **Springfield** in easy victories with everyone getting a run. Then we lost in the semi finals against **KC Islanders** (they won the tourney) in a very physical and close game.

Coming up we play **OSU, K-State, CMSU, Wichita** and go to the **St Louis Ruggerfest** on April 14th. Please check out the web site for dates and locations.

Remember the **Alumni Weekend** May 5th. **Shooting** on Thursday, **Golf** on Friday, **Rugby** on Saturday, **Banquet** on Saturday night. Get a hold of **Grant** for details grant@sunflower.com. It was nice seeing **Louie Riederer** at the Blues match and **Steve Lange, Steve Swalwell, Dan Katz and Rich Coulson** at the MU/KU game. It was especially great to see **Andy Sibbernson**; he gave us a nice check.

The 50th anniversary of the club is the fall of 2014. **Jimmy Bartle** is working on a bunch of fun stuff. Tentative plans are to have the festivities cover **two long weekends in late September**, to offer past players a spectrum of activities. This is in contrast to trying to create a single event that would attempt to please everyone. More details will be announced as plans get firmed.

Thanks and see you at the pitch!



1964 – 1967 "Club's Founders"
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Border War Game
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Special Tribute To
Social
Members

Page 2

TRIBUTE TO SOCIAL MEMBERS

BY STEVE LANGE

THANK YOU to all Social Members of the rugby club!

My older brother **Bob Lange** graduated from KU in 1966; nine years ahead of me. Bob was a small fellow and had a bad heart valve. He never played a competitive sport in his life, however he knew players on the rugby club through his fraternity. (The same era of the club

that is interviewed in this edition of the newsletter.) **Bob was a dues-paying, Social Member of the KU Rugby Club.** He and his friends liked to come to the games and have a few beers afterwards. He used to come home and tell his early-teen brother how cool it all was.

We want to give a special **THANK YOU** to all Social Members of the rugby club!

You fill the sidelines, help defray club expenses with your dues & contributions, and occasionally even help recruit a future rugby player.



Border War Game

KU's Backfield (L to R):

Ricky Hield
Tonderi Kamparami
Andrew Volhs
Sean Rothwell
Johan Swanepoel (w ball)
David Buteyn (9)

1974 Old Boys Reunite at Border War Game (L to R)

Andy Sibbensen (flanker)
Joe KIELTYKA (#8)
Steve Swalwell (wing)
Dan Katz (hooker late 70's)
Steve Lange (prop)
Rich Coulson (fullback)



College Side Loses to MU in 29-21 Border War Thriller

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY STEVE SWALWELL
ARCHITECTURAL FOTOGRAFICS

The much anticipated “Border War” was played on Saturday afternoon, March 10. The conditions were perfect. It was a sunny 65 degrees with a light breeze blowing across the field, sideline to sideline. The spectators were treated to an excellent rugby game. The Jayhawks had a convincing shut out underway in the first half and then Missouri chipped away in the second half. The Merit Table loss, effectively dashes the Jayhawks’ hopes of a College Division 1 playoff appearance.

In the game’s beginning, Missouri’s side featured a heavy flanker who could run through numerous tackles. The Jayhawks looked like dogs on a bear, as they repeatedly gang-tackled him. The Jayhawks appeared to

have better overall team speed and managed to stay at Missouri’s end of the field the majority of the first half.

First Half Scoring:

- KU freshman South African flyhalf, **Johan Swanepoel** scored a try midway between uprights and right sideline. Senior inside center, **Sean Rothwell** made extra points kick. – **Score: KU 7- MU 0**
- KU Australian exchange student fullback, **Rickie Hield** scored in left corner. **Rothwell’s** kick was wide. – **Score: KU 12-MU 0**
- KU awarded a penalty kick midfield, 40 meters out. **Rothwell** splits uprights. **Score: KU 15-MU 0**

- MU fullback cuts through a gap, scores midway between uprights and left sidelines. Kick missed. **Score: KU 15-MU 5**
- MU flyhalf broke tackles and scored left of the posts. Kick missed. **Score: KU 15-MU 10**
- **Half Time**
In game’s second half, the Jayhawks lost their ability to hold field position at Missouri’s doorstep. The game moved freely from one end of the pitch to the other. Missouri improved the passing in their backfield and repeatedly found their “extra man”.
- **Second Half Scoring:**
- MU wing is the extra man, scoring in right corner. Kick

missed. **Score: Tied 15-15**

- KU awarded penalty kick midfield, 20 meters out. **Rothwell** makes points. **Score KU 18-MU 15**
- KU awarded penalty kick midfield, 30 meters out. **Rothwell** makes points. **Score KU 21-MU 15**
- Late in game, MU wing scores, crossing line in corner, then running to uprights to score. Kick made. **Score: KU 21-MU 22**
- MU forwards held up in maul on KU’s goal; then execute a rolling maul, scoring left of uprights. Kick made. **Score: KU 21-MU 29**
- **Game End**

Pictured on right, (clockwise):

2nd row, **Jacob Ornburn** wins lineout

Hooker, **Collin Rollins** runs with ball
(His father played for the club in the 1980’s)

Fullback, **Rickie Hield** passes before a tackle

Scott McAvoy (headband) runs through gap



1964—1967 CLUB'S "FOUNDING MEMBERS"

In the last edition of the Old Boy Quarterly, the club's altruistic founder, **George Bunting** gave his overview of the start up of the club. This second edition will highlight some of the players from those first few seasons of the rugby club. Those players from 1964 to 1967 are now turning 70 years old and deserve a special focus. Most had not previously seen a rugby game and they played against local clubs who were no more experienced. The players were big, the games were primitive, and these guys loved it.

Pat Rapp & John LaRocca

Rapp and LaRocca were interviewed at LaRocca's Lawrence home in January 2012. They have been best pals for over 50 years. They were fraternity brothers, at Phi Kappa Psi. They both played football at KU and then migrated over to rugby. They have lived a couple of blocks apart in Lawrence for over 20 years. Both came to the first alumni game in 1974 and have been frequent attendees to rugby club events through the years. **These guys are some of the highest profile faces of the first generation of Jayhawk rugby players.** The interview was more like a party, because these outgoing guys are a ball. After 2 ½ hours of riotous conversation, I felt I was excusing myself early when I left.

Careers

Rapp ran some restaurants and bars, including the rugby club's first official bar, the Bierstube. He was a manufactures rep and operated Mt. Blue ski slope. He has marketed telephone equipment for jails and gaming equipment to bars. Today he works for KU in catering.



LaRocca started as a school teacher and high school football coach. He has been a traveling salesman, selling oil field supplies, police equipment, and timeshares. He also started a telecommunications company in Lawrence. He is now retired.

Introduction to Rugby

In 1964, Rapp saw a practice on campus, asked what was going on, and thought it looked like fun. He had tried out for the KU football team as a quarterback. When he realized trying to be a varsity player wasn't going anywhere, he was eager to try rugby. The 5'10" 165 lbs Rapp became the inside center on the rugby club.

In 1965, Rapp kept urging his fraternity brother, LaRocca to come out and play. LaRocca was on the same football team as Gale Sayers and played guard. The 5'10" 272 lbs cannonball could run a 4.6 second 40. He wore pants with a

36 inch waist.

LaRocca said he just finishing playing varsity football and was tired of the regimentation of playing organized team sports, so playing another one was the last thing he wanted to do. LaRocca finally came out to a practice with Rapp and was instantly hooked.

I asked what it was like going from playing big-time varsity football to basically a sand lot sport. LaRocca said when he played either sport he didn't pay attention to the crowd. He just played the game. He used to giggle when he ran with the ball in rugby, because he never got to carry the ball in football.

KU at Palmer College 1965

LaRocca initially played 2nd row (where you would normally play the tallest forwards). KCRFC's **Gerry Seymour** took LaRocca aside after a game and told him he was built to be a tighthead prop. LaRocca had no idea how to play the position. The next game

**Pat Rapp on left
John LaRocca on right
Photo: January 2012**

they played was against Palmer Chiropractic College up in Davenport, Iowa. On the way up in the car, LaRocca asked KU's 215 lbs hooker and former Notre Dame player, **Larry Hartnett** how to play prop and Hartnett said **"When you come together, just get a hold of the other prop's arm and crank it down."**

In that Palmer game, LaRocca played prop against a fellow who was much smaller than the immense 272 lbs LaRocca. He had great fun twisting the Palmer player like a pretzel. About half way through the game, they had a scrum down and LaRocca looked up to see a different player in front of him. It was a bearded man who dwarfed LaRocca in size. He was a 23 year old South African named Dirk who was a champion rugby

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player, wrestler, and swimmer. In a thick accent, Dirk said **"You've hurt my man laddie, so now I am going to teach you a lesson!"** Because of the accent, LaRocca replied, **"I don't understand your language."** Dirk said **"You soon will!"** and proceeded to put a major beat-down on LaRocca for the remainder of the game. After the game, the South African turned out to be a great guy. He took LaRocca aside and coached him the correct way to play prop.

The night before the away game at Palmer, the fraternity had a big party in Lawrence. Rapp & LaRocca planned to go to the party and then drive all night to Iowa for the rugby game on Saturday. They had a fraternity brother named **Joe Groner** who was a terrific athlete, but had no interest in playing rugby. (Both Rapp and Groner had previously played QB on the Rockhurst HS football team in Kansas City.) After hitting the party hard, Groner asked the guys where they were going and they said they were going to get a bite to eat. Groner climbed into the car and fell asleep. He awoke the next morning at the rugby field in Davenport, Iowa and asked **"What are we doing here?"** The response was **"You are going to play rugby!"** They put him in a loaned kit and told him a few rules. He played the whole game with a massive hangover. Groner was so quick that a Palmer player in that game started to punt the ball and Groner snatched the ball right off the guy's foot and ran off with it. KU lost that game to Palmer, but not by much. (In a subsequent game in Lawrence, KU beat Palmer 54-0.)

The Ivy League Tour - Fun & Turning Point

"Before we went on that tour", said LaRocca, "nobody knew what they were doing. We were still playing football and just focused on tackles. There were games where we won just by putting a couple of opponents

out of the game. Back then, there were no timeouts or substitutions. We would finish games with only 10 or 11 players left on the opposing team."



**LaRocca on left
Rapp on right
First Alumni Game
Spring 1974**

LaRocca said **"We learned how to play rugby on that tour.** When we came back, we were a much, much better team". KU had never seen backs run a "scissors" before they played against Yale.

Rapp said "The Ivy League tour was an absolute blast of a road trip. Much of the players' budget was spent on buying 10 or 12 cases of the absolutely cheapest, warm beer we could find. The beer was nearly all consumed when we got to St. Louis and the bus stopped to buy more." LaRocca said a player's girlfriend, who lived in St. Louis, met the bus with a big box of sandwiches that were individually wrapped with the wax paper (the wrapper of the era).

By the time the bus stopped in Indianapolis, one of the bus drivers refused to continue the trip because the players were so drunk. The club's wing, **Jay Clancy** jumped into the driver seat and threatened to drive, which convinced the bus driver

to get back in and continue the trip. The other bus driver thought the guys were hilarious.

Some of the players got on the chartered bus with literally zero money and were foraging for food the rest of the trip. LaRocca said "The bus stopped at a restaurant that had a sign **"All You Can Eat - \$2"**. The restaurant was happy when we came in, but sad when we left. We ate everything!"

During the weeklong trip, the bus became a pigsty. The bus floor was wet and slick. The restroom on the bus was a mess, but wing, **Bill Chambers** got nicknamed "Captain America". He could take his kit into that bus' retched bathroom and emerge in street clothes, looking like he was showered and pressed.

LaRocca said they were staying at the Holiday Inn at Yale. The whole KU team was in just 2 rooms. One of the bus drivers played a prank and called a room in the middle of the night to say he was the hotel's detective and was on his way up to count the people in the room. Everybody jumped up, got dressed, and ran out the hotel fire escape. Nobody brought the keys, so the whole team ended up locked out and finished the night on the bus.

The club stayed up late partying on every night of the tour. At Holy Cross, the opposing players that hosted the KU boys the night before the game were not the same Holy Cross players they played the next day. Holy Cross sent their social players out to soften up the visitors with a late night.

KU lost all the games against the Ivy League clubs, but the tour's last game against Dartmouth was the closest. Maybe that was because **George Bunting** had played there before coming to KU and the Kansas boys played with some extra effort. The Jayhawks led most of

the second half. Rapp swears that the ref let the game go long until Dartmouth could score for the win.

The Ivy League clubs talked to each other as the Kansas tourist moved from school to school. The word got out that a lot of KU football players were on the rugby club. In the Dartmouth game, the opponent mistakenly thought that the Jayhawk's black player, **Bobby Reynolds** was Gale Sayers (and Reynolds didn't say he wasn't). Because of the hype, it was the best game Reynolds ever played in his life.

LaRocca said his most memorable moment on the tour was at St. Louis, coming home. "We played on a muddy field in Forest Park. We were playing either the Bombers or the Falcons. Rapp was at midfield and on a dead run made a phenomenal drop kick from 45 yards out."

Playing Then vs Now

Rapp said "In the first year, we were still thinking like football players. The club had barely more than 15 members. The roster had lots of turnover. Guys would come out and play 3 or 4 games and move on." LaRocca said **"Some guys come out and immediately like it, and some people never do. You can see it in their eyes."** The roster started growing in 1965. By 1966 and the Ivy League Tour, the club had enough experience to start playing good rugby.

The difference in conditioning is much different today. In the old days, they never trained. Rapp said "We would just scrimmage for an hour and then go drink beer at the Bierstube." Their team used to kick for touch a lot more than current teams. Part of that was to catch their breath. They lacked a lot of variety in tactics, the club did not alter their game plan for opponents or weather conditions.

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LaRocca said, "Our team would have looked like grazing cattle in comparison to how the game is played today". The one thing their old team did well was fixed scrums, because they were so big. They frequently drove a fixed scrum 25 yards with the ball still under their feet.

The Pitch

In 1964, **George Bunting** negotiated with the university to use the intramural fields. However, the club needed to have a regulation size rugby field and have exclusive access to it for their practice and schedule.

In 1965, **Pat Rapp** negotiated the use of the open field, west of Oliver Hall, along 19th Street. "We had to overcome some of the sport's reputation issues when I met with

the university. The school told me they wanted to make sure the rugby boys wouldn't be doing anything wild at that new field; otherwise the school would take away access to that new field." The relationship ended up going well. That "Oliver field" became the rugby club's home pitch for more than 10 years, until new fields were constructed on the NW corner of 23rd and Iowa in the late 1970's.

Reflection on the Club's 50 Years

Foremost, LaRocca and Rapp have admiration for what the owners of **Johnny's Tavern** have done for the club. The club house above the tavern gave the club its first real home. They arranged for the purchase of the **Westwick** facility. Johnny's is able to offer jobs to some players. They also marvel at the expansion of the sport into high

school and a women's team.

LaRocca wishes he were young and able to start playing today. Current Jayhawk players are taught a wealth of skills at practice. He learned so much in just one evening in 1965 with "Dirk" at Palmer. He could imagine how good he would be today with the current training.

Rapp said "I love this quarterly newsletter. I hope it encourages the alumni to collectively help support the rugby club."

The Players

By 1966 the KU team was big. **Bill Pritchard** was a Welshman 6'4" and 220 lbs with thick legs. He played #8. LaRocca said he was an animal. He could run all day in the

games and constantly encouraged all his teammates to keep going. **Ken Leonard** was 2nd row 6'4" and 270 lbs (great player, on level with Pritchard). **Bob Wisdom** and **Jim Brandon** were flankers. **Alistair McGregor** was loose-head prop. **Larry Hartnett** played hooker at 215 lbs. He previously played at Notre Dame. **Jack Lembeck** played center with **Pat Rapp**. Jack was maybe the fastest guy on the team. **Jay Clancy** and **Bill Chambers** were wings and both 6'4" and well over 200 lbs. (Chambers was a high hurdler on the KU track team and later tried out for the KC Chiefs). **Bernie Hayen** played fullback.

LaRocca & Rapp said a fellow named **Beauford** was the club's greatest player, but he only showed up at the parties. (You have to ask the players from this team about him.)



KJRFC 1966 TEAM

**BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT- JOE CRONER-BILL CHAMBERS-KEN LEONARD-LANE GREASON-JAY CLANCY
JACK LEMBECK-JOE KIELTYKA-BOB WISDOM-UNKNOWN-UNKNOWN
FRONT ROW- PATRICK RAPP-JIM BRANDOM-UNKNOWN-JOHN LAROCCA-LARRY HARTNETT
-AUSTAIR MCGREGOR**

Jack Lembeck

An email from the professional artist. Learn more about his career at <http://jaxart.tripod.com/>



Lembeck
2012—Above
1966—Below



Thank you for the email and the newsletter regarding the Kansas University Rugby Club. It sounds like it is doing well at 50 and that is good.

I am the one standing in the middle of the photo behind **LaRocca** and in front of **Clancy**, next to **Joe Kieltyka** and **Bob Wisdom**; my two roommates that I captured from the grueling KU football program. I tried to get Gayle Sayers, but he had other offers.

Without being overly nostalgic, my memories of the Jayhawk Rugby Club are all good. While the contests were not always a portrait of a finely

tuned unified "Winning Machine", we enjoyed the action of one of the most interesting and exciting sports in the world. My teammates on the Jayhawk Rugby Club were good athletes and the most fun and interesting group of characters that I ever had the pleasure of playing with or against. Sometimes the early games were frustrating. There were no real experienced teams in our area to play and we needed an intense introduction to the team complexities of the game. We had fun anyway.

Being a St. Louis native, I was one of the few American players that had any rugby experience. St. Louis already had an established British rugby club history. It was started by the St. Louis British Consulate during the 1930s. For me, it was all about playing - not coaching or establishing a team.

George Bunting knew what was needed. So, he scheduled the Ivy League spring tour.

Only one team Yale, for which I played later, grades even close to the guys at Kansas. (*I played at Yale longer than Kansas and that is a related story.*)

During our Ivy League tour, the Yale team was the least hospitable of all the clubs we met. As some will remember, we took a tour of New Haven with our leased bus and driver. We enjoyed ourselves without hospitality.

My gratitude will forever go to **George Bunting** for creating the team and taking it on the Ivy League trip. I agree with him completely about the trip. (As written in the last newsletter.)

Whenever I tell people about my days at Kansas University I refer to the "Kansas Rugby Club / Ivy League Adventure".

"We lost every game - But we won every party"; I say - "But, by the time we arrived in Saint Louis, we were a full scale, first class Rugby Club."

It felt good. We surprised my home town "big time players". I don't even remember who we played. I just remember the spectators saying; "Kansas has Rugby."

Beside that - **Without that Ivy League trip, I would have never attended Yale. Thanks to George Bunting, one could say that the Kansas University Rugby Club changed my course in life.**

Although I do still have the same vintage Jayhawk'67 wife. Ooh what she has endured!

Good luck with the Newsletters. Rock Chalk!

Jack Lembeck

Joe Kieltyka

KU Rugby's Biggest Fan

The now-retired restaurateur has been involved in the KU rugby club in almost every single year of its existence. *Think of that.* Even today, at 70 and after major heart surgery, he still comes to occasional practices to offer coaching tips to the players. At home games, you can usually catch Joe quietly watching the game from the sidelines.

Joe was born and raised in New York City. In 1964 he was a 6 foot, 180 pound sophomore at KU, playing guard and linebacker on the KU football team. He injured his knee in the spring and the team had him red-shirted. He figured he was never going to be able to play football. His fellow art major and football teammate, **Jack Lembeck**

encouraged Joe to come out and play rugby on the club that had just been formed. He said "**Lembeck had played rugby in high school in St. Louis and was an excellent player.**"



Kieltyka
2012—Above
1966—Below



The thing that all "successful teams" have had in common over the years was that the players cared about each other.

Joe, Jack and **Bill Wisdom** were roommates for a while. They all had transitioned from football to rugby. Joe has always been happy to play any position that got him on the field. Kieltyka played flanker, number 8, and even fullback. He just loved playing the game.

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Contrasting the way the game was played in the 1960's versus today, Joe said that the early club had to devote so much time to teach the very basics of playing each position to the new recruits; they had little time or ability to experiment with game plans. **"You have to learn the fundamentals, before you can advance into any game sophistication."**

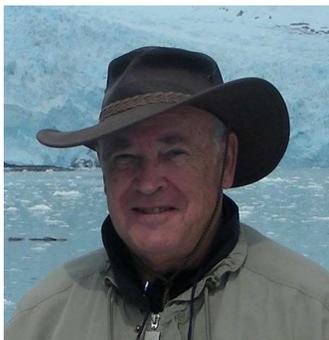
He noted that Jayhawks have had to repeat this up & down cycle several times in their long history. The club's roster thins and has to play a season with new recruits who have to learn from scratch. Then in the following seasons, the players take that platform of knowledge and move into more complex teamwork. The club flourishes in these periods. **"The club seems to be in one of those up-swing periods right now."** The club does well when players stick around after graduating to keep the club organized. They currently have such a group.

Asked how he would like to be remembered, Joe said **KU Rugby has been his whole life.** He involved his family in it. When his girls were little, he used to bring them to the field to give the players water.

Asked about the Jayhawks best game ever; Joe said that he never looked at team's won-loss record as the gauge of a great team or game. Some of the very best games over the years were games where the Jayhawks lost, but played their hearts out. He could remember games against Air Force, the Denver Barbarians, and some games on foreign tours that fell into the description. **For Joe, the thing that all "successful teams" had in common over the years was that the players cared about each other.** When you run into Joe, you don't get a handshake. Joe gives his old friends a big bear hug.

Don Dale

First Jaywalk to Score a Try



Dale
2012—Above
1964—Below



Dale is a former major in Air Force Intelligence (Vietnam Vet); high-tech aerospace consultant, banker who built his bank, and now works in geothermal energy where the company just finished a \$400M flash plant.

He was interviewed from his home in southern California in February 2012. He supplied the photo of the rugby club from its first season in 1964. **Don Dale** is at right end of 2nd row, with perched right leg. **George Bunting** is in scrum cap in front row. **Winan Pienaar** (may be) the fellow holding the ball. The charis-

matic **Kit Cornett** is 2nd from left in front row.

Dale was a 6'1", 165 lbs flanker. He was one of the few players on the inaugural 1964 team that had played rugby prior to coming to KU. He only played for the club that one season, because he was a graduating senior.

Dale met **George Bunting** sitting around the KU Student Union. Dale observed Bunting's ability to speed-read and struck up a conversation with him. In the course of the conversation, Bunting said he was starting a rugby club, Don told him he had played before, so Dale was one of the first players Bunting recruited. That first season they had enough players for one team, plus a couple of subs.

Dale said Bunting's dad was lots of fun. At the first game at KU, Bunting's father arrived unannounced before the game and drove his vintage Bentley right to midfield. He got out of the car wearing knickers.

Great Players

Dale remembers **Winan Pienaar** as being a spectacular fullback. He had played upper division rugby in South Africa and always gave the team excellent field position with his ability to punt the ball for field position.

Dale said KU had an Englishman (whose name he could not remember) who played scrum half. The Englishman was at KU working on his PhD and had previously played rugby at Oxford, He would pick the ball out of the scrum and do a classic dive-pass to the backs. The teams they played against had never seen that before.

Memorable Games

Dale thought of three games that were memorable for dif-

ferent reasons:

St. Louis Rugby Club in Forest Park, St. Louis, (a big game he almost won for the club) KU played to a 0-0 tie in a tournament that didn't allow time for playing off a tie. The St. Louis team was much more experienced as a whole. In the game's closing moments, **Pienaar** kicked a very high, deep punt that went into the St. Louis goal area. The St. Louis player dropped the ball, but was able to evade the charging Dale. If Dale had caught the player; KU could have won the game. Dale thought it was the best game he played at KU. He came off the field and asked his wife-to-be to comment on the exciting finish of the game. She was just returning from a tour of the nearby museums and missed the whole game; "Oh, is it over???"

Kansas City Rugby Club (the party after the game was a kick) After the game, both teams got together, they sang songs, a Chi Omega played her guitar; and they drank beer. He said it was just the best.

UMKC (the guys were all from the football team and had no idea how to play) They were all about 20 lbs heavier than the KU players. There were head-on tackles. The tackling was absolutely brutal. One of the KU players broke his leg in the game. (The player with the broken leg had been on the nuclear sub that sank in the ocean just after he came to KU on a naval scholarship.) They also played on a field that was infested with sand burrs. Dale's wife-to-be ended up spending hours after the game pulling spines out of his body with tweezers.

Kit Cornett

Like Bunting in the first newsletter, Dale said that Cornett was one of his best friends and was probably the most popular guy on the club. (Cornett died

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in a plane crash after college.) Dale said his most classic memories at KU were about his charismatic friend.

Cornett made and won a small bet with Bunting that he could swing a date with KU's homecoming queen. (It was just peeling and eating an orange one afternoon by Potter Lake, but technically was a "date".) It helped that she was in Angel Flight and a friend of Don's.

Cornett was in a game against a Kansas City team and his leg got stomped while he was lying on the ground after a tackle. The injury broke a big vein in his leg. Cornett went to the old hospital on campus and spent the night with his leg packed in ice to get the swelling down. Don went to visit him the next morning and Cornett told him "The big, mean nurse down the hall will throw you out when she sees you here." Just then, a beauti-

ful, curvaceous girl walked into the room wearing a tight, black outfit that had a number of zippers. The big, mean nurse walked in right after the girl to throw them all out. Dale quipped that the girl was Cornett's sister and Dale had just driven her in from the airport to see Cornett. The nurse told them they had two minutes and left. Dale said the girl was "curvaceous" partially because she had most of a six pack of beer hidden here and there behind the zippers. They

all quickly drank some beers before the nurse came back. They left one for Cornett to have later.

Even though Dale lives in California, he makes it back to Lawrence occasionally to see Rick Renfro and catch up on rugby news; even delivering a fresh pheasant. In recent years he sponsored a scholarship for students on the KU rugby club. He also keeps in touch with George Bunting.



1964 Kansas University Rugby Football Club

First Season Photo Provided by Don Dale

Kit Cornett — Second from left in front row

George Bunting (hat) — Second from right in front row

Pat Rapp (ball) — Right end of front row

Don Dale (knee up) — Right end of second row