



March 11th, 2012

Special points of interest:

- Alumni Updates
- Upcoming events and activities
- Match Schedule



Check out the new merchandise available on our website at www.wsurfc.org in the Merchandise Tab

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Washington State University Rugby Football Club Alumni Association

Volume 1 issue 3

WSU Weathers Weather, Idaho – Cody Secker; WSURFC Alumni and Writer for Rugby Magazine

It only took two hours overnight and Pullman, Wash. had snow on the ground once again, making for a classic winter matchup for Washington State and Idaho Saturday. To top off the cold weather it was windy; add those up and it can lead to a lot of mistakes. Both teams had them, but in the end it was Washington State getting its first league win over Idaho 14-0. The start of the game consisted of a knock-on leading to a scrum on each team's first possessions. When the ball was fed to the backlines, passes went crazy directions with the wind. And when the ball

in gusty conditions. Same for Idaho, with recently named player-of-the-week flyhalf Phillip Vrontamitis doing what he does best.

At halftime, WSU was holding onto their slim 7-0 margin with a lot of rugby left to play. "I told them we had to stop waiting for them to come to us, we had to meet them on defense," WSU coach Matt Hudson said. "Idaho is a dangerous team and knows how to take advantage of people's mistakes."



WSU fullback James Giesman kicked the ball into some vacant space behind the 22-meter line. From there, a knock-on forced a scrum.



In the second half, both teams stepped up their defense and possessions were now shifting to the forwards to keep the errors to a minimum. Off the rucks, both teams were crisp in their support running, making it easy for

the forwards to run with ferocity and maintain the ball. The big turning point came with under 10 minutes in the game. Idaho's scrum was turned when they lost their footing on the slippery pitch.

did get to the outside centers and wings, players had trouble handling the ball. The first strike came from WSU No. 8 Rowan Ringer, who took the ball off a scrum and scampered up the sideline breaking two tackles and putting ball down for 7-0 lead after lock Casey Smith's conversion. From there, things went back to normal with both teams playing great pressure defense to fight for field position. When WSU was under pressure from Idaho inside their 22-meter line, flyhalf Jeff Turner's leg paid premiums with some well-guided kicks

the forwards to run with ferocity and maintain the ball. The big turning point came with under 10 minutes in the game. Idaho's scrum was turned when they lost their footing on the slippery pitch.



A couple of clean passes through the WSU backline set up winger Fenton Rybka to break through two tackles en route to WSU's score and put it out of reach of the Vandals for their first league win. "Good to get the win, but still a lot to work on," Hudson said. "Our physicality at the point of contact needs to get better and ball handling going to the ground." WSU will face a fresh Oregon team in Eugene next weekend, while Idaho must go down to Corvallis to face power Oregon State coming off a win against Western.

WSU 14, Idaho 0
Tries: Rybka, Ringer
Convs: Smith 2



Match Results and Upcoming Schedule – Matt Hudson; Head Coach

The Cougars entered the 2012 NCRC season with a chip on their shoulders and something to prove. With a couple of big contributors, both literally and figuratively, graduated since last year the boys wanted to make sure this was a re-loading year and not a rebuilding one. Three years of strong recruiting is beginning to pay dividends as the influx of talented freshmen begin to layer themselves and create tremendous depth for the club. That in a addition with a mandatory strength and conditioning program and significant changes in team expectations has the team on an upward trajectory. Besides a draw against Eastern Washington in which

our boys looked very rusty, I would say that the team is about where we should have expected them to be. Losing to UBC is hard, but the caliber of that program is undisputable. At 2-1-1 the Cougs are right in the hunt for the single playoff seed awarded from our conference. After spring break WSU will get some home cooking as 4 of the next 5 games will be on beautiful Valley field in Pullman. I'm looking forward to that grind and leading the boys to victory.

2012 NCRC SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

Jan 28:	EWU (Eastern) vs WSU. Pullman, WA	Final: WSU-10, EWU-10
Feb 18:	WSU @ Univ. of British Columbia. Vancouver, Canada	Final: WSU-7, UBC-57
Feb 25:	WSU @ University of Idaho. Moscow, Idaho	Final: WSU-14, UI-0
Mar 3:	WSU @ University of Oregon. Eugene, Oregon	Final: WSU-15, UO-5
Mar 24:	Simon Fraser University @ WSU. Pullman, WA	
Mar 31:	Central Washington University @ WSU. Pullman, WA	
April 7:	WSU @ Western Washington University. Bellingham, WA	
April 14:	Oregon State University @ WSU. Pullman, WA	
April 21:	University of Washington @ WSU. Pullman, Washington	

COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE COUGS!

Follow in their footsteps by paying your 2012 dues, donating, or sponsoring the team at wsurfc.org



Steve "Legs of Lead" Snyder; Germany Rugby Tour

Google groups

Subscribe to the **WSU RUGBY** Mailing List to receive the club newsletter and other updates

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Or Visit wsurfc.org

Alumni Contributions – By Eli Wasserman; WSURFC Treasurer

For this quarter's newsletter we wanted to recognize some Alumni members that have gone above and beyond for the club by making contributions that go a long way for the currents and help fund activities for the alumni association. Steve made extremely generous financial donation, Brad sent in some old Cougar Rugby Memorabilia, and Dan is buying the team new rucking pads that are desperately needed by the team. Also thanks to Andy "Candyman" Keck for paying his 2012 dues. **THANK YOU FELLAS!**

Dan "Open Tab" Carpenter



Era: 2001-2005

Position: Wing, Fullback, backline

Contribution: On top of the COUNTLESS drinks put on Dan's bar tab over the years during alumni functions, he is buying the team new rucking pads that they desperately need for practice. Dan is a frequent at Alumni events and supporting functions, and is a youth rugby coach for the U-14 Eastside Lions, as well as an Account Executive at Amazon. His commitment to the club is greatly appreciated!

Steve "Legs of Lead" Snyder

Era: 1970-1973

Positions: Prop, scrum half, strong side back and "beer boy" (his favorite position).

About Legs of Lead: "I discovered rugby, through my roommate my first year who was from Cardiff, Wales. He gave me a book of rugby songs, which peaked my interest and started a lot of fun and fellowship. I played sevens (slowly of course) when I left for pilot training in Phoenix with the Air Force, then in Sacramento and much later when stationed in Germany, with the Army, flying the Apache out of a little base called Fliegerhorst. We started a club from scratch and our coach had coached the US Army team and he was a real ball buster! I am currently a Manager of Engineering in Richland WA.

My best memory was my first Zulu dance playing Idaho. Afterward, the piggies told me that there was a grade school class that was walking by and it took the teacher all of her strength to move the little kids away from that dreadful display."

Brad Fluetsch



Pictured above entering from the left

Era: 1982-1986

Position: Lock, 8man, Forward

WSRFC Memory: "My favorite memories are not printable in the press! Jeff Salenjus (Wing) against St. Martins pop kicks over the defense and catches the ball in stride and is never touched on his way to a try. The only better memory is 13 of us jump a freight train to Maggot Fest, but jump the wrong train and end up in Whitefish Montana and have to hitch hike to Missoula Montana where WSU wins best play on the pitch!"

Upcoming Events-By Eli Wasserman; WSURFC Alumni Treasurer

Although it's not even Spring, it's time to start getting a few events on everyone's radar and block off (aka get permission) the weekends on the calendar. Right now we are looking to have **ALUMNI WEEKEND on October 6th, 2012 (tentatively)**. This year we are going to make a few additions to the weekend to ensure it is a blast for everyone that makes the trek to the Palouse.

After the Currents vs. Alumni Match and the Annual Alumni meeting, we will have a banquet dinner for all currents and alumni. At the banquet we will hold several awards for Alumni and Currents for performance and contributions on and off the pitch, raffle off a few prizes, eat drink and be merry.

Additionally, If there is enough interest, I would be willing to plan a golf outing, either on Friday Afternoon, or Sunday Morning. As we get closer to the date we can open it up for discussion on our Facebook page to see who is interested and when to have it..

The rest of the weekend should be standard shenanigans, but with the added elements we can hopefully add more structure to the weekend and bring in some new (and old) faces to join us. This weekend is very important for the Alumni Association's success and sustainability. **So Start Spreading the word now. Lets make it a great showing of Alumni from all generations!**

SEVENS TOURNAMENT

WSU will be entering an Alumni Team in one of the 7s tournaments (social bracket), this summer. We are still waiting for the different clubs to post the tournament dates, but we will likely be shoot for one of the Seattle tournaments (possibly OPSB).

Whether you go as a player or spectator, this should be a great gathering to catch up with old team mates, watch some great rugby, and play if you are up for it. After the tournament we can organize food and drinks at a nearby restaurant or pub. Jon Skelton will be coordinating this event and will post an update in a month or so, as well as create an event on Facebook.

WSURFC Alumni Association

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On to Victory!

Mission Statement

To promote lifelong companionship among WSU Ruggers and support the core values and goals of the WSU Rugby Football Club (WSURFC). The WSURFC Alumni Association strives to provide the opportunity for student athletes to achieve their maximum athletic potential and test their abilities against the best in their sport.

[wsurfc.org **]**

About the Newsletter

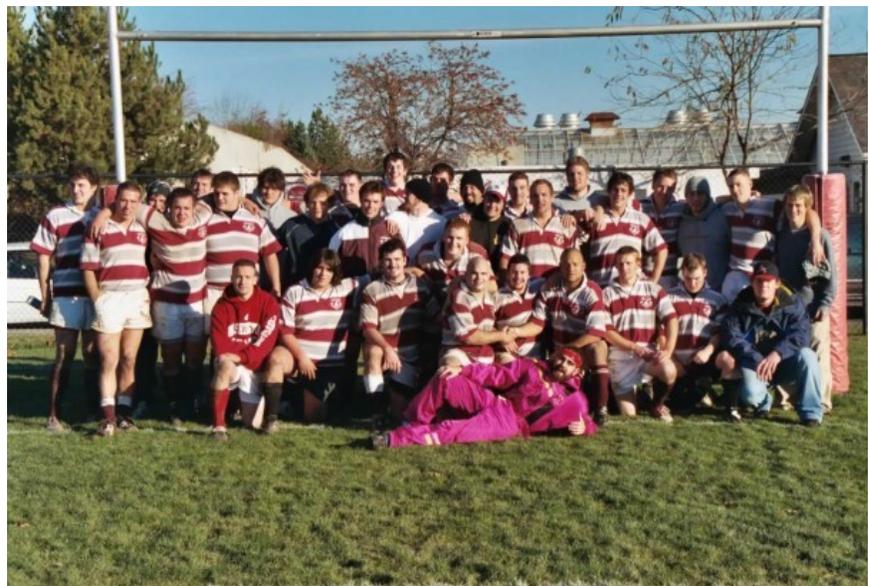
It is our goal to send out a quarterly newsletter to the WSU RUGBY mailing list. There is a lot that we can do with this newsletter to make it a worthwhile read for our members. We will continue to provide updates on upcoming events and activities, as well as inform of new resources for the current and the alumni. The newsletters will also be posted on the website in the media section.

Please invite all others who are interested to join the WSU mailing list!

If you are interested in seeing (or writing) a particular topic in an upcoming newsletter speak up! You can make any suggestions via email to the WSU RUGBY mailing list or directly to me:

wsurugby@googlegroups.com

ewasserman9@gmail.com



WSURFC: Early 2000's