

SPORTS

Rugby flourishes in Chapel Hill

By LEW PRICE
Staff Writer

It's the father of football and the brother of soccer. An anonymous game in this area, it's grueling, but it won't kill you.

Rugby, one of the most physical of all sports, has been thriving in Chapel Hill for the past 17 years in the form of the UNC Rugby Club.

A diverse group of students and non-students, Americans, Britons and South Africans, UNC's club is the defending state champion. It's 10-match schedule this year includes touring clubs from University College in London and Queens College of Cambridge.

While the physical contact is one of the game's appeals, the sport is based on ideals of competition and sportsmanship. The club's coach, Tom Ricketts, said stamina, intelligence and physical agility are what it takes to play the game.

"People tend to shy away because it is a contact sport," Ricketts said. "They don't realize that rugby is a widespread game in this country. We have 17 clubs in North Carolina."

Rugby is a participant sport for people of all sizes. If you can walk you can play. However, the game has a brutal image. Bumper stickers that read "Give Blood. Play Rugby" have perpetuated the image which those who play the game say is undeserved.

A native of London, Robert Mocatta has been playing since he was nine and said it is easy to get hurt, but the game is not violent.

"Everyone is aware of the tradition of the game and adheres to it," Mocatta said. "The game is not regarded as violent in

England, rather as a serious game played by good athletes. The game has suffered here from an unwarranted negative image."

A spectator at UNC's winning match last Saturday versus N.C. State might be inclined to agree with the image as cuts and bruises were as abundant as shorts caked with mud.

Club member Nic Addison, who learned rugby as a child in his South African home, said it is a physically exhausting game, but not abusive.

"You can't play without getting bruised," Addison said, "but you can't abuse the ball carrier. If you try to smash others you soon learn that you get smashed yourself."

Born out of frustration when an Englishman weary with another scoreless soccer game caught the ball and ran with it across the goal line in 1823, rugby has become one of the world's best organized amateur games. Rich in tradition, it has survived because of the spirit it creates and the skill with which it is played.

Serious injuries are rare, despite the lack of padding and the punishment the body receives from the constant running, grabbing and pushing. A plastic mouth guard is typically the only form of protection used.

Joe Harrell, the club president, said rugby isn't as violent as football.

"You realize you have no pads and you have to protect yourself," Harrell said. "Mental attitude is the most important part of the game. You have to think."

An adage says, "Soccer is a gentleman's game played by hooligans. Rugby is a hooligan's game played by gentlemen."

Governed by an unwritten code of sportsmanship religiously upheld by the players, the game is hard but fair.

Ricketts said temper outbursts are dealt with severely and teams that play dirty find themselves blackballed by other clubs.

"You don't argue with officials, and you shake hands and talk with the other team after the game," Ricketts said. Rugby demands that players react to constantly changing situations and think on their feet. Unlike football, there are no books to form strategy.

In a football play where there are one or two laterals, people go crazy, Ricketts said. When a play occurs like the one that ended the California-Stanford game this past season it is given national exposure.

"In that play there were five or six laterals on the kick return," Ricketts said. "That's routine in rugby where 60 yards in 12 passes is covered all the time."

A close association with football is one of the biggest problems confronting rugby in the United States where players take up the game to fill a void created at the close of their football career.

As stated in the *Laws of Rugby Union Football*, the objective of the game is that "two teams, observing fair play according to the *Laws* and a sporting spirit, should be carrying, passing and kicking to score as many points as possible."

Similarly, the object of football is to score touchdowns and field goals.

Brad Miller, a club player, said it is natural that Americans associate rugby with American sports.

"For me, rugby was an outgrowth of my love for soccer and wrestling," Miller said. "There is a tendency for Americans to try and play it like football, but after you hurt yourself playing kamikaze a couple times you realize how stupid that is."

Student Development Council receives cash award

The UNC Department of Athletics has made a gift of \$15,851 to the Student Development Council, a student fund-raising organization.


The announcement of the gift was made earlier this month by Athletic Director John Swofford, Student Body President Mike Vandenberg, Carolina Athletic Association President Perry Morrison and Mark Jacobson and Charlotte Fischer, co-chairmen of the Student Development Council.

The gift was raised by the sale of student tickets to the UNC-Bowling Green football game. Originally scheduled for early September, the game was shifted to the end of the season so the Tar Heels could open the year on national television against Pittsburgh.

"Since we moved the Bowling Green game to a date when students were not in class, we felt it would be appropriate to make a gift such as this back to the students," Swofford said. "After a lot of discussion, it was decided the best way to do this was through the Student Development Council."

Jacobson and Fischer said half of the gift will be used for an endowment for scholarships. The other half will be put into a trust. Interest from the trust will be used for the Council's operating budget.

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The Daily
Tar Heel



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ACROSS

1 Scissors activity

5 Ornamental tag

10 Dread

14 A Chaplin

15 Disposed

16 Dynamic prefix

17 Beginning of a kind

20 Like some arguments

21 Fashion

22 Algerian city

23 River in Maine

25 Foolish utterance

28 One-man stint

29 Certain stock cert.

32 M. Coty

33 Eucharist adjunct

34 Golf ball position

35 Middle of a kind

39 Blind

40 Rotates

41 Zaragoza's river

42 Mal de —

43 Carry

44 Cheap whiskey

46 Facility

47 Spade and Levene

48 That is

51 Wavering pref.

55 End of a kind

58 — majeste

59 High home student

60 Nick's dog

61 Former British PM

62 Noted golfer

63 Letter opener

DOWN

1 London locale

2 "High —"

3 Concerning

4 Spring festival

5 Footless

6 Youthful

7 Stentorian

8 Letter wrap: abbr.

9 Land: abbr.

10 Ipo —

11 Weird

12 Russian sea

13 Ceremonial garment

18 Foreboding

19 Date

23 Living room pieces

24 Pub orders

25 Reverie

26 Pierre's income

27 Between: pref.

28 Lyon's river

29 Annapolis student

30 Ardent

31 Moll Flanders author

33 Draft

36 Condition

37 Body of poetry

38 Sleeping framework

44 Grated

45 A Ludwig

46 Krupp works area

47 Cutilfish ink

48 Laid off

49 Feast

50 Being: Lat.

51 Tortoise competitor

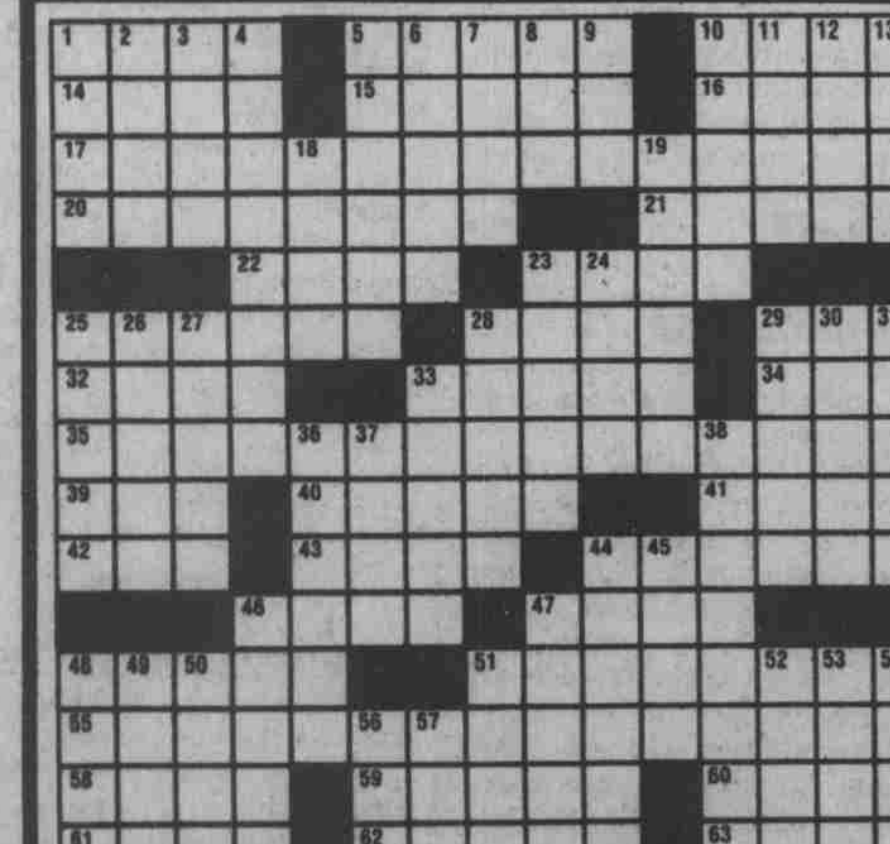
52 Nave's neighbor

53 Tailbot of movies

54 Sign of sorrow

56 Ethiopian prince

57 Wallet item



PLITT THEATRES Discount tickets available at the Student Union

LATE SHOWS **ALIEN** 11:45 **LIFE OF BRIAN** 12:00

CAROLINA CLASSIC Fri. & Sat. **Last Day TOM JONES** 2:30 Starts Fri. 5:05 **Bandwagon**

ENDS TODAY **ONE DARK NIGHT** 3:15 • 5:15 • 7:15 • 9:15

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Win last event

UNC swimmers shock State

By TRACY YOUNG
Staff Writer

The North Carolina men's swim team stunned N.C. State Tuesday night.

Not only did the Tar Heels beat State, which has won the ACC title for the past 12 years, 59-54, but the Heels did it while only winning five of the night's 13 events.

"Rarely do you see a dual meet when a team only wins five races," Coach Frank Comfort said. "Our depth paid off tremendously. We scored 14 swimmers for Carolina." Comfort said that along with a few key swimmers, every member of the team did what was expected of him.

Eric Ericson, Scott Hammond, Dirk Marshall and co-captain Tim Sutton won the first event, the 400-yard medley relay, with a time of 3:27.12. Ericson also captured the 200-yard backstroke in 1:51.11.

Chris Stevenson beat teammate Tim Evans by 0.6 of a second for his win in the 200-yard butterfly (1:54.33). Stevenson also set a UNC record with his second-place time of 9:33.50 in the 1000-yard freestyle.

UNC was behind going into the 500-yard freestyle, but Danny Hamilton's win in the event (4:40.88) put the Heels ahead by six points.

When it came down to the last event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, UNC was behind once

again, this time by two points. But Ericson, Marshall, Sutton and Geoff Cassell turned in a time of 3:05.80, good enough for first place and the meet.

N.C. State has lost in its home pool only twice since 1965, both times to North Carolina, in 1981 and 1983.

"For this part of the season, we had talked of having four days of competition left," Comfort said. "This was the shortest of the four days. We have the conference left."

The Tar Heels finished their regular season with a 5-3 record. The Atlantic Coast Conference Championships begin for the men on Feb. 24 at Duke.

The ACC Women's Championships begin today at N.C. State.

Comfort said the most important thing his team could do was swim to the best of its ability, and to qualify more swimmers for the national championships.

He said the toughest opponents should be N.C. State and Clemson.

"It appears that we've passed the conference," he said. "Two years ago we won the meet by 55 points. I just don't know what to expect. We're the defending champs and everyone expects us to win."

The championships run today through Saturday. The trials begin at 11 a.m. each day, with the finals held at 7 p.m.

SPECIAL BIBLE STUDIES
Tonight's study
WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS?
For FREE transportation call 962-2021 days or 967-5224 evenings.
7:30 P.M.—American Legion Hall, Legion Rd.

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3:15 • 7:30 **DOLBY STEREO** 5 Golden Globe Awards No passes or special adm. tickets **Gandhi** (PG)

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Tomorrow Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer takes pride in presenting a very special motion picture...

It is a new film from Peter Weir, director of the critically acclaimed "Picnic at Hanging Rock," "The Last Wave" and "Gallipoli."

It stars Mel Gibson of "Road Warrior" and "Gallipoli" with Sigourney Weaver of "Alien," in a classic story of lovers caught in the fire of revolution.

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A chance encounter that was to become...



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Directed by Peter Weir

STARTS TOMORROW!