



SPORTS

Playing the field

Match-ups from across the Carolinas: Fall season off to active start

by Jon Hoppel :: *qnotes* contributor

Here at the sports news desk of *qnotes*, we are hoping you are enjoying the cool fall weather and taking in some of the exciting sporting events happening around the Carolinas, (even the Panthers are plagued by injuries and Cam is going through his sophomore slump). So, here is a rundown of what you might have missed and what things you shouldn't miss in the next month!

Rugby

On Oct. 13, the Charlotte Royals participated in a three-team tournament down in Atlanta during Pride weekend hosted by the Atlanta Bucks. This rivalry between the Bucks and Royals goes back to 2004 when Charlotte was first starting their team and lead to many memorable, if not heated and controversial, matches. After a three-year hiatus between the two teams, the Royals traveled south to prove they are the best gay rugby team in the southeast.

Joined in Atlanta by the St. Louis Crusaders, the Royals watched the Bucks easily defeat the Crusaders 33-8. In a game that was closer than the score indicated, St. Louis fought valiantly, staying close to Atlanta through the first half. In the second half, they ran out of steam and the Bucks pulled away. Charlotte had the advantage of playing St. Louis shortly after their loss and took no pity on them by walloping the Crusaders 39-0 in the second game of the tournament. The Royals dominated every facet of the game, earning their first shutout of the season.

In the final/championship game of the tournament, the Royals and Bucks faced off in the marquee matchup to determine southern supremacy. A gritty, tightly tested affair, the game was a major departure from the first two of the tourney. Ball control and hard tackling were staples of both teams throughout which lead to a rightful, although somewhat unsatisfying, 10-10 final score. Earning Man of the Match honors during the weekend were J.T. Wentz, Zach Anderson and Danny Wadsworth.

Officials named both teams co-champions, with Charlotte having a higher aggregate score from the two games they played. This leaves Charlotte still undefeated on the season with a 3-0-1 record as they prepare for their three-game home stand to end the season with games on Nov. 3, 10 and 17 against the Nashville Grizzlies, the Columbus Coyotes and Table Rock respectively.



J.T. Wentz battles the St. Louis Crusaders in tourney play. Photo Credit: Alex Aguilar

Come out and support them as they try to finish the season undefeated for the first time in their existence. For game times and locations, check them out on Facebook or go to their website, charlotteroyals.org.

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