



THE GAIN LINE

DIRECTORS

*Dike Ajiri
Michael Coco
Toby Edison
Steve Fazekas
Steve Gustin
Craig Scheiderer
Steve Seilkop
Brian Slutzky
Mark Wiet*

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT
Michael Coco
VICE PRESIDENT
Mark Hirselj
TREASURER
(TBD)
SECRETARY
Craig Scheiderer
CLUB PRESIDENT
Mario Nauman

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

HISTORIAN
Steve Gustin
COMMUNICATIONS
Toby Edison
AUDIT

Steve Fazekas
SCHOLARSHIP
Sean Edwards
FUNDRAISING
Jared Moore
EVENTS
(TBD)
Field
Steve Seilkop
Coaching
Toby Edison

SPRING SEASON ENDS WITH FITTING MEMORIAL MATCH

The spring season started with our annual trip to Gainesville, Florida to face the Gators over the long Martin Luther King weekend. The trip included a rather rigorous practice on Thursday night, with the game being played the following night. As had been the case the year before, we again showed our dominance as we put up close to 50, while allowing them to score just once. Off the record, I believe we were able to complete the sweep, as we also prevailed at the post game social. However, in our kind hosts' defense, no official score was kept.

Two games against the University of Michigan followed, one on the weekend before spring break and one the weekend after spring break. In the first match up, we were able to defeat the Michigan touring side, however their next trip to Oxford the current Midwest

Division II champs got their revenge as they got the best of us.

The following weekend was our long awaited trip south to "Nash Bash". In Nashville, we hoped for good weather, but we did not get that. On Saturday we hoped for good rugby, but we did not get that either. . . as we piled on the points against a weak University of Southern Indiana team. Finally, on Sunday all we got was a good beat down from the Nashville Men's Club which was led by a very strong, experienced pack. At least there was a good social.

On a positive note, during that weekend about ten Miami players saw action with the Ohio Collegiate Select Side and made a very strong impression as several of them scored multiple tries in the course of the select team's two blowout games.



Coach Phil Payne seemed to be particularly impressed with Miami forwards BJ Brick and Mike Meier.

After the weekend in Nashville, we then prepared to face the University of Cincinnati. We were forced to go at them with a depleted squad, as we sent 6 of our normal starters to play for the Ohio Collegiate Select Side in Chicago for the LAUs. A Proud concession and complement to our club

(Continued on p. 4)

2004 CRITTERFEST—PHOENIX, ARIZONA

The Miami University Old Boys went 2-1 at Critterfest in Phoenix, Arizona. Current Club President BJ Brick, Scottsdale scrumhalf Tom-Tom, augmented the Old Boys as well as Dr. Wiet's buddy Bill. The Old Boys won their first match against El Paso 5-0. The burly Steve Fazekas who crashed into the try zone running over two El Paso de-

fenders scored the lone try. The forward pack dominated play led by hooker Mike Coco and loose head Prop Mark Wiet. The Old Boys lost two key players to injury in the match. Fly Half Craig Scheiderer went out with a concussion and lock Todd Hague went down with a pulled pectoral muscle (all diagnosed by Dr. Wiet). This left the Old

Boys with 16 players and no lineout jumper for the rest of the tournament. Following the match, the Old Boys coaching brain trust of Toby and Randy held an intense "strategy" session. This led to the brilliant lineup moves of inserting Dike Ajiri at full-back, Skip Tramontana moving from centre to 8 man,

(Continued on p. 3)

LIONELL YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP DEDICATION

This past year The Miami University Men's Rugby Football Club Alumni Association recognized it's founding heritage with the dedication of an annual scholarship in the name of Lionel Young. Included is a brief bio penned by his wife of 50 years, Jane Young:

Birthplace: Birtley, England. A small town near Newcastle on Tyne which was a major shipbuilding town before and during WWII.

Birth date: November 14th, 1921 (He shared this birthday with Prince Charles.

Children: none

Occupations: Was an auctioneer and estate agent in England after WWII. This is not like an auctioneer in the States. He evaluated people's estates or the contents of houses they wanted to sell, and then auctioned off the contents. In Canada, 1955-66 he was in charge of the bonds department for Wood Gundy (something like Merrill Lynch). In the USA he was a 6th grade teacher and later supervised interns for the University of South Florida. His students and interns loved him and his enthusiasm for teaching.

University: He earned both his BS (1971) and MA (1975) in Education at Miami of Ohio.

Positions played: Center, three quarter and Wing ?? (not sure if I have the right term for the last one.) He was very fast.

Present Club: During the last five years of his life he was not really a member of any club, but he had started rugby at the University of South Florida here in Tampa, and was one of the "old boys" here....at least in name.

Anecdote: He had started a women's rugby team at USF, and when he was taken into hospital with his first broken hip, one of his nurses said "are you the Lionel young that started rugby at USF? He said yes, and she said, "well, I was one of your first women players." Needless to say, he got great attention in that ward!

Past clubs: In England he was a member of his home town's "Rockcliffe Rugby Club" where he played on the first team for about 10 years.

Representative Play: He

played for the RAF during WWII in Cairo. He was stationed in the Western Desert where he fought in the battle of El Alamein in Egypt. (We won that one!) I'm not sure how many games he played or even whom he played against, but it was likely the British Army. (RAF stands for the Royal Air Force)

Best memory in rugby: One of the best was when he organized the visit of the Yamata Iron and Steel Works team from Japan to visit Canada and play in Toronto. I remember that the Canadian team had visions of these short rugby players whom they could trounce easily. Boy were they all surprised! These games were huge and they played very well.

Biggest disappointment in rugby: He hardly ever talked about disappointments in any context, so I don't remember him really mentioning anything specific. I know he was disappointed when he had to finally give up playing....at 52! Most embarrassing moment in rugby: the time when he was running up the field for to score a try and some one ripped the back of his shorts off and he scored the try in his jockstrap! This was in England....

Rugby tours: I don't know about this question. He never toured in England because the teams didn't do that after WWII...they were all too poor!

Biggest influence on rugby career: In all honesty I can't answer this question. He never talked about anyone or thing in particular. I think his schooling in Britain (which was heavily into amateur sports at the time) allowed him to develop his game at an early age. He was an extraordinary athlete when he was young; played tennis very well, hated cricket with a passion. In Canada he learned curling and was good at that too, but never mastered skiing. He spent our skiing days sitting in the bar while I hit the slopes.

Claim to Fame: He was fairly modest and would say he had none, but with his enthusiasm he started clubs and teams in Toronto, Miami Ohio, and at USF here in Tampa. Once beat the Duke of Northumberland at darts in a pub.

Other sports played: tennis, badminton, rowing (he was in a rowing

club in his home town in the UK.

Other interests: Reading, music (we attended symphony concerts here in Tampa), loved animals and children, watched all kinds of sports on TV

How did Lionel and Jane end up in Oxford Ohio? Long story. His sister lived in Hamilton and when we decided to immigrate to the US, it seemed logical to come to that area. Once there, he worked for a year to establish residency and then attended Miami to earn his BA and MA in teaching. He was 46 when he went back to school to major in elementary education.

How did Miami RC get started? Lionel was really "into" the university experience and talked a lot with other students in his classes. I'm not sure how the first team got off the ground, but I do know he came home one day and said he thought some of the guys might be interested in learning rugby.

How long was he associated with Miami rugby? Until we left in 1970. He loved Oxford and was not too thrilled about leaving.

Why did we leave? I've always felt a little guilty about this, but I was recruited to teach at the University of South Florida. We talked it over and decided to make the move....

Words of advice? I didn't ask him about this question, but I can hear him saying "keep up the good work!" He was very, very proud of how Miami rugby grew after he left and credited Doug for that growth.

Last time he visited: I think we were there in about 1998 for the last time. He had both knees replaced in the fall of 1998 and we didn't travel that far north again after that.

Anything else? Lionel became ill initially about 2001. He loved to watch rugby on the cable channels and saw England win the World Cup which pleased him no end. Many of his strongest memories are about playing and enjoying rugby...especially as a young man.

A special thank you to Jane Young, for her remembrances shared, and to Mike Coco for their collection. Three Cheers Lionel!

OLD BOYS WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday September 9th

TBD

Golf Outing at Hueston Woods State Park
RSVP: Steve Fazekas - (614) 989-9764

6 pm Informal Gathering at The Stadium
16 South Poplar St. Oxford, OH

Saturday, September 10th

10:30 am - 12:30

Annual General Meeting
Shriver Student Center

Corner of Spring St. and State Route 27
Oxford, OH

1 pm Kickoff: Old Boys Game

Club Fields—St. Route 73
East of Campus

5 pm Old Boys BBQ

Scholarships Awarded

NEW EMAIL LIST SERVE

There is a new email list serve for the old boys. To subscribe, send an email to murugby-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Or visit the website at:
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/murugby

MIAMI UNIVERSITY RFC 2005 FALL SCHEDULE

9.10	Old Boys (Home)
9.17	@ Univ. of Dayton
9.24	Wright State Univ.
10.01	Ohio Univ.
10.08	Kent St. Univ. (Athens, OH)
10.15	Univ. Of Cincinnati
10.22	@ Marshall Univ.
10.29	@ Ball State Univ.

CRITTERFEST 2004 CONTINUED

(Continued from p.1)

and moving Jeremy Huelsman from fullback to centre.

The result was a 24-20 win over local club Camelback. Jeremy Huelsman and Dike Ajiri scored two tries apiece. Skip Tramontana repeatedly ran off the base of the scrum and rucks to devastating effect. The highlight of the match was 265 lbs. lock, turned winger. . .but we'll forgive him, BJ Brick's scintillating spin move to set up a try. Dike Ajiri was seen taking notes after BJ's stunning Barry Sanders impersonation. Randy Mahlerwien showed great poise as Captain leading the side to a hard fought victory.

The final match was a tough 5-12 loss to the St. Louis R.A.T.S. Scrumhalf Tom-Tom scored the lone try. It was a bitter loss for the Old Boys who had hopes of going undefeated against three established sides.

There were a number of players who turned in outstanding performances including Dike Ajiri, Skip Tramontana, and BJ Brick.

Randy provided shockingly great leadership as the team captain and outstanding hospitality as host. Sincerest thanks to Randy, and his wife Becca, for being so kind. There were hopes for a sighting of Coco or Zeiter. Unfortunately, the best that we got was some guy named Michael who kind of looked like the old Coco.

Feel free to send in any corrections to the above

report, but I'm pretty that's reasonably close to what happened.

The attendees (to the best of my memory) were: Randy, John Zins, Mark Wiet, Mike Coco, Joe Woycke, Toby Edison, Todd Hague, BJ Brick, Grant Smith, Dike Ajiri, Skip Tramontana, Paul Soltis, Mark Herselj, Tom-Tom, Bill Boston, Craig Scheiderer, Steve Fazekas, and Jeremy Huelsman.

Cheers,

Joe Woycke



*Miami University Men's Rugby
Football Club
Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1603
Traverse City, MI 49685*



Mr. Mike Coco
P.O. Box 1603
Traverse City, MI 49685

YEAR IN REVIEW
- CLUB CAPTAIN'S LETTER CONTINUED -

Senior captain John Coughlin stayed back in Ohio to lead his team, as well as seniors Brandon Smith, Matt Ross, Mike Cahill, and Stu Donnett, all of whom stepped up to the challenge of taking on one of our biggest rivals in the face of adversity. Freshmen Andrew Fitzgerald and Dan Lakis got starting nods and answered the call as they made solid contributions at 8-man and wing/fullback, respectively.

However, these aforementioned players pale in comparison to the play of senior Stephen Smith on that unforgettable Saturday morning. Wearing the number 5 jersey, Steve made several particularly long runs, one of which was underlined with a try. In addition to his powerful runs, Steve was there in constant support of his teammates enabling us to win rucks and secure ball possession throughout most of the game. Finally, at about the 10 minute mark, with a small lead and the game still anyone's to win, Steve made two consecutive monstrous tackles to lead what would be our goal line stand. We were then able to take possession of the ball and get it out of our end. As the momentum shifted back to the good guys', a thing of rugby beauty shortly ensued, as the Miami boys dashed down the far sidelines keeping the ball alive and allowing it to touch several players' hands during the course of the 60 meter play, with flanker Brandon Smith going the last 20 meters and touching the ball down for the try to seal the Miami victory.

What we didn't know then is that would be Steve's last game. In between the A game and the B game, I noticed Steve was boisterous. He was expressing to the rest of his teammates his gratitude for ensuring that he went out a winner in his last time squaring off against one of his vaunted rivals before his graduation this May. At that time, I was happy that I could be a part of creating what would surely be a great memory and source of satisfaction for whenever Steve would look back on his college rugby days. Now, I am sad that he is gone and will never have the chance to relive that newly formed memory. However, I am also happy that I was able to know him and play rugby with him and be his friend for the last four years. It gladdens me to know that he went out a winner because that's the only fitting way for a guy like Stephen J. Smith to go out.

On the evening of Friday April 29, 2005 we played a memorial game at Cook Field against Ohio University. Each side went go a man down to signify his passing. The traditional number 5, Steve's number, was not be worn by a Miami lock.

We worked with the university to publicize and promote this game, and received a favorable turnout. At the game we gratefully accepted donations which will be put towards scholarship funds for the three victims of the fire. Those collections will be combined with our other fundraiser which was the sale of "Lance

Armstrong wristbands." They, red in color, and have the initials of the three students as well as the date of their passing- April 10, 2005.

Finally, I'd like to leave you with a note written by some of Stephen's friends that allows you to see the character of man he was:

Regards, John Coughlin

When we think of how much we miss Stephen, we remind each other of how blessed we were to have spent these last four years with him. He gave us so much of himself, and affected us so profoundly, that we struggle to begin imagining our lives without him. As we mourn him, we remember the time we all had together, and each of us holds tight to personal memories. A private joke, the flash of his smile, the look that made you realize he immediately understood what you were thinking, these are all moments we will carry for the rest of our lives. Stephen's loyalty, love, and generosity were all of the deepest and most genuine nature. His ability to energize a whole room of people was only matched by his ability to connect with everyone on an intimate, wholly personal level. These are the things Stephen gave us, and though he is temporarily away from us physically, he is in each and every one of us spiritually, emotionally, and mentally for the rest of our lives. Stephen will never be forgotten and we thank the Lord we were blessed to have Stephen in our lives. Stephen was an amazing individual who impacted an immeasurable number of lives. He was our brother and he will be missed dearly.