

# Rugby

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country, the Missoula Maggott Tournament. The "Dirty Ducks," as they call themselves, shut out their opponents on the first day, going 2-0, before tying the Missoula women's club team 5-5 in the tournament's final.

The Ducks also won a tournament in Portland two weeks ago.

"This was just a phenomenal way to go out," Farrell said of ending the season and graduating four seniors. "I couldn't ask for a better way to go out. I am just so proud of this team."

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As the fastest-growing collegiate sport in the country, rugby may be the next sport, much like women's soccer in the last five years, to evolve into a national phenomenon.

"It's great fun to watch," Club Sports coordinator Sandy Vaughn said. "You could never pick a women's rugby player out of a crowd because contrary to perception, rugby women come in every shape and size. They just get out there and show that women can be rough too."

Although the women's program is just four years old, Farrell said he

has hope for future plans of it becoming a varsity sport.

"I really hope so," Farrell said of becoming a University-supported program. "There aren't a lot of funding issues. All we need is uniforms."

Oregon Associate Athletic Director Sandy Walton said the University is looking to add a women's varsity sport in the near future, but the likelihood of throwing women's rugby into the mix is not high.

"It's simply not a very popular high school sport in Oregon," Walton said.

Also, in many respects, women's rugby is still lingering in the shadows of its male counterpart. At California-Berkeley, for example, men's rugby is a full-funded program, while the women's team is still self-sponsored.

But many women's clubs are springing up across the country. Lewis and Clark, San Jose State and Central Washington, to name a few, have recently taken similar strides as Oregon and created women's programs.

But until the Dirty Ducks get more University funds, they'll have to rely on fundraisers and the Club Sports office to support themselves. The largest expense is traveling — right now the 18-woman traveling

squad is squeezing into a 15-person van for road trips — and the soccer team's Papé Field would be a perfect home for rugby, so Farrell said the team budget would not have to be high should it become a varsity sport.

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March 10 was supposed to be a revelation for the women's rugby team. It was supposed to be a historic day.

In a game that decided who would represent the Pacific Northwest in the western regional playoff tournament, Oregon State defeated the Dirty Ducks 29-22 on a dreary Saturday morning.

For a team that already had success shooting out its veins, shutting out its previous opponents by scores of 85-0, 95-0 and 34-0, Oregon was unable to penetrate a much bigger — both physically and in sheer numbers — Oregon State club.

"I don't really like to think about that game," Frail said. "We were a little nervous and missed some opportunities, but we held them pretty good."

But the loss doesn't make the game, or the season, any less memorable.

"The Oregon State coach said that we were the best team within

500 miles," Farrell said with an air of pride. "We got 'em pretty good."

"But if there was one game that we could take back this year, it would be that one."

Sophomore hooker (a position) Nicole Merrill said the team's success this year can be attributed only to the team's work ethic, propelled by the coaching staff's tough practice schedule.

"These gals are tough," Farrell said.

So tough, in fact, that the women scrimmaged with the Eugene Rugby Club, a men's team.

The grueling nature of the sport is no cake walk. And the women know that. They've played soccer and basketball, but it's different with the Australian rules of football.

"I just expect the bruises; it's part of the game," Merrill said. "This is my first year playing and I'm having a great time."

"There's no pads, no helmets," Frail said. "There are a lot of tough girls out there ... and we shouldn't be underestimated because girls can hit too."

Two-hour practices twice a week, plus Saturday games, take their toll on the team, but Farrell boasts that his team is in better condition than its opponents.

"These are really good athletes who have made a big commitment, especially to stay with the team after the torture we put them through," Farrell said.

One key in the Oregon State game, Farrell said, was the experienced squad that the Beavers put on the field. Oregon State started 11 seniors, while six of Oregon's 20 players had never touched a rugby ball prior to this season.

"Most people are like, 'Wow, I didn't even know there was a women's rugby team,'" Farrell said.

Recruiting is a major part of fielding a full team, Farrell said. Several of the players are on exchange, some from Australia and New Zealand, and others from Minnesota and Alaska, where rugby has little popularity.

"It's hard to keep girls here," said Frail, who began playing three years ago. "We're always busy with school and work and other things."

One of Farrell's main goals is to double the amount of participants on next year's squad.

"We have some lofty goals for this program," he said.

And you can be sure that Oregon State (which recently reached the Elite Eight of the national tournament) is already on the top of next year's hit list.

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## Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (May 8). Thanks to your commitment, plans materialize sooner than expected. In May, only make promises that you can keep. June is about collecting on promises others have made to you. Gather information and supplies in July. Work extra and pay off a debt in October. Ask for more money — and do it nicely — in February. In April, realize that your self-esteem has grown, and do something to show it off.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5 — A door that was locked is about to be opened, and it's like getting sprung free. Finish up whatever is left on your lists. Push hard so that you get it all done. There should be time left for an outing tonight. Good friends and good music are best.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 4 — New information alleviates some worries. Other information raises new concerns. Stay flexible and keep gathering facts. No need to make the decision yet. You should know for sure by late tomorrow or Thursday.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 — Don't get overwhelmed. Help is on the way. The good news is that it should be easy to set priorities. The most important stuff should be obvious. Take care of that, and don't sweat the small stuff.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Love is on your mind, but there's work to be done. Steal a few minutes for your sweetie before it's too late. You'll have to focus more on your work over the next few days. Plan something special for Saturday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Everybody wants your attention, but there's only so much of you to go around. Schedule committee meetings, rehearsals and team practice for later. Your sweetheart has something important to discuss with you. That takes top priority.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Changes you want to make at home are possible and even affordable. Do the work yourself. Loved ones might be more hindrance than help. Start by reading the books and making plans — tonight.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Some people might accuse you of living in a fantasy world, but what's so wrong with that? You could end up living a fantasy life, too. Discuss how you'd like it to be, with a person who can help you make it happen.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — You're generally very powerful, but something is slowing you down. Financial worries, perhaps? Or are you just tired because you've been working so hard to make money? Stash away as much as you can. This will pay off.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — You're getting stronger, but don't do anything radical. Keep your secret advantage to yourself. This isn't easy, but it's wise. Yours is the sign of wisdom, not of patience. You have to develop more of the latter.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Mull over your plans a few days longer. The odds will be more in your favor on Friday and Saturday. Meanwhile, gather more data. Ask a few questions. You may discover a secret, or a treasure, that changes everything.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — Juggling the demands of work and home can be exhausting. You might be doing something the hard way. Friends would love to help, if they only knew how. You may not know how, either, but you could talk about it. No telling what you'll come up with.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — There may be a reasonable explanation for something that is bothering you. You've been shy about asking, but tonight is a good time. A person who has been holding back can be persuaded to talk. You start. It's contagious.

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