

1968-1969

Coach

Al Osur, Monte Hubbard (USMA '64)

CIC

C2C Angus MacDonald

Captains

C1C Roy Coppinger and C1C Les Dyer

Record

17-5

	A side		B side
Fall			
	Highlanders	29-0*	Denver Univ 8-8*
	CC	24-10*	CC B (7's) 28-0*
	CSC	8-5*	CSC B 17-0*
	BYU	0-16*	BYU B 5-5*
	Regis	41-0*	
	Mines	21-8*	Mines B 18-0*
	CU	15-14*	
	Fitzsimmons	36-0*	
	CSC	8-13* (Coors Cup Match)	

Spring

Spring break trip			
	BYU	14-17*	
	Utah	19-5*	
	Regis	28-0*	
	Cal Berkeley (T)	6-32*	
	CC	8-3*	CC B 6-3*
	Cranwell	14-0*	
	DU	16-3*	DU B 3-0*
	Mines	9-0*	
	Highlanders	8-3* (ERRFU Club Championship)	

Mines Seven's Tournament: first, second and tied for third*

BYU 6-19* (Rocky Mountain Club Championship)
CSC 15-10* Fitzsimmons 8-3*

*clipping in archives

Comments

This team, under the leadership of Captain Al (Skipper) Osur was the first intercollegiate rugby team from the Air Force Academy. Given club status, but still allowing the members to compete in intramurals made for a very fit team. The highlight of the spring season was a week-long tour to Utah that began in Denver and meandered through the ski slopes of Vail and Aspen before two mid-week matches with the University of Utah and BYU. Alta ski basin was the next stop before the return to Denver and a Sunday match with Regis College. Coach Osur demonstrated his wild nature on the pitch easily transferred to the ski slopes.

We continued to sweep Colorado teams, capturing the ERRFU tournament with a victory over a men's team, the Denver Highlanders, on a great break and score by Doug Metzler. Finishing the first ERRFU Seven's by taking 1st, 2nd, and our third team tying for 3rd was the greatest way to christen this tournament, which went on to become the Denver Seven's.

Low points in the season were a disappointing loss to Cal Berkeley on a wet and muddy field (although the trip was great!), and a loss to BYU in the Rocky Mountain Championship.

But when it was all said and done, this team, and the class of '69 kicked off a great intercollegiate rugby tradition!
[_ H Laws]

By the way, I tracked down Mont Hubbard (USMA '64, followed by MIT, then at USAFA for a while-when he coached us, then Stanford, and now at UC Davis) - I gave him your e-mail address - perhaps he has contacted you. I trust his wife has forgiven us for the "slightly" off-color rugby songs we performed in her presence on more than one occasion. I blame the Class of 69 for being such dubious role models..

As for Terry Fleener (Denver Barbos?) writing to Robin Olds in support of establishing a USAFA rugby club, that's a bit like Samuel Adams asking August Busch for assistance. It's no wonder we went astray from the outset! Another deft Osur touch, which helped establish a rich tradition of victories and (dare I say it) hangovers.

Lindsay Fenwick '71
flanker and No.8

Roster

Last Name	First Name	Email	
Beezley	Michael		
Bennett	Robert		
Burns	John		
Chase	Jim		
Coppinger	Roy		
Crittenden	Burr		
Doherty	Thomas		

Dyer	Les		
Forsythe	Hugh		
Johannes	William		
Joyal	George		
Laws	Harry		
McNear	Alan		
Metzler	Doug		
Miller	James E Jr		
Pillari	Tom		
Raab	H		
Skinner	Earnest		
Tibbetts	Dan		

Additional References in Archives

20 Feb Letter from Terry Fleener to Col Olds in support of forming a rugby team

13 Sept 68 Letter requesting formation of AFA RFC

ERRFU Fall Schedule

Matsunaga (70) article “Blood, Guts...and Good Cheer”

Berkeley Match Program

End of year summary article by Al Osur

Harry, I think I recall playing in the ERRFU 7's championship in 1969. As I recall, our A and B teams both reached the finals but were both pretty battered. Someone thought it would be a good idea to have a “boat race” beer drinking contest rather than an actual game to decide the championship. I still have my runner up pewter cup, but am convinced it was not a fair contest. Cheers, Dave Porter (Editor's note: I have the first place mug, meaning I was probably better at cheating ! HFL)