



ROVERS NEWS

Summer 2010, In Review

An overview of the Rovers summer happenings, for those not around

It would be a lie to say that the Rovers didn't stay busy this summer. A majority of the backs, and a number of packies, occupied our home pitch Impett Park every Tuesday and Thursday evening to get some touch Sevens time in. They were joined by a number of future Rovers currently playing at the high school and collegiate levels, and numbers were rarely below thirty.

A number of also quenched their desire for competition, and more importantly hitting, by traveling to a few Sevens and Tens tournaments. In our newly acquired and unmistakable team bus, generously supplied by new Rover Alex Carter, the boys hit the road to Steel City 7's in Pittsburgh, Chatanooga Pitch-A-Tent 7's all the way down in Georgia, as well as Canton Hall of Fame 10's. The Rovers also took part in an exhibition 10's game with the Cleveland Celtics at the

Cleveland IrishFest, a tradition that is looking to be continued and expanded upon for years to come, raising rugby awareness in the local community.

These trips weren't simply social, however, as the Rovers found success at Pitch-A-Tent and the Canton tournaments. The ruggers who headed down to P.A.T., in addition to having an absolute blast, were able to win their pool and advance to the Round of 8 in the 28 team tournament, before eventually bowing out to the tournament runner-up in the quarterfinals.

The highlight of the summer came at the Canton Hall of Fame 10's tournament. The Rovers, in a weekend that included victories over the Cleveland Celtics and Mentor, were able to take claim as the dominant force in Cleveland, at least for the day. The exclamation point to the weekend,

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All Your Rover Rugby News, Weekly...

Cleveland RFC faithful, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the first edition of the Rovers News. Every week we will be bringing you up to date match reports, coach and player profiles, weekly starting XV's, statistical leader updates, and so on. You'll be receiving, through email, a PDF version of the newsletter. If you have any issues viewing the PDF, please let me know and I will put you on the text only list.

In our first edition, we'll be including a summer review, season preview, plus bios of our new head coach, president, and captains for the upcoming season.

Also, please remember to go to our website, clevelandroversrhc.com, and register yourself.

- The Editor

WELCOMING IN THE NEW ROVERS HEAD COACH, BRINGS WINNING ATTITUDE

For the past couple years, the young Rovers team have had a handful of old boys contribute as much of their time as possible to helping coach the team. However, what has been lacking is consistency with practice and a figurehead to look up to. At a team meeting this past summer, an individual spoke up and voiced his interest in taking the reigns and leading the Rovers forward. That man was "Whitey."

From the first sevens practice he came to, Brian "Whitey" White showed the type of organization and commitment that the team needed. So what's the history behind this new face? We recently had a chance to sit down (well not really, it was via email) with Whitey to find out a little about him, and his intentions with the team going forward

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HAIL TO THE CHIEF: ROVERS NEW PRESIDENT TERRY KILBANE

The start of the fall season also marks the beginning of “Terrible” Terry Kilbane’s term as Club President. Terry has become a familiar face on the pitch for the Rovers in the past few years. He will be seen again this year getting caps at lock, flanker, and eight-man throughout the season, as well as making the occasional guest appearances both jumping and throwing in line-outs. President is just another role on the list of things Terry is willing to step up and do for the better of the team.

Kilbane, 26, has been playing rugby for nearly as long as he hasn’t. He got his start at the high school level, playing for 3 years at St. Edward’s, where he earned a spot on the 2002 City All-Star Team. From there, he moved on to play at Bowling Green State University, spending 5 years there and accumulating numerous awards in the process. As a Falcon, Terry picked up the Frautchi-Briner Award in ’04 (for C-Side player of the year), the ’06 Poe Ditch Award (B-Side player of the year), and was

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2010 FALL MIDWEST EASTERN LEAGUE PREVIEW

The Cleveland Rovers enter the Fall 2010 campaign looking to improve upon last year’s 3-3 Eastern League record and move on to the Midwest Playoffs. But first thing’s first, as the Rovers hit the road for two warm up dates with Toledo/Findlay and the Cincinatti Kelts in the next two weekends. Then on September 11th, the Eastern League schedule takes off.

First up for the Rovers are is another away trip to face off with the Westmoreland Highlanders, who finished 1-5 in the league last season and fell to the Rovers 53-5 in the league opener a year ago.

The following weekend the Rovers finally get back in front of the home crowd at Impett Park to meet up with the Mon River Mud Lobsters, who finished at the bottom of the pack last season (0-6), and were bested by the Rovers with a thorough 110-0 shellacking.

In all respects, the Rovers should come out of these first two weekends with victories. From then on the going should get tougher and more interesting.

Two more consecutive weeks on the road will show as a test as to where the club stands in the Eastern League. A trip to South Pitt (3-3 in 2009) and Akron (5-1 in 2009) will be crucial in the team’s league hopes. The Rovers bested South Pitt in the final game of the season last year, but lost a matchup with Akron last year 24-34.

The wild-card in the league mix comes the next week at home as the Rovers take on Eastern League newcomer Pittsburgh, as the D2 club is fielding a D3 side this season.

Following the Pitt game is the most anticipated game of the Rovers season, as they host cross-town rival Eastern Suburbs Green Horde (5-1 in 2009). The spring and fall did not bode well for the Rovers, dropping both games to the Horde, including a 0-50 loss last fall. As the team continues to progress with new coaching, experience, and commitment throughout the season, this will be an excellent chance to show we can change the outcomes of last year.

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INTRODUCING YOUR 2010-2011 CAPTAINS

After practice this past Thursday, the team got together to elect back and forward captains for the upcoming campaign. At the end of the day, the Rovers elected flyhalf Derek Imes and flanker Scott Liechty.

Imes: It is hard to put into words what Derek Imes has meant to modern day Cleveland Rovers Rugby. He has been a pivotal piece to the club ever since he joined the team in 2006, when he was named the Rovers Rookie of the Year. Derek’s fifth year in a Rovers uniform also marks the fourth straight year he’s been... *cont on pg 4*



SUMMER REVIEW (Pt)

was the Rovers victory in the Championship finals over bitter rival Eastern Suburbs Green Horde, a thrilling back and forth 22-12 win. The Rover's own Steve Burke took home the MVP trophy, completing a hardware sweep for Cleveland Area Rugby as the Cleveland Celtics took home the third place plate.

The Rovers also had a chance to practice and play with some noteworthy guests this summer. Gregg Gilmour, better known as 'The Scot' to most, made his annual summer trip across the pond from Glasgow, Scotland to lend his knowledge of the game. Former Chicago Lion Brian Farrell also gave anyone, and we mean anyone, willing to listen an earful of Super-Leaguer advice, before he moved to India. A special thanks to the two of them for all of their time and help this summer. *

WELCOMING WHITEY (Pt)

Whitey started playing rugby at Xavier University from '92-'96, captaining the team in his sophomore and junior years, and helping lead the team to back-to-back D2 Ohio State Championships in '95 and '96. His college career was capped with Ohio Select side nominations in both his junior and senior year.

After college, he moved on to playing for D1 Men's Team the Cincinnati Wolfhounds from '96-'98, before moving down to the D2 Cincinnati Kelts from '98-'01 to give himself time to take on head coaching duties at his alma mater Xavier. Whitey capped off his playing days with Lincoln Park Men's Club in Chicago from '02-'04.

Whitey remained the Head Coach at Xavier for four seasons, rebuilding the team after they were suspended by the school and returning them to the D2 State Contenders that they were during his playing days. At Xavier's 25th anniversary in '99, Whitey was given a lifetime award for his contributions as both a player and a coach to XU Rugby.

He currently has been spending his last six springs as an assistant for St. Ignatius High School's Boys Rugby Team, who have not finished worse than eighth in the state in their six years of existence. Now he takes over for the Cleveland Rovers Men's Club, which brings us to now.

Whitey comes to the Rovers with the ultimate goal of helping the team become become a perennial force on the national stage and contending for a D3 Championship, and sees no reason why the team cannot be the class of D3 Rugby in the Midwest within the next few years. He wants to place an emphasis on fitness and dedication from the players, while stressing improvements to the basic of the game including, but not limited to, footwork, hands, communication, running straight, and rucking.

While not 'wasting his free time with us punks,' Whitey is a Captial Equipment Consultant for Chemistry and Immunoassay Systems for Beckman Coulter, Inc. In simpler terms, he sells lab analyzers for doctors to determine effective blood treatments. He lives in Rocky River with his wife of almost eight years, Jennifer, and

2010 Fall Fixture

Saturday, August 28th

AWAY @ Findlay vs. Toledo

Sunday, September 5th

AWAY @ Cincinnati Kelts

Saturday, September 11th

AWAY @ Westmoreland Highlanders

Saturday, September 18th

HOME v. Mon River Mud Lobsters

Saturday, September 25th

AWAY @ South Pittsburgh

Saturday, October 2nd

AWAY @ Akron

Saturday, October 9th

HOME v. Pittsburgh

Saturday, October 16th

HOME v. Eastern Suburbs Green Horde

Saturday, October 23rd

HOME v. Erie

Saturday, October 30th

Midwest Playoffs TBD

their two children Audrey, 5, and Harrison, 2, as well as their pug Harper.

Whitey says that nothing would make him happier than being a part of the lives of players in the form of rugby and continuing to build the Cleveland Rovers brand into the future.

He also wants to thank all the Rovers for this opportunity and is having fun and enjoying himself and looking forward to this season. Whitey also hopes the team likes the direction set forth by himself, Coach Eamon, Coach Annen, Coach Cleary, and Coach Nails (who will be all be covered in the coming weeks). GO ROVERS! *

LEAGUE PREVIEW (P2)

Following the Suburbs game, the Rovers finish off the season at home looking to avenge a 12-38 loss to Erie (4-2 in '09).

All in all, the Rovers look to have a successful 2010 fall season, with their best play needing to come in the second half of the season. To this point, the team has been showing the type of dedication necessary to take it to the next level and earn a spot in the Midwest Championship Playoffs. *

KILBANE (P2)

the '06 Defensive Player of the Year. In his 3 years as a Rover, he has deservingly been the recipient of the Pie Award, as well as representing the Rovers this past winter in Las Vegas on the Ohio Select Sevens Team.

This season on the pitch, Terry feels that with the new coaching staff, players, and newfound direction of the

program, the Rovers will be capable of surprising our league rivals and making it into the playoffs. Once there, he says that as a team we will surprise people and shake things up.

Kilbane plays rugby because it is a unique game that tests the individual on both the mental and physical level, all the while require one to work with and for their teammates. It is a game that requires strength, determination, integrity, and intelligence, and is an excellent test of one's character.

According to Terry, he feels that becoming President is both a great honor and responsibility. With this position, he hopes to get the Rovers more involved in the community to make people more aware of the club. Terry estimates that less than 4% of Greater Cleveland knows of the club, and wants to participate in local events and showcase games, make contributions of our time to good causes, and seek out coverage in the local media outlets. Doing so would make a massive impact on our player roster, sponsorships, and fanbase.

In closing, Kilbane has a message to the team. "We have the opportunity to do something great. Let's make it happen and have fun doing it." *

CAPTAINS (P2)

elected as Captain. As captain, Imes says he has "the opportunity to help grow the game of rugby in Cleveland at all levels" all the while "enjoying the sport with a tight knit team of guys" that he truly considers to be his friends. Derek cherishes the chance to build the program as the current players want, and to impact the game of rugby positively. Wanting

to put Cleveland on the map in regards to rugby through not only performance on the field, but also with community involvement away from the field, continue to be a goal that Derek and the team will work towards.

At 26 years of age, Imes has a checkered career that most players twice his age would be envious of. Starting at the high school level, playing for the St. Edward Eagles from '99-'02, Derek was the '01 Team MVP, '02 Leading Scorer, and a '02 Greater Cleveland All Star Selection.

Continuing his career with four years at Bowling Green State University, Derek left his mark on a team with 40+ years of winning tradition, as he captained the Falcons in his junior and senior seasons, leading the team in scoring in 2006, while being named the '05 MVP. Imes left BGSU as the 3rd All Time Points Scorer in team history, a spot which he holds to this day. As icing on the cake, he was inducted into the Inaugural Class of the BGSU Rugby Hall of Fame. Post-college, Imes has also played for the Ohio Select side from 2007-'10.

As a result of the solid numbers and great coaching, in addition to the new level of commitment the team has been seeing from both coaches and players, Imes expects nothing less than a playoff berth from the Rovers. Also, he points to new focused recruiting at Cleveland State with emphasis, as many current players plan to attend in the fall.

There is one big area that Imes feels the Rovers set themselves apart from the rest of.

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In Other News...

- **CONGRATULATIONS to current Rover and Former Team President Allen Alldred married Emily Bonath Alldred Saturday, August 14th. Al should be coming back soon, as he couldn't come around too much this summer so he wouldn't have a broken nose in the wedding pics. Best of luck to the newly married couple!!!**
- **Visit The Rugby Store at clevelandroversrfc.com for all of your Cleveland Rover apparel needs. The club receives a portion of the sales, so gear up.**
- **Any Rover Old Boys who have contact with any other Old Boys who might be out of the loop, please inform them about the newsletter. Thanks.**

CAPTAINS (P5)

men's league rugby, and that is their ability to absorb rookies into the team and make them feel welcome, leaving new players with the desire to be a part of the team for years to come. "The one thing we have perfected is the way we treat our teammates. Everyone gets along and helps each other out, while going out of their way to make people feel welcome and a part of the Rovers... (it) should give us an edge when it comes to 'looking out for one another both on and off the field.'" Imes is also looking forward to the biggest and best Pig Roast yet!

Liechty: Newly elected Captain Scott Liechty is what you might call a rugby "natural." Coming from a wrestling background, with only two years of experience in the game, Scott has made an immediate impact since joining the Rovers.

Before the Rovers, Scott began his career with perennial powerhouse BGSU RFC. In only his first year playing, he won the '09 Utility Player of the Year Award. In his first year as a Rover, Scott showed an incredible work ethic, tenacity, and an uncanny nose for the try zone. His hard work and will to win

encouraged his teammates to elect him Captain of the Forwards for the '10/'11 campaign.

At 23 years of age, Scott is ready to attack this season. His sights are especially set on the Rovers' league rivals. "I want to win, but at the end of the day my main goal of the season is to beat the Eastern Suburbs. If we can accomplish this goal, I believe everything else will fall into place, including moving on to the playoffs."

With his quick rise through the ranks, Scott has not let an ego make him lose sight of the importance of the team's goals. "I feel that being elected captain by my teammates is a vote of confidence from everyone I share the pitch with. Although I haven't been playing for that long, I know that I can help lead this team to big things. I'm not going to try to pretend to be the guy on the field that knows the most, but I'm going to try to lead our team to the top of our league and the Midwest. I want to lead by example, both in practice and in games." *-guest writer Terry Kilbane **

