



THE GAIN LINE

MU RFC Alumni Association

To be Elected
September 7, 2002

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Director

Director at Large

Director at Large

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Club President

Miami Faculty Advisor

Executive Member at Large

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Fundraising
Chairman

Events Chairman

Communications
Chairman

DOUG EDWARDS MEMORIAM

A memorial service will be held for Doug at 11 am before this year's Old Boys Game on September 7th at Kumler Chapel on Western Campus. Per the wishes of Barb, all those interested in eulogizing Doug will have an opportunity to speak. In traditional Doug style,

By Roger Mazzarella, 2002
As written for Rugby Magazine

I first met Doug Edwards 34 years ago at the bottom of a ruck. He was biting my ankle. Well, at least that was the way the legend went that neither one of us ever got around to correcting.

Last Tuesday (July 2) I attended his memorial service in Oxford, Ohio. Doug had passed away the previous Saturday morning due to complications of leukemia at the age of 51. Born on August 28, 1950, he met and married Barbara Bednarski while both were still students at Miami University. He worked for Black and Decker and was on the verge of retirement when stricken with health problems late last year. She survives as does his college student and rugby playing son, Sean.

In 1968, Doug was a co-founder of the Miami University RFC, just as rugby was making its first great surge of growth in the United States after lying dormant for nearly 45 years. For thirty-four years he toiled in the front row as a hooker and prop before switching to patrolling the sidelines as coach of the Miami RFC. In the days before college eligibility rules, Doug not only coached Miami in 1981 to a Midwest title and a third place finish in the national championship, he also led the Redskins on the field as their first side hooker. Indeed, Doug was easily one of the top three hookers in the United States from 1977 until 1982. If he would have left Miami to their

own devices and played for the Cincinnati Wolfhounds it is likely I would be listing the word "Eagle" after his name in addition to his other accomplishments.

In addition to the 1981 title, Miami also won the Midwest in 1984, this time finishing fourth in the nationals. Under Doug's direction Miami also won a host of Ohio RFU titles as well as Mid American Conference championships in 1974, 1977, 1978, and 1981.

Doug also was one of the founders of and a tireless worker for the Ohio and Midwest Select sides as well as the All-American program. He coached the Ohio and Midwest sides for several years and got to see three of his Miami players make All-American.

For thirty-four years we butted heads, as hookers and as coaches on the opposite sides of the field. We got to see each other's sons play rugby for our college teams and many of our former players join together to become teammates on senior city sides.

While both of us fanned the flames of the Miami-BGSU rivalry in public, in private we often met for lunch when he passed through BG on his business trips or I would show up to take action photos for him of son Sean in the state hockey championships. Back in our Midwest RFU administration days, you were likely to find us enjoying a laugh at a 3:00 am



drag queen show at Chicago's famed Baton nightclub after the business meeting.

At the same time neither of us were above pulling the usual coach's pranks on each

other, whether it is was busting pumpkins on the pitch or printing and sending bogus newspaper articles to ourselves to pump up the boys. To some in the Miami University administration and the ranks of women's rugby he was hopelessly outdated. To the rest of us he was a refreshing breath of non-PC air.

I learned as much, if not more, about coaching rugby from him as I had from any course, book or person combined. Both of us hoped to leave rugby in a better state for our sons than what we endured back in the days of the three point try.

It's said that no man is alone who has friends. I thought of those words as I joined a crowd of 200 that overflowed out on to the porch and lawn of the tiny Oxford funeral home that held the memorial service. In that sense Doug had succeeded in making rugby better. Gathered together were teammates, and sons of teammates, former and current Miami players, select side players from a dozen clubs, players from opposition clubs, and opposition coaches - ever wary of Doug's hamstring tap to signal someone to fake an injury. All

Memoriam Continued from Page 1...

Doug Edwards passing leaves an unfillable void in rugby, much as it has left a similar void in my own life. In tribute, I offer the following poem by Grantland Rice:

Game Called

Game Called. Across the field of play
the dusk has come, the hour is late.

The fight is done and lost or won,
the player files out through the gate.
The tumult dies, the cheer is hushed,
the stands are bare, the park is still.
But through the night there shines the
light,

home beyond the silent ill.

Game Called. Where in the golden light
the bugle rolled the reveille.

The shadows creep where night falls deep,
and taps has called the end of play.

The game is done, the score is in,
the final cheer and jeer have passed.
But in the night, beyond the fight,
the player finds his rest at last.

Game Called. Upon the field of life
the darkness gathers far and wide,
the dream is done, the score is spun
that stands forever in the guide.

Nor victory, nor yet defeat
is chalked against the players name.

But down the roll, the final scroll,
shows only how he played the game.

Author: Grantland Rice©

Published 1956

Appeared In: *The Fireside Book of Baseball*

MIAMI UNIVERSITY RFC FALL SCHEDULE

*These dates have been confirmed for the
Fall Season.*

August 31, 2002

vs. Forest City

September 7, 2002

vs. Alumni game

September 14, 2002

vs. University of Cincinnati

October 12, 2002

vs. Ohio University

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION

With the loss of *Doug Edwards*, a number of alumni recognized the need to organize us in support of Miami Men's Rugby via the formation of the Miami Univ. Men's RFC Alumni Association and the *Doug Edwards* Memorial Foundation. Their main purpose is to help keep the tradition alive and strong for future players. In pursuit of these goals, we have formed a non-profit corporation and have applied for Tax-Exempt status with the IRS.

The Miami Univ. Men's RFC Alumni Association will be holding it's first Annual General Meeting the morning of this years Old Boys Game at 9 am at the Shriver Student Center in the Reid-Whitlaw Room and will include a light breakfast and beverages. At this point in time, we will be electing the

officers, trustees and chairmen listed on the front page of this newsletter. Anyone interested in serving in one of these positions is encouraged to attend the AGM. Any questions regarding the Miami Un. RFC Alumni Association or the *Doug Edwards* Memorial can contact *J.R. Hassett* at jrhassett@aol.com or 513-325-1138 OR *Mike Coco* at coco@frii.com or 970-494-0558.

The Alumni Association will be asking all Old Boys to contribute annual dues of \$60. We will also be accepting tax-deductible donations to the *Doug Edwards* Memorial.

Donations and Dues may be made at this years Old Boys or sent to:

*Doug Edwards Memorial
Midwest Rugby Development
Foundation*

OLD BOYS WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday September 6th, 2002

8 pm Social Hour – *The Stadium*

Saturday September 7th, 2002

9 am – First AGM for MU RFC
Alumni Association –
Shriver Student Center

11 am – Memorial Service
for *Doug Edwards* –
Kumler Chapel on Western campus
Hawaiian shirts requested

12:15 pm – Assemble at *Pitch* –
Rt. 73, 1 mile East of Cook Field

1 pm – Kick-off

6 pm – Awards Banquet & Cookout

–
Location to be Announced

NEW EMAIL LIST SERVE

There is a new email list serve for the old boys. Please email *Joe Woycke* at: joe.woycke@comcast.net to receive an invite to join.

MIAMI RUGBY MERCHANDISE

There will be hats and t-shirts available for sale at Old Boys for those who are interested. All proceeds will go to the foundation.

ATTENTION PAST PRESIDENTS & CAPTAINS

We are compiling a list of all past presidents and captains since 1968. If you served in one of these positions or know someone who did please contact *Mike Coco* at coco@frii.com or (970) 494-0558.

NEW TRADITION

This year we will be commemorating our annual Old Boys Game with a new tradition held in the spirit of *Doug Edwards*. In years past the game was enough, seeing old friends was enough, not embarrassing yourself in front of *Doug* by being older and slower was enough. In looking forward to the game this year the idea was presented that there should be something on the table. Something the Alumni and the Club play for.

And...something that the winning squad gets to hold for the year with their victory. In the past, many of you may remember hippity hops, bear crawls (if you get the opportunity please ask *Jeff McCarthy*), or the 400's and trivia before practice. Others may remember the weekly Forwards vs. Backs drill to end practice, or pushing the scrum sled for hours, and of course *Doug's* "Panda Squares". But, looking at the list of "rewards" for a losing side we thought one of *Doug's* favorites fit the bill. So, that is why this year the winning side of the Annual MU RFC Old Boys Game will become the proud bearers of "MR. BALL". Many of you, and most of them forwards, will remember "Mr. Ball" was the guy you were trying so hard to gain possession of during a rucking drill or a scrum down at practice. Even worse for the backs "Mr. Ball" was the guy you didn't want to knock on or loose in a ruck in front of *Doug*. Because, as I am sure the memories are coming back now, when you did "Mr. Ball" was held in front of you and then dropped only to take a ride from the Fat Man's foot. And, what ever hell you were stuck in at the time would only continue when you chased down "Mr. Ball" and brought him back to *Doug* to start over. So gentlemen making this years game, please get out at least one afternoon before September 7th run around your block a few times,

WELCOMING NEWLY FOUND
OLD BOYS

In an effort to communicate with all Old Boys, we have started collecting contact information. Please take a minute and review the names of the old boys included as an insert in this newsletter.

If you have any information on those listed in the INCOMPLETE section or realize that someone is altogether missing, please contact *Mike Coco* at coco@frii.com or 970-494-0558.

HOTELS IN OXFORD

Marcum Conference Center & Inn

513-529-2104

Amerihost Inn

513-523-2722

Best Western

513-523-0000

Hampton Inn

513-524-0114

White Garden Inn

513-524-5827

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to the following people for their generous donations of their time and efforts:

Joe Woycke, 1998 – For creating our new Old Boys Email List Serve and donating the printing of this initial Old Boys newsletter.

Steve Gustin, 1974, *Ken Glassmeyer*, 1978, & *Bill Griffith*, 1974 – For coordinating Old Boys 2002

Bobby Deck, 1995, for providing refreshments for this years Old Boys.

Terry Link, 1995 – For contributing his legal services in establishing the Non-Profit Corporation and 501(c)3 for the new MU RFC Alumni Association.

Big Birthdays In 2002*Ron Pruitt* 50*Terry Rankin* 40*George Mubaroy* 40*Dave Williams* 30*Lambrose Papparizos* 30**Engagements**

Dike Ajiri (1993) & *Rilee Evans*
are to be wed on December 29,
2002

Eric Reed (1998) & *Jeanna LoCascio*
are to be wed on February 15,

LAST CALL

Weddings

Jared (1998) & *Amy Moore*
June 22, 2002.

Cbad (1996) & *Kim Swartzmiller*
August 5, 2000.

Scott (2001) & *Lisa Swartzmiller*
July 27, 2002.

Matt (1993) & *Kim Kuzma*
August 4, 2001.

Terry (1995) & *Lauren Link*
December 1, 2001.

If you have an announcement and would like to include in further newsletters, please forward to *Mike Coco* at coco@frii.com or (970) 494-0558.

Miami University Men's Rugby
Football Club
Alumni Association
1026 Sycamore Street, Suite B
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

OLD BOYS SPOTLIGHT ERIC REED

On July 13th, 2002 *Eric Reed* (1998) received his sixth cap as a member of the United States Eagles in their Rugby World Cup qualifying match against Team Canada. The test was played in Chicago, Illinois and marked the first time the Eagles hosted a home game in the Mid-West since 1991. *Eric* started at lock and proudly wore the number 4 jersey for his country in the 36 – 13 loss.

Eric was a Collegiate All American while at Miami, in 1997. He was selected as a reserve for the USA



Development XV against Wales in July 1997 and joined San Diego's OMBAC for the 1997-98 season. *Eric* also appeared for the Midwest at the 1997 All-Star Championship

and named to the 1998 Eagle player pool. He transferred to Scotland's Watsonians for the 1998-99 season, before returning to OMBAC and again appeared for the Midwest in 1998, re-winning a place in the 1999 player pool. *Eric* made his first international appearance against England 'A' in August 1999 and represented the US as a member of the Rugby World Cup 1999 team. *Eric* was recalled to the squad for the 2001 Pan-American series, appearing against Uruguay, starting against touring England last June and again against South Africa in December 2001.

For those still in college with more free time than you know what to do with, or those now with adolescent children and disposable income, these days you can find *Eric* in the EA Sports Rugby video game for the Sony Play Station 2. Now for a mere \$39.95 you too can watch *Eric* knock

on, put a sad pass to "hands", and be tackled into touch. . .over and over . . .and over again.

Off the pitch, *Eric* has succeeded in landing himself one helluva woman in Jeanna (Retired – Chicago Northshore WRFC) as they are to be wed next year. *Eric* has also secured a job conducive to his international commitment by becoming the number one Nokia copier salesman in the Midwest.

On a personal note, a number of us were in attendance at the game that Saturday in Chicago and watched on as *Eric* was warned by Referee Nigel Whitehouse (Wales) for excessive use of the "BOOT" (and that is in all capitals for a reason gentlemen) during the second half of the match. . .I was sitting behind Barb when she saw it and said "At least some one out there was taught how to play in the rucks!." The USA now takes on Chile in Salt Lake