

OLD BOY QUARTERLY



The Old Boy Quarterly

is targeted to the alumni rugby players of the Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club.

These issues chronicle both interesting parts of the club's 50 year history and inform the readers about the club's current status & future plans.

It is meant to supplement and not replace the information on the club's website jayhawkrugby.com

The club also has actively managed information on Facebook. ([Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club](#))

We are seeking to expand this publication's distribution. If you are aware of KJRFC alumni who would like to be added to the distribution, please forward this e-mailed newsletter to them.

If you are interested in financially supporting the club, charitable gifts can be made to:

The Kansas Rugby Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1074
Lawrence, KS, 66044

Featured In the next Issue:

Fall 2016 Forecast

SPRING 2016 POST-SEASON REPORT



**Jayhawks captain MATT HARMON (#3)
scores a 1st half try on Missouri
in merit table match**

We want more stories and photos from the past.

Send material to pd4bicycles@aol.com before August 1, 2016. Please provide your contact information.

Overview Spring 2016 Season

If you look only at the won-loss record of the club this spring you will note that there was a big drop off in wins from this past fall. You may falsely conclude that the wheels are coming off on the club.

That would be a mistake.

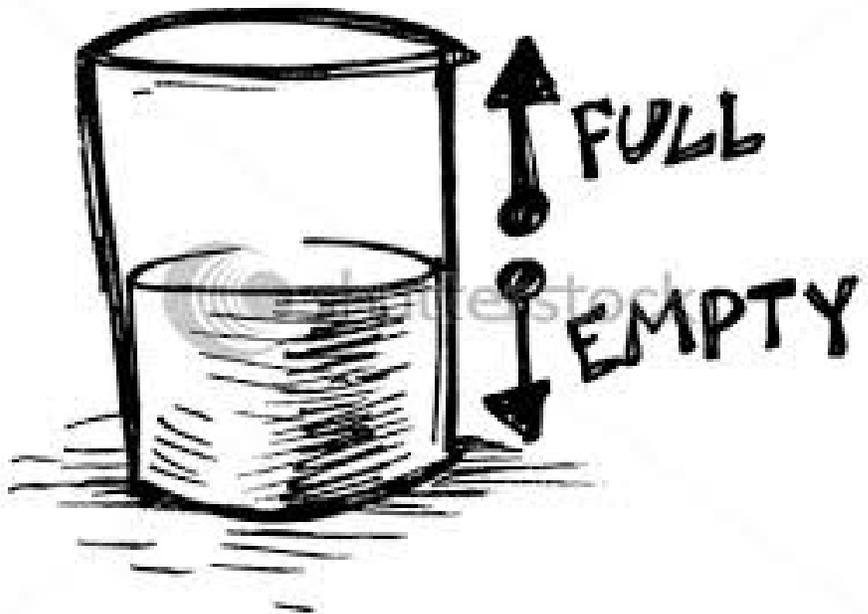
The primary reason for the drop in the on-field performance is that there were at least 8 or 9 players missing who would probably have started last fall. 5 or 6 of the missing were in the backfield.

From fall's roster: One graduated, two finished out their Study Abroad semester and returned to Australia, we had some injuries that needed surgery, some dropped back to junior college to beef up grades, and one took off a semester to travel around the world.

These players were not only missed in games, they were also not at practice. It was a big hit on the team.

But the reasons to be optimistic about the Jayhawks are many. **Here is a quick summary of these sunny thoughts:**

- **Many of the above "missing" should be back next fall.** All except our graduated past captain **Danny Buteyn** and the two Australians have remained around the club and come to games.



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- **New players filled the void and got extensive playing time.** The Jayhawks had good practice numbers and fielded good teams all season. Many of these players are gifted freshmen. This season of game experience will pay dividends next school year.
 - **Our coaching staff.** We retain head coach **Matt Schwartz** and Assistant Coaches, **Doug McCauley**, **Jason Williams**, and **Louie Riederer**. They have been in place for 2 years and are the perfect guys to work with a college club.
 - **Our alumni base (that's you).** The Jayhawks are a great club, because they have **ALWAYS** been a great club over its 52+ year history. The tradition of the club and the alumni support have built this into a very fine organization.
 - **Barcley West.** Our efforts to launch a rugby Study Abroad program has its first entrant. This newsletter edition has a page about Barcley West. He's just one player, but his inclusion will be very fun for this club's players all next year.
- Its hard to hold onto rugby talent in any rugby club and especially in a transient student population in a small town like Lawrence. Yet, next fall we will have a great recruiting class that will join a great roster. **Plan to come to a game.*****

Spring Season At A Glance

When	Who	Where	Result	Comment
2/20/16	Washburn	Away	N/A	Topeka had only 8 players, so the game was a scrimmage. The Jayhawks gave them enough players to make it 14 a side. The game was played in 4 long quarters with player changes at each break. Lots of Jayawks had good work.
2/27/15	Big XII 7's	Away	Lost	Old Miss
			Lost	West Virginia (defending Big XII Champs)
			Won	Oklahoma State
			Lost	Iowa State
			Won	Oklahoma State
3/5/15	Missouri	Home	Lost	MERIT TABLE - The Jayhawks late rally made the game within 3 points in the last 5 minutes and the Jayhawks were pounding the ball on the MU goal line in the last minute. However Mizzou's fulback picked off a KU pass near his goal and ran the length of the field to score as time ran out.
3/12/15	Spring Break			
3/19/15	Spring Break			
3/26/15	Kansas State	Home	Lost	MERIT TABLE - A somewhat sloppy game played on both sides and a yellow card 10 minute "sin bin" break for a Jayhawk.
4/2/15	Nebraska	Away	Lost	MERIT TABLE - The Jayhawks scrambled to assemble numbers for their traveling squad and paid for it with a loss in a fairly close game.
4/9/15	HOA 15's	Away	Lost	University Missouri Kansas City
			Won	Pittsburg State (Kansas)
			Lost	Colorado State
4/16/15	HOA 7's	Home	Won	Truman State
			Won	Oklahoma State
			Lost	Missouri
4/23/15	Bye			
4/30/15	Wichita	Home	Lost	Wichita was saving itself for a run at the Divison III National Playoffs in the following week, so showed with only 12 players. The Jayhawks loaned them some players and swapped those players at half. It was good playing experience for the Jayhawks.



Direction

Of The Club

Players

- This past fall we got a wave of great freshmen to compliment the existing roster. Next year's captain **Jack Di-enst** and the rookie of the year **Jeff Schuman** are both freshmen.
- Study Abroad program to cultivate the addition of more foreign players with advance skills has paid off with our first entrant.
- Our high-profile image on campus, attracts students to the club in their early college years when they can be developed into great players.

Funding

- We are *seeking* to expand the contributions from a large number of alumni to provide a sustainable source of funding to cover the club's \$25,000 annual shortfall beyond the players dues and fund raising. - If you are providing financial help now, **THANK YOU FOR GIVING!**
- The club's games are drawing spectators and the club is charging a modest entry fee to see a game at Westwick. We need to improve facilities to grow the spectator base.

Facilities

- We need basic structures to give the players a place to change into their uniforms, a hut for the trainer to work on the players before a game, and improved toilet facilities (especially for our female fans).
- ***However***, zoning restrictions have blocked our ability to erect even the most simple metal building structures. - We need to change Westwick's "conditional use permit". **Does anyone out there have developer experience to help us?**

Publicity

- We need to continue to encourage *The University Daily Kansan* to follow the club with great articles.
- The club's **Facebook page** is updated weekly and includes a full summary of games so parents of players, alumni, and interested player candidates can follow the Jayhawks. (*Kansas Jayhawks Rugby Football Club*)
- The club's website is now updated and linked to the Facebook page's content. (*JayhawksRugby.com*)

To: *Bucks & Baby Bucks*

Cowboys (Bucks in particular),

As discussed many times on our annual golf trip, it's time for those who have committed to donating to the club to begin the process. You know who you are, and if you have forgotten due to some alcohol-induced coma, Rick has a list of each-and-every-one-of-you. For those who have not committed, this is a plea to reconsider, no amount is too small.

Equally important, this is a reminder that you can now donate electronically to the KJRFC. There are a number of options (mine is done by direct bill on a monthly basis). It's easy to set this up, you just need the banking information for the rugby club (Randy can provide that [@rrenfro@hotmail.com](mailto:rrenfro@hotmail.com)) and then set it up with your personal banking protocols.

So let's go Bucks....this can be the latest example of our dedication....even with dwindling numbers percentage-wise, I am confident that we can "out-produce" the Baby-Bucks and subsequent generations.

Now, [Lou Blanco](#) may have something else on his mind, and god knows that [Pat Roberts](#) will not take kindly to these comments, but it's time for them and their ilk to put-up-or-shut-up.

It's been nearly 40 years since the Bucks became the foundation of what is now the KJRFC, so let's show our continued support in a tangible manner.

Cheers – Paul Diedrich

Barcley West

The Jayhawks first recruited Study Abroad player



Usually when the Jayhawks get an enrolled Study Abroad player, the student already enrolled at KU and then later found out KU has a rugby club. These players may be A-Z in playing talent. Sometimes...the player is *very good* and that moves the Jayhawks forward in that season and in the following years as their impact reverberates in the culture of the club.

So we thought...What if we could get good players into the Study Abroad program, rather than just see who shows up by coincidence?

In the middle of last fall, when the resilient, young Jayhawks were making a move towards an undefeated season with the help of two Australian backs, Jayhawks alumna **Conor Taft** started a dialog with the first 15 captain of the University of Essex and he was interested in coming to the USA to study.

The stats on Barcley West are impressive:

- First 15 captain of his high school and college sides.
- Plays 2nd row/lock, #8, or flanker
- As 2nd row/lock he has represented his county, his region, and played on an under 20 side that went to the quarter finals of England.

He is going to be a junior like the bulk of the players on the club, who came as freshman in 2014, so he will fit right in.

He is studying Sport & Exercise Science/Kinesiology and KU has a great program in that major.

He is just one player and one player can't carry a team, so the expectations need to be tamed on Barcley. Its not fair to him, or to the club.

What we found intriguing was not just his impressive playing stats, but that he has been a club *leader* during most of his time in the sport. That feature of being a positive personality is a terrific thing to bring to any group and not just a sports team.

We think Barcley West will have a great time with the Jayhawks, studying at KU, and visiting the USA.

The alumni helped make this all happen. We think the current Jayhawks side has terrific playing potential. Given how good the Jayhawks side has been, the proposed entry of a player of this caliber looks like just the thing to help take the Jayhawks to the next level.

The KJRFC had their Annual General Meeting on Thursday May 5, 2016 and elected executive officers for the coming year as well as voted the player awards for the past year:

CONGRATULATIONS to the newly elected executive officers and award winners:

OFFICERS -

President: **Joe Connor**

Vice President: **Tanner Shimek**

Captain: **Jack Dienst**

Treasurer: **Cameron Rex**

Business Secretary: **Sam Billman**

Social Secretary: **Ryan Harriman**

Match Secretary: **Daniel Buescher**

Field Secretary: **Alex Blackburn**

Equipment Manager: **Jasper Ables**

AWARDS -

Kernow Cup: **Matt Harmon**

Rookie of Year: **Jeff Schuman**

Most Improved Player: **Tanner Shimek**

Persistent Perspiner: **Alex Blackburn**

Magnificent Masochist: **Cameron Rex**

Definition of the various awards:

- Kernow Cup is the club's biggest contributor as a player, in club activities, and social fellowship. It's the club's highest honor.
- Magnificent Masochist is the player who was in the best physical shape.
- Persistent Perspiner is the player who worked hardest at practice and training.

Note that nearly all of the players are freshman or sophomores.

Photos from the Spring 2016 Season



ABOVE: You could never tell it from **Joe Connor's** smile at scrum half, but the Missouri merit table game was somewhat chippy, especially as the two scrum halves battled everything including how close they could get to each other before the ball went into the tunnel. Conner is a sophomore from **Thomas Aquinas** in Kansas City and moved from flanker to scrum half this season.

BELOW: Blue Valley sophomore **Ryan Russell** successfully moved from hooker to center this season. He is a "player's player". You watch him in a game to see all the little things he does: stealing a ball, making a sweet pass, kicking the ball into a gap, or dropping an opponent with a textbook tackle. (Kansas State merit table)





ABOVE: Minnesota freshman **Jack Dienst** will be the Jayhawks captain next year. He is an Architecture major and like so many of this Jayhawks squad, played several years of rugby in high school before college. He wants to focus the club on marketing its brand and developing the club to its full potential. (Here playing inside center in Missouri merit table match.)

BELOW: 2nd generation rugger, sophomore **Sam Tanner** played for the **Junior Blues** in high school and has played at an excellent level after moving to center from the wing position that he played as a freshman. (Kansas State merit table match.)





ABOVE: [Jeff Schuman](#) is a freshman and **Marine Corp** veteran. The hulking loose head prop was awarded “**Rookie of the Year**” honors for his play this year. The Jayhawks forwards have become the strength of the club largely due to players like big Jeff. (Missouri merit table match)

BELOW: [Tanner Shimek](#) is a freshman 2nd row/lock that was voted the teams “**Most Improved Player**”. He paired well as a bookend with fellow 2nd row/lock [Ryan Harriman](#) who was profiled in the pre-season newsletter as one of the best players in the country at his position. (Shimek in Kansas State and Missouri merit table matches)



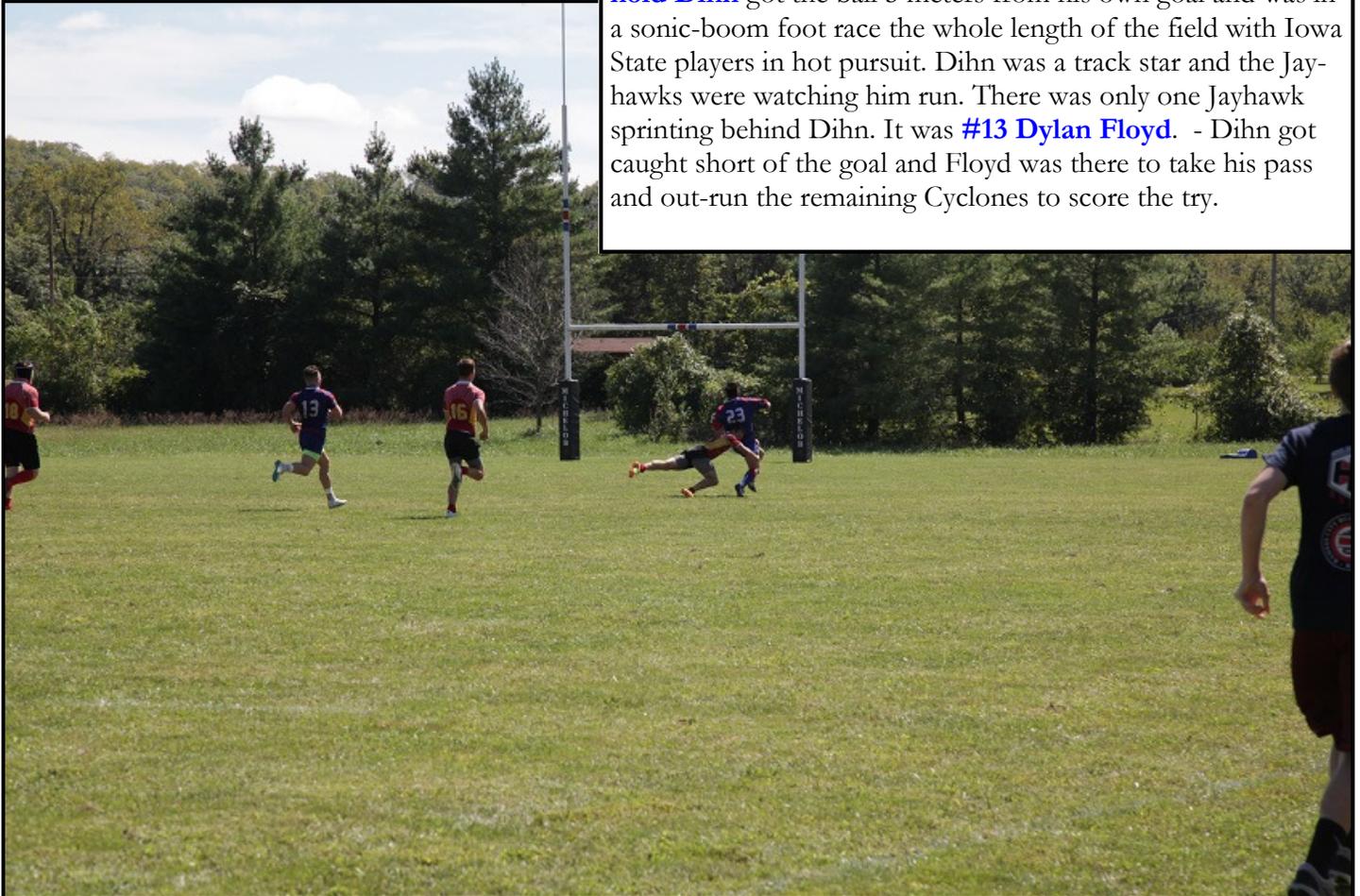
Endings

Players leaving the college side



Senior **Dylan Floyd** has played a terrific college career at outside center. His blazing speed has frequently made him a scorer with multiple tries in one game. On left he scores his 2nd try of the day on Kansas State in merit table.

But the score from this year that I think was his **best is pictured below**. In the fall's Iowa State merit table, late in the 2nd half when everyone was bushed, Jayhawk wing # 23 **Arnold Dihn** got the ball 5 meters from his own goal and was in a sonic-boom foot race the whole length of the field with Iowa State players in hot pursuit. Dihn was a track star and the Jayhawks were watching him run. There was only one Jayhawk sprinting behind Dihn. It was **#13 Dylan Floyd**. - Dihn got caught short of the goal and Floyd was there to take his pass and out-run the remaining Cyclones to score the try.





Grad student **Josh Shipman** came to the Jayhawks after graduating from Truman State. He played out his last year of college eligibility with us, playing hooker and flanker. **ABOVE:** Kansas State merit table where he is just short of the goal line. **Ryan Harriman** and **Sam Billman** running in support. **BELOW LEFT:** Arkansas merit table with **Ryan Russell** in support. **BELOW RIGHT:** On back of lineout in Missouri merit table. **Jeff Schuman** and **Matt Harmon** are getting ready to hoist **Ryan Harriman** as a jumper.





This year's sophomore team captain and pre-med student **Matt Harmon** has accepted an invitation to transfer to Life University in Atlanta and play for the current year's National Champion College Rugby Team. It's a big opportunity for Harmon to play at that level, but of course we all will miss him and wish him the best.

Harmon has been a walking ambassador for the sport. Last fall, he scheduled a time and place to meet new recruits on campus and personally accompanied them to the temporary practices at 23rd and Iowa.

Pictured to left is Harmon scoring on a very big Colorado State team after stealing their ball in a kickoff. But the stuff that I always thought was his *best* were the piggy things, where he was in a mob, got the ball, and *willed* the ball into goal using all his strength, like in the shot sequence below against Truman State last fall.

