

## **Heart of America Rugby Football Union**

### **Central Collegiate All-Stars Report**

DATE: November 30, 2009

TO: Heart of America RFU; Great Plains RFC

FROM: Bill Sexton, Coach, Central Collegiate All-Stars

SUBJECT: End of season report

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The Central Collegiate All-Stars competed in the West Collegiate All-Star Championships November 7-8 at Glencoe Park in Dallas, TX. Twenty-six players representing six different teams participated. The composition of the team was fairly representative of collegiate rugby in the Central Subregion, and was predominantly Heart of America players (21 of 26). The 26 players were selected from a pool of 35 that were nominated. The selected players largely represented division 1 college teams and men's club teams.

Emails soliciting nominations of collegiate-eligible players were sent to division I and division II collegiate teams in the Heart of America, Great Plains and Missouri rugby unions. In addition, emails seeking nominations of collegiate-eligible players were also sent to the men's club teams. All players selected were nominated by their respective club representatives. Several nominations were received after player information had been processed and the team selected (their names will remain in the contact pool).

The teams represented on the traveling squad were:

- Johnson County Community College (KC Blues) (2)
- Kansas State University (7)
- Oklahoma University (6)
- Truman (6)
- Tulsa University (1)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (4)

Players who declined and/or did not reply to invitations to participate (after being nominated) represented Benedictine, Creighton University, Pittsburg State University, University of Central Missouri, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of Oklahoma, and University of Tulsa. The KC Rogues nominated three players, with only one responding to an invitation for more information (note, he was selected but withdrew due to a conflict with a home club match). No player nominations were received from Kansas University, Oklahoma State University, University of Missouri, St. Louis University, or any other club teams (although KCRFC replied that they did not have any collegiate eligible players). Two players who was selected and had confirmed cancelled the week of the event.

The final roster of 26 players included 16 forwards and 10 backs (due to the late withdrawal of two backs). 23 players were selected for the first match, and due to injuries, 22 were available for the second match. Each player started at least one match. This was a talented team with a good mix of youth and experience. Of the 26; 4 were freshman, 3 were sophomores, 9 were juniors, and 10 were seniors. The average year in college is 3.1 (junior), and the average age is 21.2 yrs. The players averaged 6 feet tall

(range 5' 6" to 6' 4") and 208 lbs (range 150 – 265 lbs).

Each player was expected to cover their own travel expense to Dallas, TX. To keep player costs at a minimum, returning players who owned team shorts and socks paid \$15 each, while new players (or those who needed shorts and socks) paid \$30 each. Combined with the contributions of the HOARFU and GPRFU, we were able to cover the onsite event costs (e.g., hotel, team meal, and t-shirt). The contribution from the Heart of America RFU (\$1500 – 25 players/coaches - \$60 per person) and the Great Plains RFU (\$60 per player). Of the 26 players, 21 are members of the HOARFU, and four are members of the GPRFU, and one is a member of Tulsa University (independent). All revenue and expenses are detailed in at the end of this report. All three coaches are from the HOARFU (K-State, Oklahoma, and Truman).

The players and coaches appreciate the generous support from the Heart of America and Great Plains Rugby Unions.

The Central Collegiates used the old red and white Heart of America Collegiate All-Star jerseys, with navy numbers. Note, these jerseys are very old, and need replacing badly. We are requesting support for a new set of jerseys for 2010. We wear navy blue shorts and navy socks with red and white stripes on the turn-down. Rather than have a t-shirt made for the event, each team member received a tournament t-shirts.

#### Results at WRFU Collegiate All-Stars Championships - Match Summary.

The Central Collegiate finish with a 1-1 record. We lost our first-round match against the Texas Collegiates, but rebounded to defeat the Texas-II team on Sunday.

#### **Game 1: Central vs. Texas 1 - Lost 14-38 (Halftime 14-19)**

We fielded a solid team with talented and experienced players in each position. We also had the luxury of a full complement of skilled reserves. However, the Texas-1 team had two previous games together prior to the event and it showed as they were more cohesive and organized in both attack and defense. The weather was about 80 degrees and sunny, and as the game wore on, the fact that most of our players were no longer accustomed to the heat became a factor as players fatigued.

Texas got on the board early after a broken play, to take a 7-0 lead after 4 minutes. We responded with a converted try (Arryn Wilkerson, OU; with conversion by Joe D'Agostino, K-State) at 7 minutes. We took the lead on a Taylor Mokate (OU) try and D'Agostino conversion at 16 minutes. However, Texas scored at 20 and 33 minutes to take a 19-14 lead into halftime. Texas got two quick scores soon after the half at 47 and 49 minutes to lead 31-14. At this point, we tightened up and worked hard on both attack and defense, shutting down the Texas attack and creating pressure on their defense. However, a couple of poor decisions - that might have led to points - let Texas off the hook. For example, at 33 minutes, instead of going for posts inside the Texas 22 m, the ball was taken as a "quick tap" and the ensuing pass was intercepted and returned 80 meters for a Texas converted try – a 10 point swing! This closed out the scoring, and Texas prevailed 38-14. We incurred a couple of injuries and several players were ruled unavailable for our Sunday match against Texas -2 (who lost to Eastern Rockies 36-5).

#### **Game 2: Central vs. Texas-2 – Won 42-15 (Halftime 20-10)**

Everyone who was either a reserve for Saturday's match or not named, started on Sunday. Texas-2 was a

combination of collegiate eligible players and some under-23 players who were recruited to fill-out the Texas-2 team. Central opened the scoring at 15 minutes on Joe D'Agostino penalty kick. Texas-2 scored a try in the corner (conversion not good) to go ahead 5-3 at 19 minutes. However, another penalty by D'Agostino and a converted try by Kelton Miller (OU) gave Central a 13-5 lead at 25 minutes. Texas scored again at 28 minutes (13-10). At 33 minutes, Dan Knapp (K-State) broke free and took the ball to the one meter line, where Evan Bolte (UNL) was able to pick and dive over for the try. The conversion was good, and Central took a 20-10 lead into halftime. Soon after half, Central pressure led to tries at 15 minutes (Eric Hagen, UNL) and 24 minutes (Austin Ryan, OU). Neither conversion was good, and Central held a 30-10 lead with 16 minutes to play. Ken Scott (K-State) scored a converted try 5 minutes later to give us a 37-10 lead. Texas-2 scored at 34 minutes, and Nick Gaffney (OU and captain on the day) scored the final try at 30 minutes (conversion not good) to close out the day. Central 42 - Texas-2 15.

The Central team played very well both days – especially for a team that had not played together. As is expected, the quality of play improved as they became more familiar with each other. Despite being Texas-2, this was a strong and talented team and it required good play from Central to win by a 42-15 margin. Texas-1 went on to defeat Eastern Rockies 16-7 in the finals.

Conclusion. 26 players traveled to Dallas, TX representing 6 clubs. They represented the Central region and most notably, the Heart of America RFU, well both on and off the field. These young men are a credit to their clubs and home unions. Thanks the HOARFU and GPRFU for their generous support of this program.

The Future. The next West Collegiate All-Stars Championship will be held November 6-7, 2010. It is tentatively cited at Infinity Park in Glendale, CO. In talking with the players, there is a desire to meet and play together before the championships. It has been suggested that we assemble to play select men's club sides on a couple of Sunday fixtures in the early fall. We will be contacting teams in the near future for this purpose. The team jerseys are very worn and ill-fitting. Since receiving these jerseys at the same time as the HOA U19 and Women, both of these teams have received replacement jerseys. Funding for a new set of jerseys is being requested. I would note that the majority of players are from the HOARFU, and the team refers to itself as "Heart", and we are considering abandoning the "Central Collegiates" moniker.



Seated: Jared Dull (K-State), Kelton Miller (OU), Jacob Dull (K-State). Kneeling: Dustin Homer (Truman), Joe D'Agostino (K-State), Dan Knapp (K-State), Ryan Austin (OU), Aaron Loida (Truman), Evan Bolte (Nebraska), Jason Ralph (Truman), Sebastian Sojka (Tulsa). Standing: Dan Blea (coach, K-State), David McDonough (Truman), Bill Sexton (coach, Truman), Jordan Pfenninger (K-State), Eric Hagen (Nebraska), Dakota Wilkinson (OU), Arryn Wilkinson (OU), Alex Koenen (Truman), Nick Gaffney (OU), Justin Lacy (Truman), Ken Scott (K-State), Tyler Hodges (K-State), Ben Bachman (Nebraska), 'Smidy' Schmidt (Nebraska), Stewart Reed (JoCo Com Coll / KC Blues), Ken Forehand (coach, OU), Jacobus Swanepoel (JoCo Com Coll / KC Blues) (Not pictured: Taylor Mokate).

**Central Collegiate All-Stars - Fall 2009 Roster**

#	Last Name, First	College	Academic Year	Primary Position	Age	Height	Weight
1	Bachman, Benjamin	University of Nebraska	4	Tighthead	22	71	250
2	Bolte, Evan	University of Nebraska	2	Flanker	20	73	210
3	D'Agostino, Joe	Kansas State University	3	Fullback	21	69	175
4	Dull, Jacob	Kansas State University	3	Flanker	21	70	190
5	Dull, Jared	Kansas State University	1	Scrumhalf	19	68	170
6	Gaffney, Nick	Oklahoma	5	Lock	23	75	215
7	Hagen, Eric	University of Nebraska	3	#8	20	72	220
8	Hodges, Tyler	Kansas State University	4	Flanker	22	74	205
9	Homer, Dustin	Truman	5	Wing	23	71	160
10	Knapp, Dan	Kansas State University	4	Hooker	22	69	185
11	Koenen, Alex	Truman	5	Loosehead	23	74	250
12	Lacy, Justin	Truman	5	Flanker	23	72	205
13	Loida, Aaron	Truman	3	Scrumhalf	21	66	150
14	McDonough, David	Truman	1	Center	19	73	190
15	Miller, Kelton	Oklahoma	2	Flyhalf	19	73	210
16	Mokate, Taylor	Oklahoma	4	#8	22	76	225
17	Pjenninger, Jordan	Kansas State University	4	Loosehead	22	70	220
18	Ralph, Jason	Truman	3	Hooker	22	72	215
19	Reed, Stewart	Johnson County Com College	2	Lock	23	76	245
20	Ryan, Austin	Oklahoma	3	Tighthead	21	68	265
21	Schmidt, Erwin	University of Nebraska	3	Center	23	75	228
22	Scott, Kendrick	Kansas State University	3	Wing	20	76	200
23	Sojka, Sebastian	Tulsa University	3	Fullback	21	74	200
24	Swanepoel, Jacobus	Johnson County Com College	1	Lock	20	76	215
25	Wilkinson, Arryn	Oklahoma	4	Center	22	70	185
26	Wilkinson, Dakota	Oklahoma	1	Flanker	18	74	220
<b>Average</b>			3.1		21	72	208

**Coaches / Managers**

Sexton, Bill           Truman  
Forehand, Ken       Oklahoma  
Blea, Dan             Kansas State

**Central Collegiate All-Stars  
Balance Sheet  
Fall 2009**

**Revenue**

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Heart of America RFU	\$1,500.00
Great Plains RFU	\$240.00
Team Members	
Players; 16 at \$30 (t-shirt, shorts, socks)	\$480.00
Players; 10 at \$15 (t-shirt only)	\$150.00
Coaches; 3 at \$15	\$45.00

<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$2,415.00</b>
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**Expenses (\* All paid by W.L. Sexton)**

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West Collegiate All-Stars, Dallas, Texas	
Hotel	\$1,376.32
Team Dinner	\$174.00
Team kit (shorts)	\$295.52
T-Shirts	\$435.00
Water	\$22.09
Detergent and laundry	\$8.32
Van and gas in Dallas, TX	\$113.84

<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$2,425.09</b>
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**Net (revenue - expenses) (\$10.09)**

**Payable to W.L. Sexton**

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Heart of America RFU	\$1,500.00
Great Plains RFU	\$240.00

<b>Total Payable:</b>	<b>\$1,740.00</b>
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