

Rugby Background

Rugby football is the fastest growing sport in the United States and predates American football. Rugby was an Olympic sport in the early years of the 20th Century.

Some sports historians date the origins of rugby to the days when folks considered it amusing for the residents of one town to try to deliver a young pig to the opposing town's village square whilst preventing the piglet from being returned to their own town square. Players would employ various methods of dodging, dashing, passing, or just running over others to make progress. Over the years, these competitions were refined and emerged as rugby, soccer, football, etc. To the casual observer, rugby still seems remarkably close to its roots.

There is also the often-cited legend of William Webb Ellis, who bored of kicking the ball during a soccer match at Rugby School in England, so he grabbed the ball in his arms and charged toward the goal. Of course, the opposing team protested physically and William's mates rushed to his aid. The resulting melee was so thrilling for players and spectators, it spread wildly.

Wherever it came from, rugby is now played on every continent (we have it on good authority that Antarctic researchers have been known to play keep away with a hapless scientist's mittens, which qualifies as rugby) and the 2007 Rugby World Cup finals drew more than 2.25 million personally attending and 4.2 billion people watching on the TV.

For more background information on rugby:

http://www.uidaho.edu/clubs/womens_rugby/RugbyRoot/