



# KERN COUNTY RFC

## WRAP-UP OF THE SUMMER 7'S NATIONAL QUALIFIER RUN

The Kern County Rugby Football Club 7's program took a bold leap this year as we raised the bar dramatically to set our sights on the top level of competition in the country. This year's club had tons of talent, but even more impressive was the abundance of heart and guts. The lack of experience did not dissuade the lads from showing up and playing hard in all of the three stops on the circuit. SoCal's best 16 teams began the 3-tournament series to compete for three spots in this year's 16-team National Men's 7's Championship Tournament

to be held this weekend at San Francisco's Treasure Island. The SoCal competition began in June in Santa Monica, and finished July 14th in San Diego, with one stop in Long Beach in between. Kern's team has not competed at this level for many years, and that inexperience showed at times.

Nevertheless, the consensus among the coaches of the top teams was that Kern was the team to watch for the future, and the "Scariest team to play..." throughout the series. There were 5 teams that were clearly the top class of the field – The Old Aztecs, Belmont Shore, Santa Monica, OMBAC, & Tempe (AZ & NV are also in the SoCal Union). Kern finished 6th, showing that we have made the leap over the majority, but still need to knock down the door to the top tier.

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JEREMY "MY CAPTAIN" RAMIREZ





## KERN COUNTY RFC

### KCRFC DONATES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



On May 19th Kern Rugby supported the E-waste recycling fundraiser event for the Police Activities League (PAL). Alianza Recycling partnered with KCRFC in an effort to raise funds for PAL. A small appreciation to PAL for providing a practice venue for the 2012 season. Former KCRFC player and coach, Tim Antongiovani, presented a check to PAL on June 25, in the amount of \$545.36. Officials at PAL plan to use the money towards irrigation upgrades. Thank you also to Alianza Recycling for organizing the recycling event and for giving back to the



Kern County and Bakersfield communities. Alianza is managed by former Tuskier Mike "Harry" Shain and the company event coordinator is Old Boy 2nd Row, Neil Agnes. Great job men! The club is committed to actively serving the Kern community in many levels.

### PLAYER FUNDRAISING PAYS OFF

The Tuskers took part in the first Fireworks booth adventure, in the modern era of the club, this summer and it worked out quite well for the club. In a true team effort your local ruggers manned the fireworks booth, in front of People's Pizza at 1440 Weedpatch Hwy, from July 1st - 4th. Our friends at People's Pizza sweetened the fireworks purchasing pot by offering a free pizza to folks who ordered more than \$80 worth of product and were great hosts overall. A number of the boys worked multiple shifts and our night crews were spot on! All said, the efforts of all involved brought in over \$2,300 for the club and with a bit more effort up front and a better location we should be able to double that next year! Perhaps the MVP of the event was our friend Barry Phillips of Barry's RV Outlet. Barry's RV provided the club with a quality fifth wheel for the boys to guard the product at night and we could not have done it without him - thanks to Barry, Israel and the rest of the staff!



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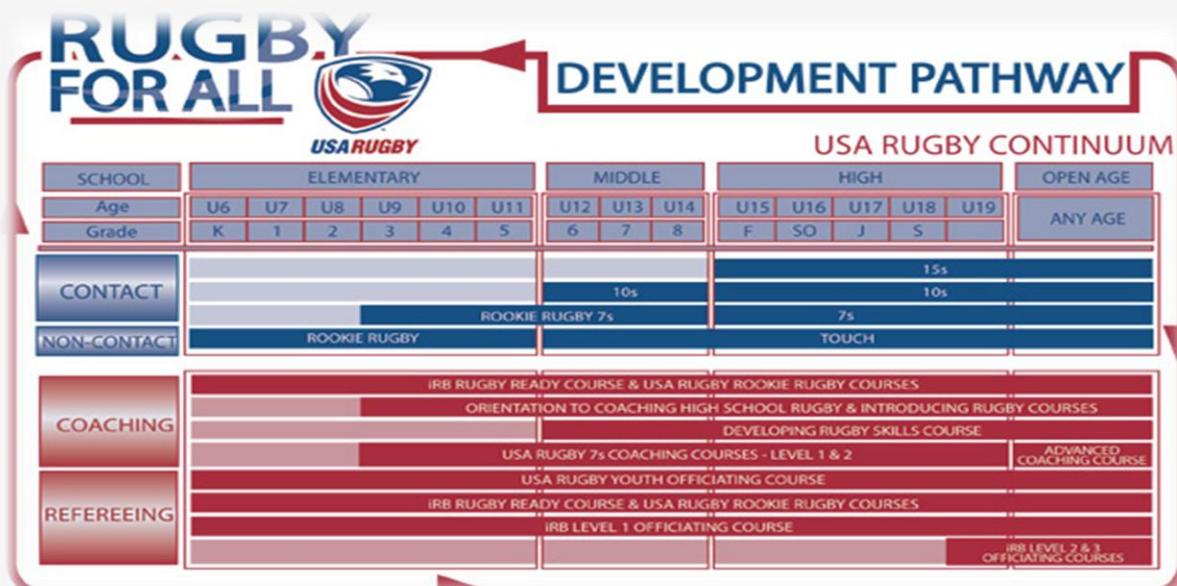
## ROOKIE RUGBY IS COMING TO KERN COUNTY

Kern County Rugby Club is in the process of arranging meetings with two local elementary school districts to discuss the specifics of launching Rookie Rugby in local after school programs. We recognize the vital role youth rugby development will play in advancing the club and it's role in our community. Rookie Rugby, a non-contact version of the game we love, is the first step in the rugby development pathway and establishes the base for safe and skilled junior high and high school level rugby. It is the intention of the club to educate after school staff and



THE ROOKIE RUGBY EXPERIENCE

men's club players in the finer points of coaching Rookie Rugby in order to grow the sport in Kern County. This past season, approximately 40 youth took part (with varying degrees of regularity) in the pre-game clinics coached by current players and coaches. This was just the beginning of the awakening our country will go through with the heightened exposure that rugby will experience in light of the upcoming 2016 Summer Olympics and 7s rugby's return to the Olympic international stage. Stay tuned for updates on how to get your children involved in a safe, exciting, co-ed version of the game that will enhance their athletic decision making and team orientation skills.





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## RUGBY 7'S ROUNDUP

.....Continued from page 1.

Kern faced Old Aztecs II in the first round, a team that had shocked OMBAC the week before. Kern scratched back after an early deficit to gain the lead with a minute to go, and ended up tying on a last-second try by the Aztecs – 19-19. We then played Belmont II. Some creative personnel changes by Coach Purcell that backfired due to untried chemistry – Kern succumbed to a far more experienced side. We bounced back with a win in the first round of “Bowl” (consolation) competition vs Oceanside, which placed us in the Bowl Final against OMBAC II. KC gelled and played by far its best match of the summer, running rampant and supporting our breaks against a very skilled team, 36-14. **Mike Faumui** earned MVP of the tournament with solid defense and “will not be denied” ball-carrying, despite an ankle injury in an earlier match. Mike always gave a spark when we needed it. Not taking anything from Faumui’s performance, it was a total team effort, and all of the players shined in the final effort. Lucas Ramos showed how support is so important and scored three tries in the Final, two in support of Faumui break-aways. **John Oglesby**, the “Mercenary” (due to his absence because of work, injury, and football), was seemingly unstoppable, breaking or outrunning tackles every time he touched the ball. He scored 5 tries in limited minutes played, 3 in the Final. John is ~6’5”. 250 lbs and one of the fastest players on our team, so is it any wonder no one could tackle him? **Jeremy Ramirez** “My Captain” – One of the best runners on our team (maybe the best at everything), Jeremy became a true team leader by serving as a distributor to our other stars, but still had many breaks of his own. He also led by example in his fierce rucking and regaining possession. **Zech Browden** – A coach’s dream, Zech has a ton of speed and raw talent, and yet is also the hardest worker on the team (has never missed practice or cross-fit training at Pair & Marotta). Zech had several dazzling runs, as well as countless saving tackles in which he used his speed and fitness to track down break-aways. **Leo Levesque** – “The Workhorse” – Leo does the dirty-work – saving numerous scoring threats by the opposition by thwarting 2 on 1’s, with interceptions and tackles, Leo is also where we need him on offense, slashing through gaps and supporting our runners – he is invaluable all over the field. **Justin Jackson** “The Beast” – Justin showed hard running and ferocious tackling, and exhibited the raw talent that gets everybody’s attention and anticipation about the upside of this fine athlete. **Will Mahan** – a world class athlete, Will played punter for the U of Washington Huskies. He is showing that he is far from the one-dimensional kicker by mixing in fine open-field running and solid tackling. After only a few practices and sparse live action, he is already a positive force on the field, and clearly embracing the rugby brotherhood. Travis Johnson – A refined veteran of rugby who only recently could get free of work commitments, Travis gave a spark with his elusive running, smart ball-handling, and experienced leadership. **Corey Vargas** – A physical force on both offence and defense, Corey displayed ferocious tackling and ball-hawk possession efforts. **Loren Henderson** – Loren was always there when we needed him with his tenacious defense, constant support for the ball-carrier, and steady work all around the field. **Brandon “The rookie” Bryant** – One of the new kids on the block, Brandon had limited experience on the field, but has been at every practice and has been a driver for every event. In the finals, he had a break-out game in which he was making 1-on1 tackles all over the field and supporting our ball-carriers constantly. This is a multi-year effort to bring our team to the top and get to national prominence. The 7’s team will play in 1-2 more tournaments to build on the progress, sharpen our skills, and “just for fun”.



## **KERN COUNTY RFC**

### **THE ROAD AHEAD**

As we head towards the start of the 2012/13 15s season, we first reflect back. This year was the start of the “revival of KCRFC”, the start of the KCRFC brand. As we look back we remember many highlights and “first offs” for KCRFC. A partnership with Pair & Marotta physical therapy yielded great results in the player’s condition. Mondays and Wednesdays were strength and conditioning sessions at Pair & Marotta. This ensured that coaches could focus on rugby skills at regular practice. Achieving success means hard work and dedication. The boys definitely showed that and it paid with a very successful season ending at the semi-finals against San Diego Old Aztec. We wish the Aztec’s a farewell as they move up to division 1 and look forward to playing them soon.

June 8, 2012 was set for the first annual KCRFC Year end & hall of fame banquet. A great evening was had by all. Bob Shore, the founder of rugby in Bakersfield, and Mike Fanucchi was inducted in the KCRFC Hall of Fame, another first for KCRFC. Players awards was next with MAN OF THE YEAR award going to Kelly Naden, 2nd side MVP Jay Garber, rookie of the year Justin Jackson, most improved player Tracey Warren, Most outstanding Forward Able Ruesga, Most outstanding back Jeremy Ramirez and hitman of the year was shared by John Oglesby & Mark Durando

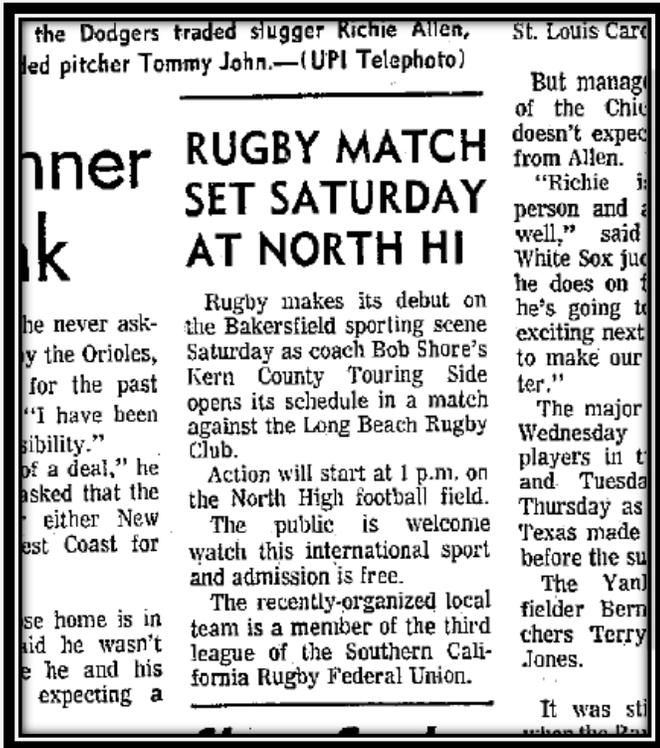
To achieve success we need a strong management team. KCRFC is currently “re-building” the committee and help is needed in all areas. We are looking to alumni, friends & family to lead this club to the next level.

### **THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB IS IN YOUR HANDS**

We are planning an AGM in September/October 2012, open to all KCRFC stakeholders, where we will introduce current committee members and vote for certain key position officers for 2012/13. This is your opportunity to get involved and help rugby grow in Kern County. Keep an eye on our facebook page and website for dates and venue. Please contact Wicus Postma or Ahmed Baameur if you want to volunteer your needed services.

Our goal is to bring rugby to Bakersfield in a big way from pre-K through all ages to finally men’s club. Our vision is to have our own rugby fields and club house, a family environment, where all come and play, watch and just have fun.

**KERN COUNTY RFC**



**JUST FOR THE OLD BOYS**

Bakersfield Californian  
DECEMBER 3, 1971

Rugby makes its debut on the Bakersfield sporting scene Saturday as coach

**Bob Shore's Kern County Touring Side** opens its schedule in a match against the Long Beach Rugby Club. Action will start at 1 p.m. on the North High football field.

The public is welcome watch this international sport and admission is free. The recently-organized local team is a member of the third league of the Southern California Rugby Federal Union.

Ok Old Boys! This one is for you, as many of you know we had an amazing season this year and the boys are looking to build on their success from last season. Here is where you Relic's come in, In order for this club to make it to the next level we need the help of you guys in many different areas and aspects within the club and we are going to start "The Kern Rugby Old Boys Society" Being part of the team last season I know what it meant to the younger players to have the Old Boys on the sidelines at all the home games (oh and our lone Old Boy George Sill at most the away games) that being said, we have some ideas for ways you can help before you run or wheel yourself away I will tell you it's going to involve Beer, cocktails and Cigar's. So now that I have your attention again here's the deal. I am going to have a get together in the coming months and it will be for ALL OLD BOYS only and that means EX players that don't play anymore, we will talk about what the plans are and all of the ideas I have and hopefully come up with some more! Kern County Rugby Club needs the support of all the Old Boys out there and I am putting out the call to each and every one of you to lend a hand no matter how big or small it all helps, if I don't have your number or email please get hold of me via my cell# (661) 808-8240. So now I need you all (Old Boys) to call me or text me (if you know how or even know what text messaging is) and let me know when is good to have a get together during the week or the weekend so we can talk about what's in-store for the coming season and beyond!

... Josh Thomas

# KERN COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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