

Sports

Rugby: from pitch to play, a gentleman's game.

Story by
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The Greater Omaha Touring Side (GOATS) trounced the Puni Rugby club from New Zealand. It was a rough and tumble match, full of hard tackling and sweaty scrums. For four 20 minute quarters, each side tried to stomp the other into the pitch — anything to get the ball into the try zone.

It appeared to be anything but a gentleman's game, this Rugby battle, but when the game ended, the true international spirit of Rugby shone through.

"Pictures," the Americans said to the New Zealanders, miming photographers.

"No, pitchers," the New Zealanders replied, gesturing toward their mouths with imaginary beer mugs.

After the pictures, the two sides joined forces for a rowdy song and psuedo-dance number, which culminated with more than 30 men, fists down, chests out, knees together, buns up and tongues hanging out trying to chant "Shisaha, shishaba, sha sha sha."

As is customary, the match was followed by a raucous party, where beer and laughter flowed aplenty. All animosity was left behind on the pitch as the ruggers partied like only ruggers can.



Thursday Sports Feature



Clockwise from top right: New Zealand team members perform a pre-game cheer. Paul Paranihi grabs a drink of water during halftime. Rugby balls are shaped much like footballs but have no laces. Because there is only one referee in rugby, some illegal moves go unnoticed. A lineout initiates play after a dead ball has been called.

Photos by
David Creamer