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The Rich History of Rugby From Humble Beginnings to Global Phenomenon

Rugby, a sport known for its physicality, camaraderie, and strategic depth, has a storied history that spans over two centuries. Its journey from a schoolyard pastime to a global spectacle is a testament to its enduring appeal and the passion it inspires in players and fans alike.

Origins and Early Development

The origins of rugby can be traced back to early forms of football played in England. The most famous tale of rugby's inception dates to 1823 at Rugby School in Warwickshire, where a young student named William Webb Ellis is said to have picked up the ball during a football match and ran with it, thus creating a new form of the game. While this story is often debated, it symbolizes the innovative spirit that has driven rugby's evolution.

Codification and Expansion

Rugby began to take a more structured form in the mid-19th century. The first set of written rules, known as the "Laws of the Game," was established in 1845 by the students of Rugby School. The sport quickly spread to other schools and universities, leading to the formation of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in 1871. This period also saw the first international match, played between England and Scotland in 1871, marking the beginning of rugby as an international sport.

The Split and the Rise of Rugby League

In 1895, a significant schism occurred within the sport, leading to the creation of rugby league. The split was primarily driven by disagreements over player compensation, with clubs in Northern England advocating for professionalism. This led to the formation of the Northern Rugby Football Union, which later became the Rugby Football League. Rugby league developed its own set of rules and became a distinct code, particularly popular in England, Australia, and New Zealand.

Global Growth and the Modern Era

Rugby's global reach expanded significantly in the 20th century. The sport was introduced to countries across the British Empire, including South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia, where it quickly gained popularity. The establishment of the Rugby World Cup in 1987 marked a new era for the sport, providing a platform for the best teams from around the world to compete on the biggest stage. The tournament has since become one of the most prestigious events in the sporting calendar.

Rugby Today

Today, rugby is played by millions of people in over 100 countries. The sport continues to evolve, with recent changes aimed at improving player safety and enhancing the spectator experience. Rugby's inclusion in the Olympic Games in 2016, through the sevens format, has further boosted its profile and introduced the game to new audiences.



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Father,

I pray for my dear friend who is really battling to believe that You can answer their prayers.

Lord, You walked on the water,

You gave an old woman (nearly 100 years old) a baby, and You can answer this prayer today.

We ask it in Jesus' name,

Amen

DAILY DEVOTION

The Miracle Worker

I greet you in Jesus' precious name! It is Thursday morning, the 9th of January, 2025, and this is your friend, Angus Buchan, with a thought for today

We go straight to the Gospel of Mark 6:50:

"for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

That is what Jesus said when the disciples saw Him walking on the water in the middle of a terrible storm. He is The Miracle-Worker! Oh my dear friend, I have been on a boat in the middle of Lake Galilee and I want to tell you, it is extremely deep. It is the source of life for the country of Israel. Jesus wasn't walking across a little stream. He was walking across a lake that was in the middle of a terrible storm and the disciples were fearing for their very lives. They were experienced fishermen and they knew that they were in deep trouble. What did He say? The Master said, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." He stilled the aggressive storm and got into the boat with them. There is no living creature who has ever done this before. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. That is what the Bible says in Hebrews 13:8.

The same Lord asked an old woman who was well-passed having a baby, her name was Sarah, that's right, Abraham's wife, He told her she was going to have a son, and she laughed. She didn't believe it and then He asked her a question (Genesis 18:14):

"Is there anything too hard for the Lord?"

Well, the answer is that there is nothing too hard for Him, but why is it that you and I believe the Bible, we believe the written word of God, but sometimes we cannot believe that Jesus can answer our prayers.

He can heal that sickness, He can make those blind eyes open, He can open those deaf ears, He can heal that heart problem, He can find that job for you, He can make a place for you at university where they said there's no place, He can save hat marriage. I want to pray a prayer of faith for you today:

God bless you and have a wonderful day!



Source: Angus Buchan (Shalom Ministries)



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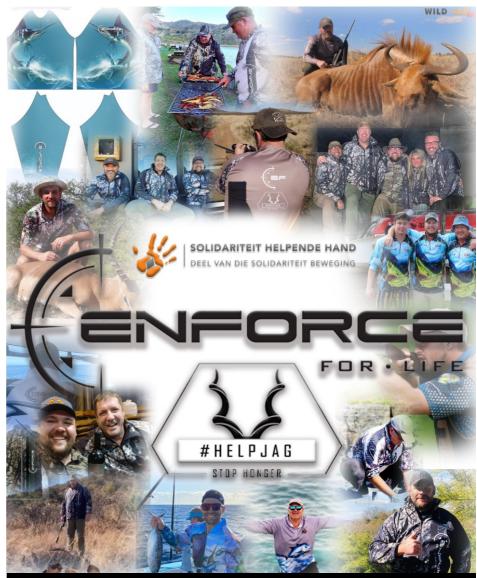


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