



RAISED FOR RUGBY

A SPORT NOT OFTEN FEATURED IN THE NEWS, DOUGLAS COUNTY'S COMBINED RUGBY TEAM IS HARD NOT TO NOTICE.

BY: ALEC SUTULA

Rugby can arguably be described as one of the most violent sports besides hockey or football. However, a very large difference between rugby and a sport like football -- football players have everything from shoulder pads to a girdle. Rugby players can sometimes only be equipped with a mouth guard and a scrum cap.

Rugby is predominantly played over in Europe and in the Southeastern Pacific. In the United States it is a sport that tends to get overlooked by many. Even in our Castle Pines and Highlands Ranch communities, we rarely see a sign advertising rugby, compared to flag football or soccer.

Although it can tend to be overlooked, a few high schools in the area combined to form a team -- Ranch Rugby.

Taylor Thomas '19 has been a part of the Ranch Rugby for the team since his freshman year and has learned multiple life lessons from the hardknock sport.

"One of the things is respect, I am not saying I did not have respect for people before; just while playing rugby, you are held to a high standard to respect your team, our opponents and the referees," Thomas said.

Fellow teammate Aron Bukary '19 chimed in on how rugby has taught him valuable life lessons as well.

"One of the best lessons rugby has taught me is to never underestimate your opponent, they can surprise you when you get complacent," he said.

Thomas recently sustained a crucial season ending injury of tearing his ACL in his knee, which caused him to miss the 2018 season.

"I am very excited to come back from injury, it's been a tedious and grueling recovery through lots of physical therapy and long rides on the exercise bike," Thomas said.

Having a few friends who play on the Rugby team, I get to see first hand the pain they are forced to go through. They

hit each other without pads on and are constantly running. But through all that Senior Alex Becerra doesn't let that stop him from enjoying the sport.

"Rugby is a very physical sport and you have to be both physically strong and mentally tough to handle the tough situations," Becerra '19 said

Recently some of the administrators at Rock Canyon and Chaparral have discussed forming a women's Rugby team between the two schools, and decided to add a women's team that is joint between Rock Canyon and Chaparral.

The rugby season is in the spring, so tryouts will be held around February.

"I fully support having a women's Rugby team," Bukary said. "I think it's great."

"I'm excited to join an all-girls rugby team, and for all of us on the team to bond and become one big family and push each other to be the best we can," future, womens rugby player Gabrielle Bukary '22 said.



CAPTIONS

1. Aron Bukary '19 prepares to run through a tackle, March 22.
2. Aron Bukary '19 runs down the field, March 18.
3. Aron Bukary '19 pushes the ball through the scrum, April 12
4. Aron Bukary '19 dives for the try, March 8.
5. Alex Beccera '19 recieves a pass, Feb. 18.
6. Alex beccera runs through a tackle, March 16.

All Photos courtesy of Aron Bukary