

PARKER'S RUGBY COACH

RUGBY, THE GENESIS FOR AMERICAN FOOTBALL | BY RICK GUSTAFSON

It may seem odd to play a winter sport outside in shorts, but rugby players have always been known to be hardy. With a combination of toughness and sportsmanship, it is no wonder that rugby is sometimes referred to as a “ruffian’s game played by gentleman.”

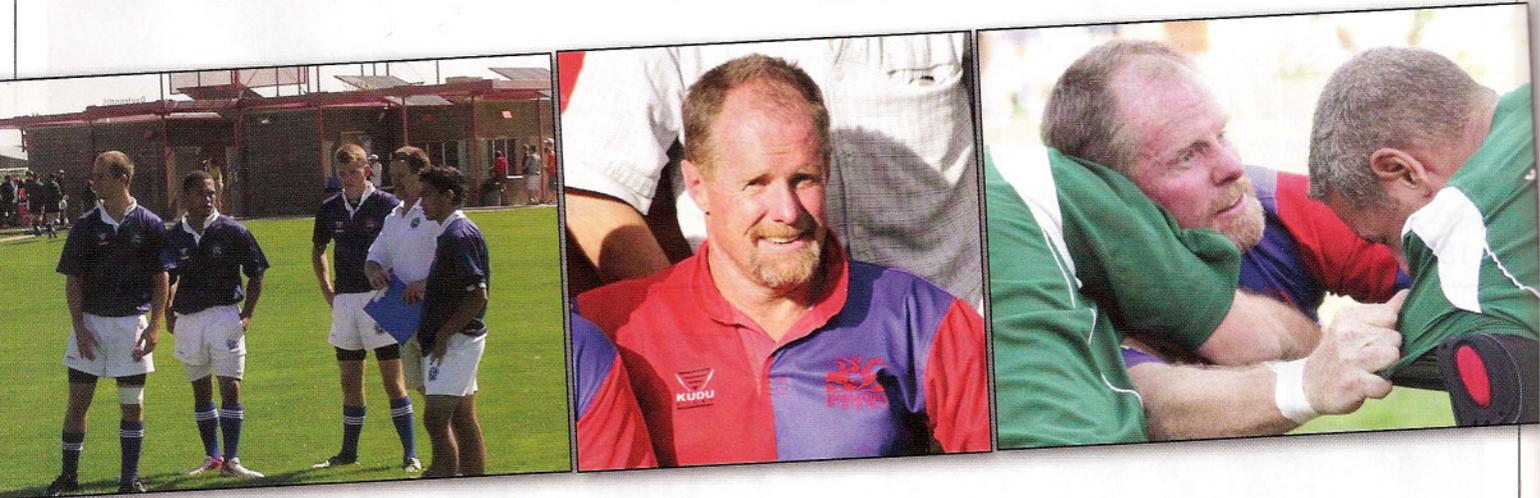
Rugby, the genesis for American football, is played all over the world, but Parker residents do not have to leave the town limits to enjoy the sport that is rapidly gaining popularity in the United

Rugby at Chaparral in 2000 and has been the Wolverines’ head coach ever since. When the girls’ and boys’ rugby seasons ran concurrently, he coached both teams at Chaparral while holding down a fulltime job and raising his three children with his wife, Angel.

In addition to coaching rugby at Chaparral, Coach Wolf is involved with the Eastern Rockies Rugby Football Union Under Twenty team (U-20) and has coached U-20 rugby

Wolf has never had a losing season at Chaparral and is proud of the Boys’ team record of 130 wins, 31 losses, and 1 tie. Although winning is important to Coach Wolf, he places his emphasis on inclusion, grades, and character.

He and his team demonstrated their qualities during the 2009 season when the Wolverines were slated to play Denver East in the first rugby match ever held at Dick’s Sporting Goods



States. A quick trip across town to Chaparral High School on a Wednesday evening or Saturday morning could lead to a love affair with the ultimate team sport.

When players and fans arrive at the pitch, the gentleman they will find on the touchline is Parker resident Greg Wolf. Twice voted Colorado Youth Rugby’s Coach of the Year, once in 2003 when the Wolverines won the State Championship and again in 2009, Coach Wolf is a volunteer who dedicates more than twenty hours per week to his players on and off the field. He founded

at the Rocky Mountain Challenge Tournament for five years, three as the head coach. Greg began his rugby career in 1977 at the University of Northern Colorado and following his college days played for the Littleton Rugby Club, the Frazier Valley Hooligans, and the Denver Harlequins where he also coached in 2004. A work related injury kept him from competing for a slot with the Eagles, the USA’s national team, and a French professional team. “I did have other chances and played my best rugby in the following years,” Wolf said, “but with a wife and two young kids, I chose to stay close to home.”

Park. The game, part of a Rugby Super League event, was postponed for one week due to a snowstorm. The delay created a scheduling conflict for East who had an exhibition game planned against the defending High School National Champions, Highland Rugby, who were touring Colorado that week. Wolf and his team graciously stepped aside to allow East and Highland to play the opening game of the tripleheader in the stadium. “Our boys are disappointed that we bowed out,” Coach Wolf said, “but this is better for the game.” ♦