

No pain—no gain

By Jeff Rancudo

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The JBU Rugby Club, amidst a "building" year, has lost two and tied one. Every player has incurred minor injuries, which is a given of this 164-year-old English sport. Despite inexperienced newcomers, "There is some veteran leadership and the new guys are catching on fast," said Matt Anderson, a third-semester player.

There are veterans like Darin Caruthers, Dave Loose, Todd Masters, Rich "Cheech" Ruiz, and Captain Jon Gibbon who can render aide to the green "scrummies."

Gibbon, in truth, often knows more about the rules than the referee, who is highly respected and is always afforded the respect of "sir."

The 18 to 22 on- and off-campus students began practice

about a month ago. "Since then," said Anderson, "we have been teaching the new people the fine points (e.g. line outs, the scrum, the penalty system, and knock-ons)."

"We have a lot of good attitudes," Anderson stated, "the talent is there and we're getting along well. We try to witness through the way we play."

Dan Tanner has been pleased with the sportsmanship of past teams, and expects the same now. "We try not to talk to or scream at the "ref" that much, even though things get pretty wild out there," Tanner said, echoing Anderson. "At one tournament last year, we lost every game but won the sportsmanship trophy."

Nonetheless, Tanner said the loss of many seniors last year created a team that is "building for next year."



Jeff Pace attempts to break free during a recent rugby practice. Photo by Phil Peterson.