OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

IWFFA.COM

Winter 2014 Issue:

ARD PA

2014 TEAM RANKINGS

2014 IWFFA SANCTIONED LEAGUES RESULTS

2014 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

2015 TOURNAMENTS

Blue Wave Women's Puerto Rico Flag Football League

Guatemala Women's Flag Football Tournament

IWFFA NORTH AMERICA SPORTSWOMAN 2013

KATE CLINTON - OUR HERO

To Use a Draft or Not

What To Do on the Field if you go Down

Why Professional Women's Sports are Less Popular then Men's

Women's Tackle Today Owes Thanks Kelly McGillis Classic



Table of Contents

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE IWFFA By: Diane Beruldsen p. 5-6

A League is Born: Blue Wave Puerto Rico Flag Football (Sanctioned IWFFA) League By: Roberto Bayron "Tito" p. 7-8

KATE CLINTON - OUR HERO - By: Diane Beruldsen p. 9

Why Professional Women's Sports are Less Popular then Men's - and is it fair? By Diane Beruldsen p. 20

Women's Tackle Today - Owes Thanks to Flag Football -Kelly McGillis Classic Flag Football - Gave Rise to Today's Women's Tackle - By: Lynn Lewis p. 12-13

To Use a Draft or Not - There is no Question By: Diane Beruldsen p. 15-17

1st IWFFA /Guatemala City, Guatemala Women's Flag Football Tournament - Hosted by Gladiadoras By: Melissa Lucero Escobar p.23-24

What To Do on the Flag Football Field if you go Down by: Dr. Doris Brown p. 19-20

2013 IWFFA / NORTH AMERICA SPORTSWOMAN - BRANDI ALDERSON p. 21

2014 IWFFA RESULTS & PHOTOS - p. 26-29 2014 INTERNATIONAL RANKING OF FEMALE TEAMS 2014 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS 2014 IWFFA SANCTIONED LEAGUES RESULTS & PHOTOS

2015 IWFFA TOURNAMENTS p. 14

Disclaimer

The acceptance of advertising in the Forward Pass does not constitute or imply endorsement by the IWFFA of any product or service. IWFFA accepts no responsibility for any claims made in any advertisement. IWFFA reserves the right to refuse to accept any advertisement. For advertising information, call (888) GO - IWFFA or (888) 464 - 9332 or (305) 293 - 9315.

FLAG FOOTBALL END ZONE

Letter to the editor p. 18 IWFFA Mission Statement p.3 Become a Sanctioned League p.3 Flag A Tag - lowest prices p.22 IWFFA Radio p.22 Become a Team Owner p.4 Facebook IWFFA p.18 Videos IWFFA p.33 Loose Women Wanted p.25 Coach Girls Flag Football p.33 Selfie Photos p,4 Women's Flag Football Documentary p.8

Ad Directory

We thank these businesses and individuals for supporting the production of this Forward Pass Magazine

24th Kelly McGillis Classic p. 10 Footballs - IWFFA - Buy - P. 22 Advance Trophy & Awards p. 25 Licenses Mental Health Counselor p. 29 Let's not cry p. 32 FHHS BASKETBALL p. 25 FHHS SOFTBALL p. 29 Game Breaker Helmets p.25 NYWAL p. 4 Danger Charters Key West p.32 **Want to see your business** advertised in our next Forward Pass Magazine? Email: IWFFA@IWFFA.COM

TRANDAW

ALASSO

IWFFA Mission Statement

The International Women's Flag Football Association (IWFFA) is an alliance of girls and women's flag football teams, leagues and individual players from around the world. An organization run by women.

Our mission is to provide an opportunity for all females regardless of race, nationality, age, economic status or sexual orientation to enjoy healthy competi-

tion, have fun, develop teamwork skills, learn fair play, good sportship, standardize rules of the game, create new teams and unify exiting teams and leagues to help organize the sport.

Our goal is to promote the educational process, assist our players through our tournaments, trainings and promotional tours to build self-esteem, confidence, enhance leadership skills to better compete in the business and political world to one day have peace and to professionalize the sport of flag football for women.

We are a central office and support for girls and women's flag football, rank teams internationally, offer discounts for equipment and offer education and trainings in regions of the world

where the sport does/does not exist. We also offer scholarship funds to underprivileged teams so that they may compete in IWFFA tournaments.

It's Time Your League Joined the IWFFA BECOME A SANCTIONED LEAGUE NOW! Tremendous Benefits / Contact our Office Today

iwffa@iwffa.com

BECOME A TEAM OWNER TODAY {

and Sponsor one of our National / International / Girls or Women's Teams

Own your "Own Team" and support female flag football around the world

Team name and shirts to blazon your company name and logo ! Sponsorship includes other benefits

This is your chance to support female flag football ! Email: IWFFA@IWFFA.COM

SEND US YOUR 'FLAG FOOTBALL SELFIE'

AND WE WILL INCLUDE IT IN OUR MONTHLY IWFFA FLAG FOOTBALL NEWS



Share Your Flag Football Experience With Us !



We'd love to hear your story

Email: IWFFA@IWFFA.COM



New York Women's



Letter From the President Diane Beruldsen - President / Founder IWFFA

Welcome to our world (literally).... of flag football !

It is the International Women's Flag Football Association (IWFFA), a unity of female flag football leagues, teams and players all over the world and we welcome anyone to join us. We are not just a sport organization, but a movement for the empowerment of females all over the world. It is not just the games that we play, but offer the opportunity for women to take leadership roles in their societies and also to "rule our own sport".

Through the years, we have experienced sanctioned: teams, leagues and tournaments to come and go. We have had groups approach us to support their flag football programs, and then when they are strong, or have benefited from our support, they let go of the IWFFA and go their own way. This behavior is experienced many times in sports. Mottos such as : "There is no ' I ' in ' TEAM', is repeated by coaches who want their team's to play 'as a team' emphasizing 'team work' vs. the individual who cares only for themself.

In today's flag football, we have three generations of athletes, born into a society, whose culture at the time of their birth, will influence their upbringing. "Times are a changing" and cultures change with time. For example, in 1961, when president of the United States John F. Kennedy stated "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." JFK's powerful message, set the tone for a generation of people, not only in the USA, but around the world to citizens who accepted the concept of: helping to support. That mentality transferred over to more than nationality. It influenced people's thoughts and actions for whatever they would do in their society's. There was truly a sense and importance for UNITY. But through the years, from generation to generation, that sense and importance of unity has worn out. And today we hear a new message: "what's in it for me?". This is the new mantra effecting and affecting female flag football. When I would tell players that there is no "I" in "TEAM", I am told there is "ME" in "TEAM". Let me make clear, it is the UNITY of female flag football, of those sanctioned teams, leagues and tournaments who will take the sport farther and to it's highest level. I ask you to be thoughtful and a leader for the cause.

In order for any league to be sanctioned by the IWFFA, each team must have a female captain, and the league must have a female representative. You will read in this issue about the newly formed Blue Wave Women's Flag Football League who demonstrate the essence of the IWFFA. I was in Puerto Rico and met with all their teams. When I asked players what team they played for, each one would say her league name rather than her individual team name. In other words, everyone was on the same team! While in Puerto Rico I saw the biggest huddle and felt the greatest warmth for their league. Congratulations





to the Blue Wave Flag Football League.

This Forward Pass issue is very interesting. Some stories are: thought provoking, informative, practical and interesting. They are stories, mostly from our own flag football players, as well as non-athletes. We brought back a story written years ago by tackle player Lynn Lewis, acknowledging the success of todays women's tackle to the flag football players of the Key West, Kelly McGillis Classic Flag Football tournament (flag football players were the seed for the women's tackle). Dr. Doris Brown explains to our players what to do if you go down during a game. From our last issue of FP, we received a: Letter to the 'editor of the IWFFA'. Thank you Martin Landin for taking the time to write to us and we now include this section in our PF.

The IWFFA has spread it's region for female flag football and entered Latin America (LFFF), which you read about in our last FP issue. To be an international organization is expensive and time consuming. Without certain individuals we could not have done it. Many thanks to our first year IWFFA - LFFF Director: Rebecca Suarez as well as Joel Otero, Lucille Ruiz and Dhara Adkins for traveling to this region. IWFFA held promotions both in El Salvador and Guatemala. This year was our 1st annual tournament in Guatemala hosted by the local team: the Gladiadoras. Melissa Lucero Escobar shares their experience which you can read in both English and Spanish. I would also like to introduce our new IWFFA-LFFF Director Ileana Sanchez Vazquez who now heads the region and has started to expand our promotions in those countries mentioned above as well as Honduras and Panama. We will do a feature story on Ms. Vazquez in our next Forward Pass Spring/Summer 2015 issue.

Also included in this issue is our name sake of our Provincetown, Massachusetts tournament: Kate Clinton. Kate shares stories of what it was like blazing the path for lesbians and female comedians. A political activist, humorist, hers is an interesting story. Read: Kate Clinton - Our Hero written by Diane Beruldsen.

You will find the 2014 International ranking of women's and girls teams, tournament championship teams high lighted, and sanctioned league results. For each tournament scores, statistics, lists of All Stars and Most Valuable Player awards, go to our website: IWFFA.COM.

Finally, let me thank the advertisers and supporters of the IWFFA. Whether you advertised in this issue, or were a sponsor for one of our IWFFA tournaments, we greatly appreciate your financial support, as well as to all our IWFFA members whose membership dues helps to take female flag football farther.

Enjoy this issue of the Forward Pass.

A League is Born: Blue Wave Puerto Rico Flag Football (Sanctioned IWFFA) League

By: Roberto Bayron "Tito"

During the spring of 2014, with the hopes of expanding the developing sport of women's flag football all across Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, long-time football coach and player, Carib Hernández, and a handful of female friends and flag football players got together to form a team, called Puerto Rico Blue Wave. Word began to spread about this team, and it wasn't long until dozens of players began attending and participating in practice. Having such a big turnout, it seemed like the next logical step to accomplish that original goal, to split the team up into four separate teams, and thus, the Puerto Rico Flag Football League was born.

League Draft

In order to evenly distribute talent across all four teams, the PRFFL celebrated its first-ever Draft. Coaches were named for each individual team, and draft order was selected at random. Each team had the opportunity to make one selection per round, until every available player was selected, leaving nobody out of the league. This proved to be the right decision, as it gave every player a chance to participate, keeping up with the spirit of the International Women's Flag Football Association.

Inaugurated and Sanctioned

The Puerto Rico Flag Football League was inaugurated on September 21, 2014, with two games in Cataño, Puerto Rico, sanctioned by both the IWFFA and the Department of Sports and Recreation of Puerto Rico. Being sanctioned by the IWFFA meant that the PRFFL agreed to conduct business according to IWFFA standards, rules and most importantly, the spirit of empowering women by providing a platform in which they can make this sport their own. For the players, it provided a feeling that this is an actual sanctioned sport, instead of just an ordinary organized activity. Every one of the four teams has two female captains,

(continues on page 8)





while Rebeca Bayrón currently serves as the IWFFA representative for Puerto Rico, and Ileana Vázquez is the representative for Latin America.

The league had its third-place and Championship games on November 9, 2014. At the end of the Championship Game, all four teams formed a giant huddle in the middle of the field to celebrate the culmination of a very successful first season, this first of many, we hope. Players and coaches alike took a moment to enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done. The PRFFL Awards Ceremony will be announced in the coming weeks.



May 26 2014, The Blue Wave Women's Flag Football League were part of the: 'Celebrity Flag Football' event to benefit the SER of Puerto Rico which is an institution that works with children who have muscular dystrophy. "We were lucky to be part of this great event". Many artists were invited including: Casper (Jennifer Lopez's boyfriend). NFL players: Super Bowl Winner - Brandon Brown - cornerback who now plays for the New England Patriots. Ashley Lelie - former Denver Broncos Wide Receiver and Kelly Washington - Cincinnati Bengals.

BEAPART OF IT! The IWFFA is creating a documentary film on the History of Women's Flag Football



Send us your League or Team history

- Name of League City, State, Country
- Year League was founded
- Who was the Founded of the League?

also send stories and any photos e-mail: iwffa@iwffa.com

Kate Clinton - Our Hero

By: Diane Beruldsen

She is a stand up comedian, with mike in hand, she tells stories, uses a lot of political material and just tells it like it is - through the eyes of a lesbian.



She was born Kathleen Clinton. She is our tournament name sake for the annual: Kate Clinton Classic, held every September in Ptown, MA. I spoke with her earlier this summer in August 2014.

Kathleen was brought up in an Irish Catholic family with two older brothers, then her, then a younger brother and sister. She is #3. She played ball growing up with her brothers and was always active in sports. Her mom was funny, but as a child, her first big inspiration for what developed into her sense of humor, was a best friends mother who Kate calls "Crazy Jane'. Her 'comedy mother' helped to bring out the humor

and performance in Kate. Other females who inspired her were: Carol Burnett, Lucille Ball, Lilly Tomlin and she would love to watch the comedians on the Ed Sullivan show.

How did you get on stage?

Well, she was an English teacher for 11th and 12th graders in High School. In the classroom she learned to be a "performer" entertaining a rough crowd. It was good practice for her and her students loved her. To this day, she may be approached by one of her students complimenting her on how fun it was to be in her classroom. The late 70's seemed to have been a big boom for comedy, and comedy clubs were opening up everywhere. She was very funny with her friends and kept repeating over and over to them, how she wished she could go up on stage to perform. Finally, one day one of her friends called to tell her, she arranged for Kate to do just that. She had one month to prepare and her public comedy debut was in March 1981. She can't remember her first performance so well, but next day she did get a nervous stomach and her friend said to her "you have to do it again!". She was good. Her first partner became her first manager and the two of them made a go of it. They had some money in the bank and promised each other that if their savings fell below a certain amount, they would then go back to teaching (her partner was a teacher as well). But that day never came, even though it was close.



Kate Clinton was always

an "out" comedian and that was what made her special. It was in those days when coming out could have destroyed a person's chance of having a successful career. She never looked back and only looked forward, never realizing the consequences of "being out". She became popular performing for women's groups and in 1985 at the apex of the AIDS crises, she had many fundraisers which she performed turning her audience into the male gender. Since then, she is well known and loved in the GLBT world. Her routine lasts 90 minutes and she never runs out of material. She takes command of her audience and never fears of hecklers. She has confidence, style and at 66 years old, is a well accomplished performer and hysterical.

When I personally called her 10 years ago to ask if she would loan her name to the IWFFA Provincetown tournament, she felt proud and was happy to support us women. She is all about supporting one another. Kate has made us some great videos just for our flag football which you can see on 'IWFFA' You Tube. This year, Kate attended the 9th annual Classic tournament. She threw the ball in at our opening ceremony, gave a speech, held the chains on the side lines for some games and greeted and talked with our players. Kate gave us a special performance the Saturday night at the Crown & Anchor and she continues to support our flag football women, the goals of the IWFFA and wishes us success in achieving our goals to empower women all over the world. Women supporting women.... and Kate Clinton has done just that. Thank you Kate, for all the years you have been with us and continue to support female flag football all over the world. You are our hero.

Next year marks our 10th anniversary, the third weekend in September. Come join us.

Kate's website includes funny videos for the topic of the day. You can find her performance schedule, books which she authored, CD's and DVD's at her website: KATE-CLINTON.COM You can also see her on You Tube by just searching her name.



We've got tourmaments for you throughout the year!



Women's Tackle Today - Owes Thanks to Flag Football

Our office was contacted earlier this year, by the parent of a 10 year old girl who wanted to do a school report on women's tackle. They asked if we had any information and I forwarded this story to the family. The story was written back in 2010 by Lynn Lewis: once flag football player / coach, then tackle: player, coach and coordinator. As the IWFFA is working on the documentary: 'History of Women's Flag Football', here is a piece of history for women's tackle football as it has grown and exists today. Enjoy the article

Kelly McGillis Classic Flag Football - Gave rise to today's women's tackle by Lynn Lewis

* Editors Note: January 15 - 19, 2015 - will be the 24th Kelly McGillis Classic International Women's & Girls Flag Football Championships & World Challenge sponsored by Moped Hospital - in Key West, Florida.

2011 was not the last Kelly McGillis Classic tournament as it continues.

When I heard that the *2011 Kelly McGillis tournament was going to be the last tournament held in Key West after 20 years, I immediately had many thoughts running through my head. This was going to be the end of an era. The end to many memories, both good, bad, happy and sad. A reminder of friends and teammates no longer with us, of a game that forged many friend ships and a time when many of us were younger and in the prime of our athletic lives. And make no mistake, had it not been for this tournament there would not be tackle football for women as it exists today. The people who formed the WPFL in 1999 and decided to have women's football games in cities where flag football was ever present and oh so popular got their ideas by traveling to Key West and watching first hand the talented female athletes who played the game of flag football.

It took me back twenty plus years to Brooklyn. New York where Diane Beruldsen gave the women a chance to play the sport only men were supposed to love. Memories of Fort Hamilton High School and a field of grass or so they said. The field was mostly dirt and very hard in November and December with a few patches of grass sprinkled within. A place that on Sundays dating back to 1985 transformed itself into a football field where 12 -14 women flag football teams gathered, comprised of the most talented athletes, to compete in the highly competitive game of flag football. This is where flag football started for me and when Diane decided to leave the cold North and head to Key West she brought flag football to the South and the Kelly McGillis tournament was born.

Thinking of Key West all those years ago brought back memories of the Sunday night championship game packed with fans and players from all over the United States and Europe, the bonding done over a drink or ten at Fat Tuesdays and the camaraderie among women who had the same passion for a sport known as flag football. And make no mistake, had it not been for this tournament there would not be tackle football

(continues on page 14

for women as it exists today. The people who formed the WPFL in 1999 and decided to have women's football games in cities where flag football was ever present and oh so popular got their ideas by traveling to Key West and watching first hand the talented female athletes who played the game of flag football. On offense women were running through holes created by their offensive line, catching balls thrown by gifted quarterbacks, blocking down field, protecting the guarterback. On defense they were putting pressure on opposing guarterbacks, making great plays while stopping the run and defending against the pass. 10 yard first downs, ineligible linemen, down field blocking were all the ingredients needed for women's tackle football. Tackle teams ten years ago were compromised of flag players. And since 1999, as a result of being so impressed by the talent in Key West, tackle football has flourished with over 100 teams throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

For a while the introduction of women's tackle stunted the growth of flag but there has been a recent resurgence in the popularity of flag, I believe, as a result of the players acknowledging that playing flag football teaches you the fundamentals of tackle football and hones tackle skills. Flag football can be played year round, gives teammates timing, unity, and the sense of team. Flag football is a fast, exciting sport dominated by truly gifted athletes. It is very popular in Canada, Europe and Japan as well as in the United States. For players that played in the Kelly McGillis Classic playing one tournament a year wasn't enough. The yearning for additional competition was satisfied by the creation of tournaments in places such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Ohio, New York, Orlando, Tackle teams ten years ago were compromised of flag players. And since 1999, as a result of being so impressed by the talent in Key West, tackle football has flourished with over 100 teams throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale and Las Vegas as well as Canada, Norway, Denmark and Sweden. So here we are thinking back 20 years to the first Key West tournament . All across this country, Canada and Europe the vast majority of players participating in tackle, whether now as a player or coach, had their first introduction to tackle via flag football. The pioneers of women's tackle football in America, started, introduced and taught flag football to the women. Today's woman's football player should recognize the efforts of the past 25 years and the impact the Kelly McGillis classic has had on women's football to date. Happy 20th birthday to the Kelly McGillis classic and thank you. It is the end of a memorable era and a start of a new one. I hope this new era brings to all the wonderful experiences, friendships and lifelong memories these past 20 years brought to me. After all isn't that what it is really about?

Lynn Lewis

Ex Player, founder, head coach TNT flag Football Ex Head Coach of Sharks Tackle Team Current Defensive Coordinator Sharks Tackle Team

Today's woman's football player should recognize the efforts of the past 25 years and the impact the Kelly McGillis classic has had on women's football to date.

IWFFA Circuit of Tournaments 2015

Kelly McGillis Classic International Female Flag Football Championship&World Challenge, Key West, FL.24thJanuary 12-19, 2015(Full Week of Events: January 12 - 19)

Tegucigalpa, Honduras	1st	March 28 - 29
Grimstad, Norway (friendship games)	1st	April 18
Puerto Rico -Hosted by Puerto Rico Flag Football League Federation	1st	May 23-24
Oslo, Norway	14th	June 20 - 21
Philadelphia, PA	1st	August 8 - 9
Gothenburg, Sweden	15th	August 29 - 30
Kate Clinton Classic, Ptown, MA	10TH	September 18 - 20

Guatemala



2nd

October 31 - November 1

To use a draft or not use a draft... there is no question

By: Diane Beruldsen

I was there! At the play-off and championship games in Puerto Rico, November 9, 2014.

What excitement! There were lots of families. Parents sitting in beach chairs, children of the player's (some running around, some in baby carriages), husbands, girlfriends, old men, people from the neighborhood.... fans. All of them to watch the women play flag football. It was a packed crowd.

The Blue Wave Puerto Rico Women's Flag Football League teams are brand new with players playing flag football for the first time (except for five). It's the league's first season. There were four teams: Sharks, Hurricanes, Thunder and Lightning looking real sharp in their uniform shirts and pants. The level of play was good. The games were clean. The officials were proficient, teams had several coaches, the league has a media person and a professional photographer. It's hard to believe that this was a first year league.

I'd like to go back to year 1985, in Brooklyn, New York. That was the first year for the Brooklyn Women's Flag Football League, which I founded and played in. We started with 6 teams, most of whom were softball players playing too for the first time (with the exception of street football). Some teams wore football jerseys, some tee shirts. Everyone had on different color pants or shorts. Even though we had a uniform, we did not look like we were in a uniform. We had one referee: Bill Brown and paid him \$10 a game. Me and my friends: Niki and



Ron Mercer would line the field early Sunday morning, sometimes in time for the first game... sometimes not.

When we lined the field it was bare handed, laying down lime. One Sunday we ran out of lime and had to run to the candy store (stores were not open early Sunday) to buy the best thing we could find.... it was sugar. And that Sunday, our sidelines were lined - again by hand - with sugar. We finally got a lining machine.

Through the years, teams got more serious. Some teams got female coaches who didn't play (many teams began with player-coaches), or male coaches (there is a benefit to having someone on the side-lines coaching and not playing - they can focus on just coaching). We didn't really understand the rules, but if we got a penalty, we knew we did something wrong. And over the years, the teams started getting better. It was after the third year, one of the teams decided to scoop up all the really good players from the league and created a "killer team". Playing was no longer fun. This team not only won every game, but they hurt us. They hit hard and made lot's of black and blues. No other team could compete with them. Soon teams were dropping out of the league because they no longer had fun. In fact, because they were getting too beat up. A few more years of this and the league folded.

Back to the future, or rather November 9, 2015. The first two teams play the early game for 3rd place. When they do the pre-game coin toss, they don't shake hands nor wish the other a good game. Instead, they kiss each other on the cheek, then give a hug and then depart to their sidelines. This definitely set a tone as teams prepared to begin their competition. This game ends, the two teams take a group photo and the championship game begins.

At the end of the championship game, lot's of cheering, more photos, a group shot with all the teams, a group huddles, arm in arm, so huge it is about 25 yards wide. One of the league founders, gives a pep speech to all the teams. The cheering is wild. Players turn to find their fans. Everyone is in some kind of embrace either with their team mates or their opponents. I myself am welcomed as I am in the middle of such exuberance. I see some women sitting but I can't see their team logo on their shirts. I ask what team they play for. The first one says "Blue Wave". The second says "Blue Wave" and the third says "Blue Wave" (they wear different team shirts). Humph.... interesting. They identify themselves not as the team they played for, but the league they all play for.

I ask one player what her record was and she tells me her team lost every game. I ask if it mattered, if winning is so important. She said "No". "It would have been nice to win, but really I enjoyed my team and playing with them was fun. My team became my family". We talked some more and she explained to me about the league's DRAFT SYSTEM. How her "family" came together. All the women and coaches were invited to join the league as individuals, who then trained together for two months. The league then did a DRAFT just like the NFL's draft. It was a night when every player would be picked up by a coach and join their team. "It was exciting" she said and I could feel her excitement looking in her eyes. Her twin sister was picked guite early that night, and she herself felt some apprehension thereafter until she herself was picked. And when she heard her name called, everyone was cheering (as they all cheered for one another). It was so exciting! She got up, walked up to the stage to receive her team shirt, then joined her new team who became her flag football family by practicing,



playing and competing together.

It sounded almost like a love story to me. So good to be true. But there I was listening to her, and felt her happiness. The downside to the draft she said was that next year all the players would once again go into a pool, and then be picked to form new teams. The number one team would not be allowed to continue their reign in the league as they would be broken apart which meant that 2015 season may very well see a new championship team who would certainly form from a new combination of players. The upside to the draft, she realized, is that new friends and new bonds will be made as her soon to be "old team" from this year would continue to be "her family". So, it would be O.K.

Benefits of using a Draft in your league

The old way, to start a league, was to have groups sign up as already made teams. Today lots of youth flag football leagues use a DRAFT system. There are many ways a league can incorporate a draft process into their league. Using a draft system prevents any one team

from "stacking" their roster and allows the league to distribute more evenly the different skill levels of their players making the teams more balanced thus, creating healthier and more competitive games. Another benefit, to use a draft, is that individuals can more easily join. Sometimes when a new player joins an existing team, she has to wait till the veteran

player retires in order to take that position. Seniority can often decide who plays what position.

It's Worth It

It takes lot's of time, care, commitment and organization to incorporate a draft system into your league. It takes a willingness from individual players to let go of their veteran team, a willingness of strong teams to let go of their success and risk starting all over again. It requires a willingness to try something different and to get out of the "old way of thinking" which may be the biggest deterrent to use a draft.

I believe it is more important to develop a healthy league. League should come "first" before a "team". Just as "team" should come first before an individual player. (there ain't no "I" in T-E-A-M). I say this because in the American culture, with it's huge influence in the world, winning is over emphasized. Here's an example: One year we made a rule change that numbers needed to be printed only on the back of the shirt. I made the change on pg 3, but forgot to make the change on pg 7. There was a team in tournament play who lost their game. When the game was over, they protested the win because the opposing team did not have numbers on front and back of their shirts. The loosing team would try to play the game again. on a technicality, rather than the spirit of the sport. Allowing this sport mentality to continue, will ruin the sport. Embracing, and supporting one another will make the league grow.

I've seen too many leagues come and go. I'm sorry the Brooklyn Women's Flag Football League didn't use a DRAFT system and I'm happy for the Blue Wave Puerto Rico Flag Football League. Whether you're a: Thunder, Lightning, Shark or Hurricane.... you are for sure a Blue Wave.



Editors Note: We received this letter following our Forward Pass Spring/Summer 2014 issue The first of it's kind.

Letter to the IWFFA Editor

I have been officiating tackle and flag football for the past 35 years in the northeast and Florida. My experience with the IWFFA started in January of 2014 when I officiated at the 23rd annual Kelly McGillis Classic in Key West. It was a terrific experience for me being the first time officiating women's flag football. My prior experience with high school flag football provided me with expectations and I was quite impressed with the sportsmanship and athletic prowess of the ladies.

My exposure to the international aspect of the event included officiating teams from the United States and Puerto Rico, which was exhilarating. The coaches and teams were of top quality and it was apparent that their knowledge of the sport from a strategic and tactical viewpoint was excellent. The skillset of the individual participants displayed during the international all-star game was quite impressive. The IWFFA is the only international organization offering the opportunity for both women and girls to participate in a contact sport requiring high levels of athleticism.

The IWFFA, expends a great deal of energy in promoting the sport on an international level from the U.S., Canada, Scandinavia, Puerto Rico and Latin America. In addition, this organization works feverishly with many of the schools and local communities. This gives young ladies and girls the opportunity to participate in the local and international level, thereby providing a backdrop for their future growth and interest in the sport of flag football. I am very impressed with the organization and I look forward to a continuing a mutual advantageous relationship with the IWFFA in its efforts to continue to promote this vigorous sport on an internal level.

- Martin Landin Boynton Beach, FL

Anyone wishing to send the IWFFA a "Letter to the Editor" on any issue regarding the organization may do so by submitting email to our office no later than May 1, 2015 (for Spring/Summer issue), or November 1, 2015 (for Fall/Winter issue). Include your name, city. Approximately 300 words or less.



What to do on the flag football field if you go down By Dr. Doris Brown

In Spring/Summer 2014 Forward Pass issue, article written by: Janice Ober 'Is tackle football going down the drain' Ms. Ober discusses severe cases of concussions leading to chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). Aftermath effects of severe or numerous concussions are described, but we are flag football players! What are the chances that flag football players should experience these type of concussions? Even though flag football is not as violent as other sports, we can experience an accident during the flag football game when, as an athlete, we're not sure what damage might have taken place and what exactly one should do at that moment. Read on.

Game Scenario: As a receiver, your running fast and hard for the long pass until you collide with the defender, who is also going for the ball. "CRASH". You both go down. Here's what to do.

Check out these signs (obvious):

- Did you pass out
- Did you vomit
- Where were you hit upon the collision in the head or neck

Do you feel:

- Nauseous
- Pain in your head
- Faint
- Your vision is blurry
- Wobbly when you stand up

How are your thoughts - Can you answer questions correctly

• "How many fingers do you see"? (most popular exam question)

• Do you remember what happened before the collision

If you answered 'YES' to any of the above, it's best to take yourself out of the game.

Do it! Forget about the team at this moment...



they will play their best just for you (and maybe buy you a beer back at the bar :) Walk off the field and take it easy. Drink lot's of water, walk around to feel if your feeling stronger. Circulate the blood. It may be that your feeling great and your ready to go at

it - but feel yourself and don't think about the game or the score or that your team "needs you". Be 100% sure, cause there will be lot's of IWFFA flag football tournaments to compete in, and you can always play any time and anywhere. So be smart and honest gauging yourself because signs for concussion are not so obvious at times.

With rest, most people fully recover from a concussion. Some people recover within a few hours. Other people take a few weeks to recover. Symptoms of a concussion range from mild to severe and can last for hours, days, weeks, or even months. If you notice any symptoms of a concussion, contact your doctor.

(continues on page 20)



What exactly is a concussion you ask?

A concussion occurs when the brain is injured. Concussion usually occur when someone receives a blow to the head and neck area. Also a concussion can occur when someone is violently shaken. The brain has a consistency of gelation. A violent blow to your head or neck can cause the brain to slide from it original position. This motion forces the brain to rub against the skull causing pain and discomfort.

The Brain has some major parts; and these parts help us to function on a daily basis. The PARIETAL LOBE. is involved processing pain, touch, and sensation. It is associated with the cognition, movement, orientation, recognition and speech. The TEMPORAL LOBE, is involved in the auditory (sound) and is where the primary auditory of language, speech, memory, and emotions are located. The OCCIPITAL LOBE, controls, visual, sensation the BROCA'S and CORTEX controls, our facial nerves. All of these functions enable the brain to process our actions. When a person experiences a concussion while playing any sport - all of the functions are effected and your whole body and well being needs to be cared for.

Play a good, healthy and safe flag football game!

Most Gracious,

DR. DORIS J.W.BROWN, PhD AMBASSADOR,USA

International Published Author Books, Dining At Home, and the Brown's System Teaches Etiquette and Social Behavior Honored in 12 Historical Books

2015 Listed in Who's Who in the World

Why professional women's sport is less popular than men's...and is it fair?

Researching this topic: 'Why professional women's sport is less popular than men's' I found lot's of the same ole, same ol: Men are far superior in athletic performance compared to women. Fans want to see the "best of the best" athletes in any sport. Sponsors are making an investment and want to sell their products, so they would rather pour their sponsorship dollars into male sporting events rather than female sporting events. Money affords quality coaching, allows athletes to train full time, which produces elite male athletes and which excludes female athletes.

What do you think? Send us your comments to: IWFFA@IWFFA.COM



North American Sportswoman Brandi Alderson

by Diane Beruldsen, President of the IWFFA



Brandi currently lives and works in Arizona as a Chemical Engineer, but grew up in Florida. She was always interested in playing football as a kid, but didn't have the opportunity to play until college where she started playing 7 on 7 non-contact flag football in 2004 with their first year Blue Wave Intramural team at the Florida Institute of Technology.

College Flag Football

In the fall of 2005, Brandi became captain of the Blue Wave team . She took the flag football team from a club to an intramural sports organization which then added: volleyball, softball, water polo, basketball, dodge ball and soccer. Her Blue Wave team were the intramural league championships for years: 2005, 2006 and 2007. Brandi was the second person to have her jersey number "retired", playing in 10 tournaments in Blue Wave FFC. She was also the first person to get "letterman jacket" for playing 20 tournaments for Blue Wave FFC. IWFFA Flag Football

After her first flag football season, her Blue Wave team craved more football. "Luckily, we found the IWFFA and Kelly McGillis Classic. Now I try to attend as many tournaments as possible

IWFFA Tournaments Brandi has played in

Tournament	Team
Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2005	Blue Wave
Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2006	Blue Wave
Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2008	Blue Wave A
Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2009	Blue Wave
Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2010	Blue Wave Competitive
Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2011	Blue Wave Competitive
Kate Clinton Classic Ptown 2011	Salty's Loose Women's Team

Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2012	Blue Wave ACT
Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2013	Blue Wave
Kate Clinton Classic Ptown 2013	Salty's Loose Women
Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2014	Blue Wave
Kate Clinton Classic Ptown 2014	Shawn Nightingale Productions Loose Women's Team

Awards Won

Туре	Position	Team	Tournament	
All Star	Primary Defense	Salty's Loose Women's Team	Kate Clinton Classic Ptown 2011	
All Star	Primary Defense	Blue Wave	Kelly McGillis Classic Key West 2013	
All Star	Offensive Line	Salty's Loose Women	Kate Clinton Classic Ptown 2013	
All Star	Secondary Defense	Salty's Loose Women	Kate Clinton Classic Ptown 2011	

such as the Kate Clinton Classic in Ptown, sometimes playing as a loose woman. Although I have played 7 on 7 non-contact and even a season of tackle football, I fell in love with the 8 on 8 contact format and the IWFFA". Brandi has played every position in the last ten years. Her Blue Wave



team won the championships at the Kelly McGillis Classic for years: 2005, 2009, 2011 and 2012.

"Through the IWFFA I have met so many amazing women from around the world and have made countless friendships that will last



a lifetime. Both on the field and off I have enjoyed the passion of the players and camaraderie of friends".

Today, Brandi's younger flag football teammates turn to her as their role model and "mom" trusting in her for advice and guidance.

She is dedicated, caring, an elite athlete who exemplifies great athleticism and is the:

IWFFA - Sportswoman of year 2013 for the North American region.



TUJ FOOTBALLS

All Leather – Premium Grade IWFFA Logo Printed on Ball \$35 US

(plus shipping & handling)







Ist IWFFA /Guatemala City, GuatemalaWomen's Flag Football Tournament Hosted by Gladiadoras

By: Melissa Lucero Escobar

The tournament was held in Guatemala City on the 22nd and 23rd of August this year, the first annual tournament at the Central level IWFFA (international womens flag football association) conducted in Guatemala.

Event in which the hosts were female flag football team of the University Of San Carlos Of Guatemala "Gladiators", supported by representative members of the IWFFA, Puerto Rican team players "Isleñas".

At lathe attended Central teams as "Guerreras", "Lobas" and "Panteras" representatives of Honduras and El Salvador also equipment such as "north Cuscatlecas" and "Central Cuscatlecas". The first day of the event was held at the premises of the Campo Marte sports center in the city.





Was recorded for each player and then start the games which were coordinated by representatives IWFFA. Opening the home team confrontations "Gladiadoras" against "Panteras" followed by clashes



between Salvador and Honduras the other teams. Overnight athletes lived with members of different teams to participate in an activity conducted host.

The second day of the event was held at the premises of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, Gladiators house training, carrying out the end of the meetings between the finalists. Since winning "Panthers" of Honduras.

After the activity was held the presentation of awards and award by representatives of IWFFA. Tournament in addition to being a healthy competition, led to each player could have the opportunity to interact with other members of each team, coaches and representatives who participated in the event.





1er. IWFFA/ Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala Torneo Femenino de Flag Football Auspiciado por Gladiadoras

El torneo se llevado a cabo en la ciudad de Guatemala durante los días 22 y 23 del mes de agosto del presente año, siendo el primer torneo anual a nivel centroamericano de la IWFFA (international womens flag football association) realizado en dicho país.

Evento en el cual las anfitrionas fueron el equipo femenino de football flag de la universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala "Gladiadoras", con el apoyo de miembros representativos de la IWFFA, jugadoras del equipo Puerto Riqueño "Isleñas"

Al tornea asistieron equipos centroamericanos como "Guerreras", "Lobas" y "Panteras" representantes de Honduras así como también equipos Salvadoreños como lo son "Cuscatlecas norte" y "Cuscatlecas Central".

El primer día del evento se llevó a cabo en las instalaciones del centro deportivo Campo de Marte ubicado en dicha ciudad. Se registró a cada jugadora para luego comenzar los partidos los cuales fueron coordinados por representantes de la IWFFA. Abriendo los enfrentamientos el equipo anfitrión "Gladiadoras" contra "Panteras" seguidos por los enfrentamientos entre Salvador y los demás equipos de Honduras. Durante la noche las atletas convivieron con integrantes de los diferentes equipos a participar en una actividad que llevaron a cabo las anfitrionas.

El segundo día del evento se fue realizado



en las instalaciones de la Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala, casa de entrenamiento de Gladiadoras, llevándose a cabo la final de los encuentros entre los equipos finalistas. Siendo las ganadoras "Panteras" de Honduras.

Al finalizar la actividad fue realizada la entrega de reconocimientos y premiación por parte de representantes de IWFFA. Torneo que además de ser una sana competencia, dio lugar para que cada jugadora pudiera tener la oportunidad de convivir con las demás integrantes de cada equipo, entrenadores y representantes que participaron en dicho evento.









All NET for IWFFA! We're Cheering you on! Love, Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn New York

JV BASKETBALL TEAM SUPPORTS THE IWFFA

WANTED LOOSE WOMEN For all our tournaments we offer Loose Woman's Team **Individul Players** Sign Up Today For Any of Our Tournaments OTBALL

Email: iwffa@iwffa.com Web: iwffa.com

Advance Trophy& Awards, Inc.

Free Engraving for your IWFFA Championship Team Plaques!

Phone: (314) 890-9905 Email: advancetrophy@att.net

10% Discount to all IWFFA Teams and Leagues

INTERNATIONAL RANKING OF WOMENS FLAG FOOTBALL TEAMS

Rank			Point Differential (If Tie)	COUNTRY	
1.	Sommers Point Breakfast Shop	16	64	USA	
2.	SHARKS BLUE WAVE	16	53	PUERTO RICO / USA	
3.	Honduras Panteras	12	49	HONDURAS	
4.	Wisconsin Spitfires	12	43	USA	
5.	Gothenburg Angels	12	32	SWEDEN	
6.	Blue Wave (USA)	12	2	USA	
7.	Colorado Mile High	9	63	USA	
8.	LIGHTNING BLUE WAVE	9	22	PUERTO RICO / USA	
9.	HURRICANE BLUE WAVE	9	- 9	PUERTO RICO / USA	
10.	RI Hurricanes	8		USA	
11.	Puerto Rico Islenas	7	60	PUERTO RICO / USA	
12.	Loose Lobas (Honduras)	7	15	HONDURAS	
13.	CA. Foot Loose - Loose Women	7		USA	
14.	Oslo Tigers	5	23	NORWAY	
15.	Chicago Diesel Daisies	5	- 2	USA	
16.	Tuff E Nuff	5		USA	
17.	NJWFF Fire	4		USA	
18.	Tampa Brew Crew	3	- 3	USA	
19.	Honduras Guerreras	3	- 8	HONDURAS	
20.	El Salvador Cuscatlecas Central	3	- 11	EL SALVADOR	
21.	Norristown Eagles	3	- 17	USA	
22.	Scandinavian Mix	3	- 24	NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK	
23.	Show Me Your TD's	2		USA	
24.	El Salvador Cuscatlecas Norte	1	- 24	EL SALVADOR	
25.	Nordic Loose Women	1	- 31	NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK	
26.	Guatemala Gladiadoras	1	- 44	GUATEMALA	
27.	Fairvilla Loose Women	1	- 60	USA	
28.	Shawn Nightingale Loose Women	1	- 65	USA	
29.	THUNDER BLUE WAVE	1	- 79	PUERTO RICO / USA	
30.	Key West Bandits	1	- 113	USA	
31.	Lady Gators	1		USA	



Rank	Team	IWFFA Ranking Points	Point Differential (If Tie)	COUNTRY	
1.	GNO COUGARS	14		USA	
2.	FURY/CUBAN COFFEE QUEEN	9		USA	
3.	GNO CUBS	6		USA	
4.	PRIBRAMSKY & CO.	4	- 2	USA	
5.	SOUTHERNMOST CHALLENGE	4	- 16	USA	
6.	BLUE HEAVEN	3		USA	
7.	WHEATONS KEY LARGO	1	- 14	USA	
8.	KEY WEST SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB	1	- 17	USA	
	OF THE CONCH REPUBLIC				



2014 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS



23RD KELLY MCGILLIS CLASSIC INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S & GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP & WORLD CHALLENGE GAME

> JAN. 20-27, 2014

GNO COUGARS -GIRLS DIVISION





Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn New York

TIGERS SOFTBALL TEAM GIRLS JR. VARSITY

Supports the IWFFA See you at the next Tournament !





23RD KELLY MCGILLIS CLASSIC INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S & GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP & WORLD CHALLENGE GAME

WORLD CHALLENGE VII

JANUARY 26, 2014

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM - USA

2ND ANNUAL NOREEN HALCON MEMORIAL , SALINAS, CA

JULY 26, 2014

FOOTLOOSE -LOOSE WOMEN







9TH KATE CLINTON CLASSIC, PROVINCETOWN, MA USA

SEPT. 19-21

SOMMER BREAKFAST SHOP





Sail with us and enjoy a Key West Sunset with Eight Different Wines from around the World, Beer, and Hors d'oeuvres

\$75 per person

Limited Space Available: 305-304-7999

"Lets not cry because it's over..... let's smile because it happened"

> - Theodor Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss)





IWFFA Videos!

See action packed girls and women's flag football from our NFL Films footage, Ellen Dance footage

(special thanks: Mary Angelini, Erin Lagarenne, Justin Ortega)

Lifetime coverage of women's flag football and more Go To YouTube & search: IWFFA are you a current member of the IWFFA?

Are you a current member of the IWFFA?



Even if your team is taking a break this season.... Your membership truly helps to support the organization And allows us to support the sport all over the world. Please keep your IWFFA membership current! http://iwffa.com/membership.html

Are you coaching...



a girls flag football team?

IWFFA SANCTIONED LEAGUES

PUERTO RICO Final LEAGUE STATISTICS 2014 SEASON

Rank	Team	W	L	Т	Offensive pts	Defensive pts	Point differential	League Points 3pts for each win 1 pt for each tie 0 pt for loss	IWFFA RANKING POINTS 3 - CHAMP TEAM 2 PTS EACH WIN 1 - PARTICIPATION
1	Sharks	6	1	0	77	24	53	15	3 + 12+ 1 = 16
2	Lighting	4	2	0	78	56	22	12	8 + 1 = 9
3	Hurricanes	4	3	0	67	63	- 9	9	8 + 1 = 9
4	Thunder	0	6	0	24	103	- 79	0	1



SHARKS - 1ST PLACE



LIGHTNING - 2ND PLACE



THUNDER - 4TH PLACE

