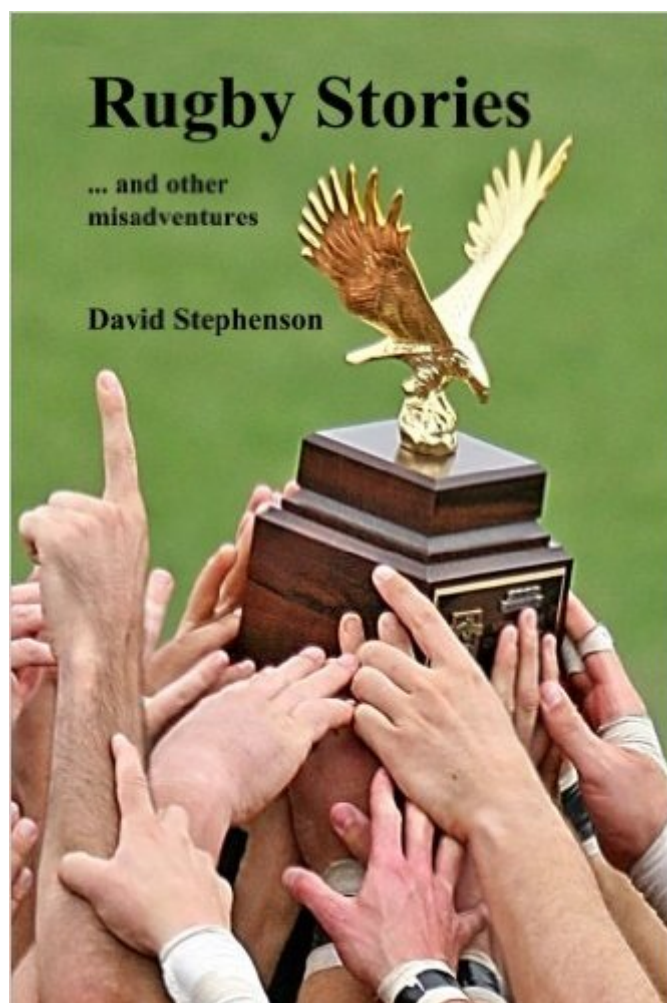


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# Rugby Stories: ... And Other Misadventures



## Synopsis

Rugby Stories...and other misadventures was incredibly enjoyable. I'm a bit of a history buff and the one area of American rugby history I always wanted to know more about was the period in the 1960s and 70s, when the Eagles were just formulating. The generation of players that came of age during that period is only getting old and some of the stories from that time are getting lost. The greatest triumph of "Rugby Stories" is that it preserves that part of history for future generations. Written by former Eagle, UCLA, and Santa Monica player Dave Stephenson, "Rugby Stories" offers a unique take on a crucial period in U.S. rugby history. Stephenson's writing style is like his play on the field, solid with a touch of bravado. He tells the story of his emergence as a school player in England, to immigrant in Los Angeles where he finds rugby once again. Stephenson has an interesting life that in and of itself is well worth a story and when you throw in rugby, it makes a great combination. The inside knowledge Stephenson provides of the early Eagles is invaluable. It was a different time back then, and while things didn't always run smoothly, the passion that all of those involved had was impressive. If there is one disappointment, it's that Stephenson isn't around for years and years with the team, but that's something you'll have to read about in the book. It's more than just the early history of the Eagles that makes "Rugby Stories" valuable for the American rugby fans, it's the early history of UCLA and Santa Monica as well. Stephenson was part of Dennis Storer's legendary Bruins squads that challenged for the World Cup with Cal and UBC, as well as in the Monterey Tournament, the unofficial national championship at the time. He was also a founding member of Santa Monica Rugby Club. This is a crucial part of American rugby history and that should make "Rugby Stories" a crucial part of your rugby book collection. I can't recommend this book highly enough. I learned so much about American rugby history that I couldn't find anywhere else. [ThisisAmericanrugby.com](http://ThisisAmericanrugby.com) Check out more than a decade of national rugby photos at [www.numinaphoto.com/collections](http://www.numinaphoto.com/collections).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

US Rugby Legend Dave Stephenson has just published his memoir, *Rugby Stories and other misadventures*. It is for sale online at [...] and I recommend the read because so much of it is focused on Santa Monica's early days which coincided with the resurgence of the Eagles, a team that he and many of the Santa Monica originals populated. I read it in two sittings, only 149 pages. Dave has an easy style that makes it feel like somebody is telling you their life story while you sit by a fire. The story begins in England, where Dave is from, and we follow his early introduction to rugby at Dulwich College where he was a scholarship student. Dave's natural speed, creativity, and ball playing ability made him stand out. Dave's dad then uprooted the family when Dave was a teenager and brought them to Inglewood, California in the early 60's. The description of LA at that time is worth the read from a historical perspective. In between there was another family move to Darwin, Australia as his dad was ready to try his luck wherever he could secure work, and then back in LA when things didn't pan out. It wasn't easy on the family or Dave. When it was time for college Dave was accepted into Georgetown, but he wasn't able to go for financial reasons and he stayed at home and commuted to UCLA. And that is where it all came together with a band of current UCLA football players (at that time football players were encouraged to play rugby to stay in shape) and others, several expats who already knew the game, including Bobby Thrussell and future SMRC Legendary coach, Ron Nisbet, and many of the other SMRC Originals you can see at the SMRC Hall of Fame site [...]

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