

MARFU Senior Women All-Star Program 2012

Looking to build on the successes of the 2011 season, the MARFU Senior Women's All-Star team held trial camps on April 15th in Baltimore and on a wet and cold April 22 at Colton Manor Park (outside DC). The MARFU coaching staff headed by Bob Weir tested the athletes on their fitness, pass/catch and tackle contest skills. Of the 17 MARFU registered women's clubs, 8 different teams were represented during the trials. This number included the one WPL team, all the DI teams and 4 of the DII teams

For the 2012 season the coaching staff entered the side into the Washington Fury's RUGGERFEST over the weekend of 4/28-29. MARFU Senior Women went 2 -2 for the tournament, finishing second to the Twin City Amazons, the current #2 WPL ranked team in the country. This was a great opportunity for other MARFU teams / players to see the All-Stars play and set their sights on the next goal of their playing careers.

The next few weeks MARFU continued their preparations with a final camp on May 6 at the UMBC Campus of the University of Maryland and a match in Wilmington, DE on May 12 for a "friendly" with the NRU, where MARFU was the distant second in the competition and lost 5-47.

Next on the calendar was the NASC's in Pittsburgh, PA. The team arrived on Thursday May 24th and held a training session at Founders Field. The following day, MARFU met and defeated a determined opponent and the reigning 4-time National Champ, NRU with a score of 14-10. With the temperatures hovering in the high 80's /low 90's it was a grueling environment and the MARFU players showed poise, skill, fitness and heart in beating a team that had dominated them just two weeks prior.

Sunday May 27th brought more brutal weather and a big, strong, well prepared opponent in the Mid-West All-Stars. MARFU met the challenge of "filling their emotional tanks" after their Friday match and played a very competitive 50 minutes of rugby but as all good teams do, the Midwest took everything MARFU could dish out, applied their own pressure and eventually wore the MARFU side down with ball possession and go forward. Final 8 – 45. Pete Steinberg, the Women's National Team head coach was very complimentary of MARFU's progress in the last two years from a 7th seat to number 2 and made notice of at least two players on the 2012 MARFU roster not currently on his radar for national team consideration.

I would like to thank assistant coaches Jessica Hammond, Chesapeake WRFC and Richard Thomas along with Manager, Suzanne Igoe, Philadelphia WRFC for all their hard work and commitment, without we could not have accomplished so much in such a short time. I also thank the MARFU Board of Directors for their leadership and support because none of this could happen without it, Thanks!

Respectfully Offered,

Bob Weir

IRB Trainer, USA Rugby Course Leader, CDP

MARFU Senior Women's All-Star, Head Coach