

With the win against Grasshopper Club Zurich Rugby II (as the second team of this club now seems to be called) on 13 June we closed a chapter that caused a few emotional ups and downs.

A year ago we started with a rather large group of players of widely differing skills, differing ages (the youngest 16, the oldest 42), either lots of or little experience and, of course, different characters. Over time new people joined this group, left it again or stayed on and enriched this team with their character. It was, is and remains a challenge, to find common ground for such a motley crew, i.e. to lift them onto a certain playing level. Maybe in certain moments it was too much of a challenge as it is impossible to have everything under control. On top of that you have to deal with young players at a certain age of their life when they know everything better and don't want to hear anything from others, particularly from follically challenged coaches.

We worked hard, participated in fitness trainings by Basel University, headed by Guianna Gartmann, we had doctor Urs Grossenbacher explain why warming up is necessary, what recovery means, and when it's time to stay out of it. We had small training units on Saturday mornings, or the players motivated themselves and went together to lift a few weights in the gym. Actually, team spirit is one of the strong points of this team. They found each other, they help each other, they suffer together, they're happy together, and they celebrate together. Just as it should be!

On the sporting side we made a lot of progress and delivered some great matches. Memorable matches were certainly those away to Lugano, at home to St. Gallen or simply the matches versus Eschen-Mauren and Lucerne. Unfortunately we still lack consistency to deliver good matches on a regular basis. Our lack of discipline cost us a lot of points and prevented reaping the harvest that we had sowed by hard work in training beforehand. We will work on it!

Personally, however, I believe one moment sticks out a mile. There was a Sunday when we got hammered, trampled and humiliated 0-50 by a highly superior team. Straight after the match we returned to Basel, went to the tournament of our rugby school and cheered on our youngsters. At the end the players even helped tidying up. One spirit!

We will tackle a new season and prepare seriously. We will welcome new players and hand over older (experienced) players to the 1st XV, and we will constantly challenge ourselves and ask «what can we improve»?

I am proud of each and every player, I am proud of the progress we made, I am proud of the efforts of the team, and I am proud to be coach of the Future Team!

Kristof Csebits