

## KERN COUNTY RFC

### KERN COUNTY RFC MAKE 2012 DIVISION II PLAYOFFS!

The 2012 regular season featured a roller coaster of many highs and a few lows as your Tuskers put together their best performances since the 2004 Division III championship run. With commanding wins over San Fernando, Huntington Beach, Santa Barbara, Eagle Rock and Riverside the boys put together impressive displays of powerful Kern rugby. The tail end of the season has seen three nail biting losses sending Kern into the playoffs with quite the chip on their shoulder and the boys looking to play up and show just how they earned this playoff berth. The winner of the Kern County RFC vs. San Fernando match up will go on to face the mighty Old Aztecs of San Diego on April 21, 2012 in San Diego. The winner of the Pasadena vs. North County Gurkas match up will face Ventura the same day. April 28<sup>th</sup> will feature the So Cal championship with the higher seed hosting. The top two finishers from So Cal will go on to nationals in Chula Vista, CA. The boys are up for it!

### OLD BOYS VS KERN 2<sup>ND</sup> XV

Put down your golf clubs and beer mugs and come out to test your moxy against Kern's 2<sup>nd</sup> XV. Immediately after the Kern vs. San Fernando playoff match the Emerging Tuskers will take on all and any old boy looking to dust off the cleats and get a run in.

### Calling all old boys!

Old Boys, players and supporters are all welcome to join us at Shamrock's for the social after the old boy's game.



2012 KERN COUNTY TUSKERS

### END OF SEASON FORMAL DINNER AND TUSKER HALL OF FAME KICK OFF

Join us for an evening celebrating players, sponsors and supporters. The first annual Kern Rugby Formal Dinner will take place on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at the prestigious Seven Oaks Country Club. Tickets are \$50 per person and will be available for purchase at the game this Saturday at Standard Park. Tickets can also be purchased by contacting Michelle Postma at 661-281-9899 or any Tusker player or coach. The evening will feature a Kern Rugby memorabilia silent auction, player awards, a cash bar, great food and break dancing for those so inclined.

We will also feature the inaugural player of the year awards and Tusker Hall of Fame inductees celebrating our rich local rugby tradition in Kern County.

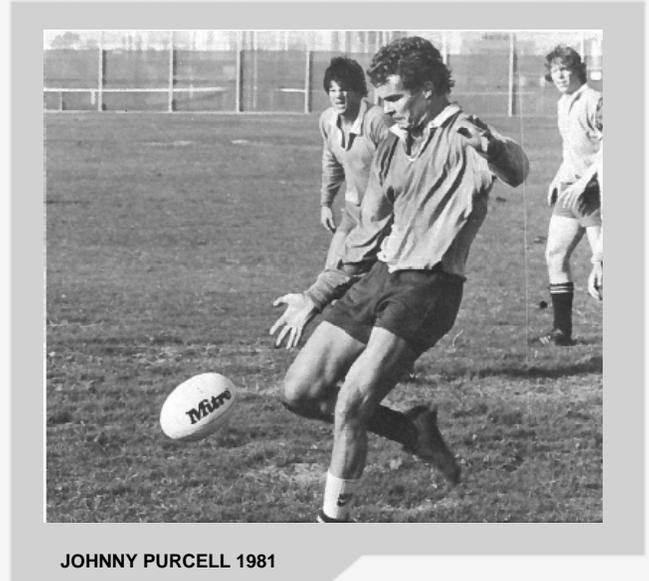
## KERN COUNTY RFC

### KERN LAUNCHES 2012 SEVENS SEASON BY ANNOUNCING SEVENS HEAD COACH

Summer is upon us and KC Rugby is looking to continue their 2012 success during the summer. Johnny Purcell has been brought on board as 7s head coach to build a sevens team to win the National Championship. Coach Art Gonzalez will remain as 15s head coach as well as Director of coaching.

As USA rugby gears up for the 2016 Olympic rugby 7s so will KCRFC. "KC Rugby 7's can serve as a model to illustrate the formula for success..." said Purcell

"We are excited for this journey as we aim to increase the presence of rugby in Bakersfield. With the right program we can turn some of Bakersfield's many great athletes into potential rugby Olympians.



#### Johnny Purcell Rugby Player and Coaching Background

Johnny Purcell was introduced to the sport of rugby as a Senior in high school when some friends dragged him to a match at West High School in 1976. Not blessed with the extreme athletic ability of his teammates, Purcell put his mind to learning everything he could about the game, and developed his skills accordingly to earn a first team spot at fullback at the age of 18. He couldn't get enough of rugby, and traveled to tournaments around the country. Over his career, he has played in 17 states and 5 countries. Purcell has also served KC Rugby as a player, a captain, Club VP & President, Chief Administrator, Backs Coach, Head Coach, Head 7's Coach, field preparation leader, uniform launderer, hot-dog cooker...

John attended University of San Diego after BC, and played football at both. Before and after graduating, Johnny played first team for 3 of the top 4 top level US Clubs - OMBAC, Santa Monica, and New York Old Blues (while training in NY for Merrill Lynch), and also started briefly for the best 7's team in US history, the Manhattan Beach Rugby, Rodeo, Rowing, and Body-Surfing Club (Santa Monica's 7's team). He played Rep-side for the Junior Griffins (SoCal's under-23 team), Tri-Counties, San Diego County, and many touring all-star teams. Purcell's playing career ended abruptly due to serious injuries sustained in a car accident in 1986, but he continued to coach and hold club roles thereafter. In 1990, Johnny stepped up the KC 7's program by becoming the first dedicated head coach. After intensive training, the KC 7's team entered the National Qualifier Tournament at Eagle Rock. As the 16th seed of 16 teams, KC shredded the #1 seed, and then went on to beat Santa Monica. At the end of the day, they were unlucky to avoid going to the National championship by a fluke 95-meter try by OMBAC in the closing seconds.



CONDITIONING SESSION

### BENEFITS OF HI-5 FIT CAMP

- Decrease Body Fat.
- Increase your Lean Body Mass
- Increase Your Strength
- Improve Your aerobic Conditioning
- Improve Your Balance, Coordination, Flexibility



### CONDITIONING, THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Our Partnership with Pair & Marotta has been instrumental to our success. Twice a week the team attends high performance training sessions under the guidance of strength and conditioning specialist Aaron Gillies.

“Pair & Marotta Sport & Human Performance is a facility like no other in the area. Designed for teaching and enhancing sport specific fitness training, our facility is a 3000 ft<sup>2</sup> gym that can train up to 25 athletes at once.”

The Partnership with Pair & Marotta enables our coaches to concentrate on rugby specific skills and teachings during the Tuesday & Thursday practice sessions.

“We have been able to teach the boys important skills like jackling, tackling, scrumming, pattern play and more.” said head coach Art Gonzalez.

### TUSKERS MAKING HEADLINES

2012 is shaping up to be a benchmark year on and off the field for your Kern County Tuskers. Thanks to our friends at Brighthouse Network and Bakersfield Life Magazine 2012 was a great year in spreading the good word of Kern Rugby in our community. “On A Tank Full” dedicated an episode to the club and “Rugby Madness” featured two pages of photos and interviews with players. We appreciate the support and exposure!

# KERN COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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