

Rogues Claim First Ever Tournament Title

Written by RUGBYMag Staff
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The Kansas City Rogues, in their third summer of playing 7s, claimed the first tournament win of any kind for the club this past weekend, going 5-0 to win the Fountain City 7s.

The young Rogues team opened up the tournament's first match with a big win over the Kansas City Carnivores, blanking them 32-0. A more veteran-laden group booted up the second game, against a highly-regarded Little Rock squad.

Coached by Julie McCoy, former coach of the USA Women's National 7s Team, LSU 7s, and current coach of the South All-Stars. The Rogues opened up with a trio of first-half tries, but Little Rock never quit, scoring three times late to make the Rogues sweat. The difference in the game turned out to be Ati Salesa's boot, as he made two conversions and Little Rock made just one — the Rogues won 19-17.

Despite going undefeated in pool play, the Rogues ended up as fourth seed heading into the elimination rounds due to point differential, giving them a rematch with the Stormers in one of two quarterfinals. Little Rock scored first this time, but the Rogues rode their defense to a victory and a place in the semis.

Awaiting the Rogues were Tulsa, who reached the National Sweet 16 in DII in May and finished

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second to the Kansas City Blues in their Parrothead 7s tournament June 11. Tulsa was the tournament's top seed after pool play. In a physical game the Rogues just edged Tulsa to make the final.

Meanwhile the Islanders overcame the Blues in the other semi.

In a very physical final the Rogues controlled the point of contact and forced the Islanders into errors. Finishing the stronger, the Rogues won 28-5.

Huntington Davis was named the tournament Man of the Match for his endless motor and ability to link one line break to another, on several occasions, with exceptional support running and ability to offload in contact.

While Davis won the M.O.M. honors and an engraved mug that says so, several Rogues played well, including Ati Salesa, Dajuan Beasley, Donald Walter, Marcus Neal, Ted Hughes, Jordan Weibel, KC Doan, Aaron Dzik, Terreil Dixon, Joe Simms, Rasul McGrone and Shawn Bonnani.