

Britt VanBuskirk

Flanker, Fullback, Forward, Kicker and Coach (1983-2000)

Britt is an accomplished professional athlete who began her career in Los Angeles and Japan as a trailblazer of women's boxing in the 1970s. ***She was inducted into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame in 2016.***

Needless to say—Rugby was a perfect second sport for Britt as she kept in top shape and continued to pursue her high standards of physical fitness with Rugby from 1983-2000. Her love for SIU rugby kept the team alive when it could possibly have folded.



“SATURDAY IS A RUGBY DAY!”

Britt says: “I moved to Carbondale 1982 when my stepmother took a teaching position in the SIU English department. I took a love for rugby at my first practice and went on to play for twenty-two seasons. Although I can play forward or back positions, I consider myself a forward. As a flanker, I do a lot of open field tackling and shift from offense to defense very quickly. As the team's kicker I do kick offs, penalty kicks and the after point kicks. One of my best rugby memories is driving all night to play Chicago. When we arrived, it was snowing sideways. I didn't want to get out of the car with shorts on because it was so cold. But as soon as I saw my team with me, I never felt the cold. I was just so happy to be there. Plus, nothing warms you up like sprinting 100 yards after making a tackle.”

Rugby is something that has taught me so many things, from how to pass a ball to teaching passing, from how to be coached on a team to being the coach of that team. I have grown from a person that skips practice to someone that leads practice. The eleven years on the field and three years of coaching is one of the proudest things I have ever done.”



Rugby taught me
“What It Means to Be in Shape!”

