

TRU Women's Representative Nomination

Marie Wilson, Denton Women's Rugby Club

RUGBY RESUME:

- Started playing June 2015
- Played in friendlies with UNT Women's, DARC Dames, Alliance Women's, Shreveport, and anyone else who needed a forward during friendlies
- CIPPed with DARC Dames, 2017
- L100 and L200 Coach Certification, 2018
- Recreated Denton Women's Rugby Club, 2019, as captain and coach

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Looking at my rugby resume, it is certainly not as prolific as many people in the TRU, or even in North Texas at this point. I started playing rugby in June 2015 with Denton Rugby Club. At the time, there were a handful of ladies from the Denton area who played there for Summer 7s when they weren't in school at UNT, so we practiced with the men's side and in tournaments where we could. That fall, UNT officially started their women's program, so I practiced with them and played in any friendlies they had. Along with that, I supported them in their Cup matches, as well as continuing to support Denton Rugby in any way I could. This includes helping on game days, handling their social media presence, and . Once the UNT program was off and running, I spent my time between Denton, UNT, and playing in friendlies with DARC, Alliance, Shreveport, and anyone else in need of a player in both 7s and 15s. That being said, I have managed to play every position in the forward line for 15w, giving me great insight in how to be a better player overall.

While my goal has been to have an official Denton Women's Rugby club again, I have championed for women's rugby all over the US, not just in Texas – in fact, my hometown in Ohio has a burgeoning women's rugby scene and I've referred a number of people to various teams to get them started, if only as fans. My current goal is to continue growing the sport by any means necessary, and so far we've been able to keep the TRU WD3 in North Texas alive by playing 7s tournaments in the fall as opposed to only in the summer. Everywhere I go, whomever I am talking to, I try to encourage them to look at rugby as an elegant sport instead of the organized chaos people tend to associate with it, and I encourage them to play no matter their age, size, athletic ability, etc – considering I didn't start playing until my 40s, I use that as a selling point that it is indeed a sport for everyone. I want to be able to help facilitate growing the sport from the local clubs, the small clubs like my own, and work upwards through D2, D1, and the elite clubs – really grow it grassroots style and show that everyone can play. I want people to see us all as athletes, not thugs or proponents of violence as once was perceived with rugby players in the past. I want them to see that it really is a highly skilled transitional sport, not just crash-ball, and I think that my love for this fantastic game will be highly beneficial to the TRU as a whole.