

Glendale Raptors Host Blossoming High School Girls Rugby

by Marco Cummings

Writer for and on behalf of the City of Glendale
Infinity Park continues to be a hub for local rugby, even in the autumn months. The home stadium of the *Glendale Raptors* played host to the *Colorado High School Girls State Championships* in early November, an event which proved to be a strong indicator of how the sport has grown within the past year.

Hosted by *Rugby Colorado*, this year's tournament drew nearly 900 spectators

Amy Naber were also in attendance, cheering on the younger athletes as well as providing some inspiration and a standard to strive for. As a player, Potter has brought local rugby to the international stage. The once member of the *Glendale Raptors* at the club level was able to showcase her talents in front of millions as a participant with the *Eagles* at this past summer's Olympics in Rio. Her rugby celebrity status resulted in many photo requests from the high school tournament participants,



Roberts and team share in photo opportunities with USA Eagles Jillion Potter and Amy Naber.
Photos provided by Robin Roberts



Olympians Jillion Potter and Amy Naber talk with Glendale's High School Girls rugby team after their strong seventh place finish at Infinity Park.

during the second weekend of November. Glendale girls high school head coach Robin Roberts believed it one of the best showings to date.

"I feel this year's Championship Tournament was one of the better ones we've had to date. The format this season changed from having both 15s and 7s to strictly just 7s, which really upped the level of competition as all the high school girls teams were playing 7s," Roberts said. "It ran smoothly, was at a great venue, and there was great competition all day. The girls love being able to play in the stadium and I feel the parents and fans love coming to Glendale to get this experience."

USA Women's Eagles Jillion Potter and

New Distillery Pub In Park Hill

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two blocks away on Kearney Street," Johnson said.

Tommy Gilhooly, former owner of *Oblio's Pizzeria* and Park Hill resident, said this type of pushback is familiar to him.

"I also had some pushback when I became the sole owner ... and applied for the full liquor license," Gilhooly said. "We had some local neighbors that were concerned. It's pretty crazy how history is repeating itself because the concerns that are being voiced now like parking, like crowding, people getting in their car and driving drunk from a community establishment, those were concerns that were voiced about our liquor license application about 10 years ago, and none of it came to fruition."

The neighbors said they are excited about a new restaurant going in the building, but the size of the establishment is the main issue, and they are hoping to work together across the aisle to create a perfect fit for the neighborhood.

"Initially when I heard there was a restaurant moving in I was all for it. I was all for having something there, not a 240 seat distillery," Rinehart said.

"We're proposing that we work together on a scale that's more appropriate to the district and no one is suggesting that they don't open or that we don't want development, no one wants a vacant building either, that raises safety concerns too," Buirski said. "I think to have something the size of a Chili's [with no onsite parking] suddenly on a one-block neighborhood retail area, I just don't see how they'll do it without everything else having to change to fit that."

Still waiting on some permits, Settles said his casual restaurant distillery is "possibly close, but not a done deal."



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