

Rugby Wit

Quips and Quotes for
the Rugby-Obsessed



Richard Benson

RUGBY WIT

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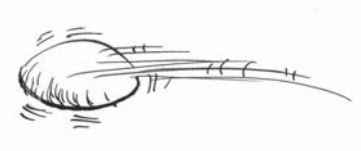
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Editor's note

History has been kind to William Webb Ellis but few can testify what his teammates thought of him when on a wet day in 1823, with complete disregard for the rules of football, he picked up the ball and proceeded to run with it. In the annals of time, however, on that memorable day, he will be forever blessed with inventing the honourable, brutal, but always beautiful game of rugby.

Amongst these pages you will find timeless quotes and quips by players of the game, lovers of the game and observers of the game. Be they profound, funny or just plain rude they all have rugby, with all its foibles and intricacies, at their heart. It's only fair that a game that has brought so much joy, so much passion and so much fuel for argument be given a platform whereby its players and fans alike can pass on their wisdom and their foolishness for all fans of the game to enjoy.



THE ALL BLACKS

New Zealand rugby
is a colourful game
since you get all
black... and blue.

Unknown

RUGBY WIT

The whole of the world is tribal, but when it comes to rugby, New Zealand is much more tribal than most. The All Blacks are the national virility symbol. Their people support them come hail, rain or shine.

Mike Gibson, former Northern Irish rugby player



We are not calling them the All Blacks this week. They are New Zealand. New Zealand is a poxy little island in the South Pacific.

Scott Johnson, Australian assistant coach for the Wallabies

THE ALL BLACKS

Of course it worries me if the All Blacks are invincible. I mean, it stands to reason, if we can't see them, how can we beat them?

Unknown English rugby player



New Zealand are the best team in the world – the execution and accuracy of their skills were a lesson in modern rugby.

Josh Lewsey, English rugby player

You actually need
to see an All Blacks
jersey out on the
field, on the back
of the man who has
won the right to wear
it, to appreciate its
impact, its depth, its
sheer, unadulterated
blackness.

Unknown



I am shattered, our dreams were
shattered and I feel sick about it all.

John Hart, former New Zealand rugby
coach, after France defeated the All Blacks
in the 1999 World Cup semi-final



You can go to the end of time,
the last World Cup in the
history of mankind, and the All
Blacks will be favourites for it.

Phil Kearns, former Australian rugby player

THE ALL BLACKS

Subdue and penetrate.

All Blacks club motto



The suspicion is growing that the All Blacks will not have to be sublime in France. They will just have to be there.

Stephen Jones, rugby correspondent, sizing up the All Blacks' chances for the 2007 World Cup in France

Mud, rain, blood, haka. It sounds
like rugby heaven to me.

Unknown



[It was] the first time I've ever
felt like a boy in a man's body.]
was absolutely shitting myself.

Zinzan Brooke, former New Zealand rugby player,
recalling how he felt running out with the rest of
the All Blacks for the first match of their 1992
South Africa tour at King's Park in Durban

THE ALL BLACKS

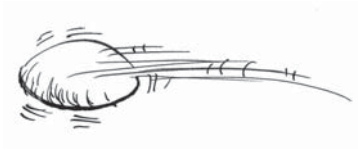
Foul play and cheating are the two factors that can make the game unplayable... the All Blacks are guilty of both.

Clem Thomas, former Welsh rugby player



Five years ago, many of the England team were sick at half-time ~ such is the intensity of playing the All Blacks.

Lawrence Dallaglio, English rugby player



ALL BRAUN, NO BRAINS

That kick was
absolutely unique,
except for the one
before it which
was identical.

Tony Brown, New Zealand rugby player

ALL BRAIN, NO BRAINS

It went well. There are no problems, and, as a bonus, it showed that I have a brain!

Corné Krige, South African rugby player,
after going for a brain scan



You guys line up alphabetically
by height and you guys
pair up in groups of three,
then line up in a circle.

Colin Cooper, New Zealand head
coach of the Hurricanes

Nobody in Rugby
should be called a
genius. A genius is
a guy like Norman
Einstein.

Jono Gibbes, New Zealand rugby player