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Powderpuff football: Who said football is only men?

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Twenty-eight women from the Campus Crusade for Christ stepped up to the gridiron and played some good old-fashion tackle football, Oct. 9.

No pads, no gear; just talent and the pigskin. The playing conditions couldn't have been better.

The sky opened, drenching the field and stirring up the perfect mud puddle.

This was perfect because according to the sophomore/junior special teams coach Joe Muckle, "The girls like to tackle each other in the mud and would never let us forget about their beloved event."

CRU leaders put together events such as this in hopes that everyone could have a "safe" activity to participate in during the chaotic Homecoming weekend.

The women enjoyed designing and making their team shirts, attempting to concoct the most original jersey.

They painted their eyes black and rubbed "war paint" on their faces.

The game started at 8 p.m and was played on the practice field behind the IUP football stadium.

It was the freshmen and seniors vs. the sophomores and juniors.

The women played two 25-minute periods with a referee and the team with the most touchdowns at the end of the game won.

"Honestly, I really thought our offense would struggle," said sophomore/junior defensive coordinator Donte Herring (junior, health/physical education), "but they really surprised me and did really well for only learning in one day of practice. I was really proud of them."

The freshmen and seniors wore black and had 10 women on their team, while the sophomore and junior team wore gray, and had 18 women on their team.

Both teams trudged onto the field with fire in their veins, plowing through the front line, blitzing and even sacking the quarterback.

The women acknowledged their coach's advice, even making up plays on the sidelines and turning around to use them during the next play of the game.

"It was kind of rough knowing my job was to get the ball and try not to get tackled too horribly," said Sophomore running back, Bethany Pyles. "It was a painful and muddy position, but it made the game exciting for me, especially because I had pressure of knowing plays, working with the quarterback and trusting the offensive line to spare me pain." The sophomores and juniors won 7-1.

After countless mud wrestling attempts, silly team pictures and thanking the supporting fans, the women and the men went out for a bite to eat.

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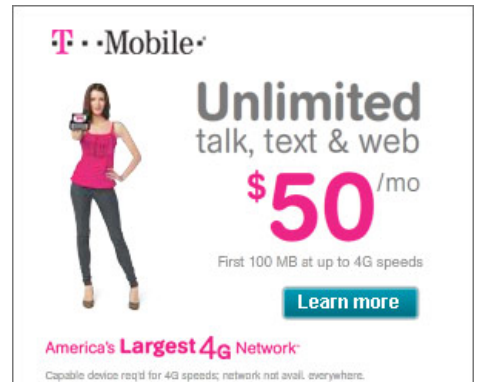
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