

WOMEN'S RUGBY AUSTRIA



Full of eagerness and excitement, four players of the nine competing Austria Women's Rugby team set off from Vienna at 7:30 and five of the nine set off from Innsbruck at 04:30 to join forces in Prague on Saturday 29 October for their first official 10's tournament.

All the girls were both honoured to be invited and happy to be trying a new form of Rugby but also worried and concerned about what would be awaiting them. The girls that departed from Vienna, Sam & Anna from Vienna, Doro from Melk and Lisa from Krems, arrived at the pitch around 11:00 and were able to watch & learn from the first two matches of the tournament, and first up were the two teams against which we were scheduled to play – Sparta : Petrovice. Unfortunately our worries and concerns were not getting any easier with half of the team lost somewhere in the Czech Republic since they had taken a wrong turn that ended up costing them two hours.

Through good contacts and a very friendly host country we were able to change our game schedule from 13:00 (which is when the rest of our team arrived) to 13:30, which gave us enough time to warm up while learning each other's names and positions played before and get us concentrating on our first official Rugby 10's game as an Austrian Selection team. Since we were only 9 due to injuries to Sigi from Melk and Chrisi & Eva from Vienna and due to Sarah falling ill, the Czechs were kind enough to lend us two of their great players to sub each other out during both our games.

The first half of the match was not what we would call a great success or attractive 10's Rugby but we slowly got into playing 10's and changed our ways of playing in the second half of the game. This proved to be the right decision giving us a win over Sparta by 19 points - 33:14.

Due to our late start and the rearrangements made to the schedule we had to play the second game against Petrovice immediately after our first ever game, but this did not worry us at all as we had finally gotten our minds wrapped around what this game was all about. We were all motivated and into this new exciting but very different game. We gave the Czech girls a hard fight and were on 24:0 until the last move. A strong winger broke through and made the final score a 24:5 for the Austrian girls.

Very well done and congratulations to all the girls that played and fought for Austria that day. Thank you to Hana and the Czech 10's League for the tournament organisation and for taking a chance on us and working Austria into the schedule.
S.M.

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My first 10's game:

Renee asked us for our impressions of 10's to share with the rest of Women's Rugby Austria!!

Sam (FRU):

Well I must have been the most nervous person in the car and during the warm up, but as soon as I went on the pitch everything was just as natural and as normal as in a sevens game. Yes the team was a bit nervous about the different way of playing but I must admit it was so much fun trying a new kind of style and new moves. The first half we all were slightly disorientated and we didn't quite know where we belonged on the pitch but after the second half I had the feeling as if we had been playing with so much contact for ages, everything fit into place. I can only say it again, 10's is a hard but fun game to play. And it is even sweeter if you win your first two games with such high score differences.

Résumé: I definitely would like to play Rugby 10's again and can only recommend it to all the other ladies that were unable to come.

Anna (FRU, exchange student from Ireland):

Travelling to Prague for the 10's was such a great experience for me and judging by post tournament reactions, for all those that participated. Learning the names of our comrades just before hitting the field was a challenge that we all met exceptionally well, and as we hit our stride almost straight away, it may have seemed we had been playing for years! It was such an honour for me to take part in the 10's this weekend and I can't wait for the next time!

Doris (Melk):

It was amazing!!! Thanks a lot for the chance to make that great experience!!

Tamara (WRCI)

Whoever likes 7s will absolutely love 10s! Playing against new opponents, having more people in rucks, seeing what mauls are like and playing with 3 additional players is real fun! What I liked the most, was to see how the team works hard for every meter. I hope there will be more players filled with enthusiasm for the next games. I am looking forward to it.

Laura (WRCI)

10s is the perfect combination of 7s speed/agility and 15s physicality/intensity. I really enjoyed playing in Prague, being able to represent Austria with team members from almost all Austrian clubs. The team work, drive and flat out fun we all had was amazing, especially the hospitality from the host country's teams. I can't wait to go back!!

Nadja (WRCI)

Ich fands insgesamt total cool, hat spaß gemacht. Ich bin insgesamt begeistert, macht voll spaß! Prague war super, will wieder hin!!

Sophia (WRCI)

Gut zusammengespielt obwohl wir uns nicht kennen/kannten, va offensiv. Schwierig im scrum weil boden nass war, line in verteidigung könnte besser sein, mehr bzw lauter reden nötig! --