



130 lbs. Chicco Disegui makes five tough yards.

Rome Grizzlies take on Milan Rhinos at Campo Maestrelli on tour di quinto

Coached by NDI mentor Richard Rice

ROME -- Local pigskin wars re-commence, this Sunday, at 4:00 p.m., when Rome's Grizzlies, the local AIFA (Associazione Italiana di Football Americano) entry takes on the Milan Rhinos at Campo Maestrelli, on the Tor di Quinto.

The Grizzlies, coached, for the last four weeks by NDI soccer mentor Richard Rice, and the possessors of a 6-2 record, hope to knock off the all-winning Rhinos (8-0). More importantly, they want to make it into the league play-offs, something they can do by winning one of their two remaining games.

AIFA is divided into two divisions (Northern and Central) of six teams each. The league has grown, over the past five or six years, as interest in the American gridiron game has increased. Milan's Rhinos have been at it from the beginning, which is to say they have been

playing together for five seasons.

The Grizzlies, on the other hand, are a star-up aggregation, the brainchild of Nicola Pietrangeli, all-time Italian tennis great, and the father of a couple of sons who would rather bang heads than play racket games.

As Coach Rice puts it, "When you've got a brand new team playing a brand new game, you can't avoid making an awful lot of mistakes." Still, the Grizzlies, helped out by Americans Spencer Banks and Carl Mobley (each AIFA team is allowed two U.S. types), are exciting to watch misplays, penalties and all.

Admission is a mere 2000 lire.

Grizzly Starters:

Offense:

Center: Gianelli, 52, Guards: Volante, 64, Giaroffa, 70, Tackles: Caccamo, 78, Cordisco, 75; Tight End:

Ricciotti, 80; Wide Receiver: Jadosti, 00; Flanker: Cintio, 9; Quarterbacks: Sbordoni, 10, Volterra, 12; Halfback: Desegni, 33; Fullback: Militello 31.

Defense:

Nose Guard: Minganti, 59; Tackles: Spieafico, 54, Furlotti 68; Ends: Mazzetti, 99, Simonetti, 72; Linebackers: Pietrangeli, 58, Mobley, 93, Annoscia, 51; Cornerbacks: D'Amore, 55, Malpassuti, 30; Free Safety: Banks, 38.

AIFA Standings

Central Division:

Milano Rhinos, 8-0; Rome Grizzlies, 6-2; Ferrara Eagles, 5-3; Bologna Warriors, 4-1; Modena Falcons, 1-7; Verona Redskins, 0-8.

Northern Division:

Galeata Frogs, 8-0; Torino Jaguars, 6-2; Bozard Rames, 6-2; Milano Seamen 2-5-1; Ivrea Bulldogs, 1-6-1; Torino Bulls, 0-8.