



THE HARVARD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

USA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 1984

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Dear Friend of Harvard Rugby ,

As you have likely heard the HRFC was soundly defeated in the first round of the Nationals by San Diego State 46-14...ouch. Even though it is very difficult for a team in a winter geography to be as prepared for an early spring match against those from warmer places, clearly the caliber of rugby around the country is rapidly improving. In order to keep pace with that trend, we need to continue to improve our program and our preparation. Having said that, we are very proud of the way the members of the club fought their way to the Sweet 16. I was also proud of the way the alumni stepped up financially to assist. In the last newsletter, I had individually recognized several of those generous alumni donors. I inadvertently left out the name of a perennially strong supporter of the club who donated at a "player sponsor" level before the tour...the inimitable David Kulow. Thanks David!

As you will see in the newsletter, Bob Karetsky, HRFC head coach for the past three years, has stepped down from that post and is moving back to New York. Bob was instrumental in dramatically increasing participation in the program, recruiting and managing top notch coaches from Australia and New Zealand and for leading the club to the Sweet 16. We thank Bob for his time, his tremendous efforts and wish him success for the future! Bob, you are now and official HRFC alumni and are on our mailing list!

The Athletic Department, the HRFC Board and the Club President formed a search committee and, after a rigorous search for a new head coach, we are pleased to welcome David Gonzales (details in the newsletter) as the new head coach. He is very experienced in all aspects of the game and is a great guy. I will be hosting a small BBQ for the new coach and area alum on Monday, July 16th at 6pm at my home. Please email me if you can make it (kcooper@vimag.com).

Thanks to those of you who attended the annual Alumni match and dinner in late April. It was a wonderful time and we look forward to continuing that tradition for many years to come, but...we need more participation from alumni!! Please read the quarterly newsletter and attend events when you can as it makes a difference to the alumni and the undergraduates as well. The next major alumni event will be an alumni match vs. Dartmouth during homecoming weekend this fall in Hanover.

Have a great summer!

Cheers,

Keith

HRFC Win Beanpot, Place Second at Ivies

Three Ruggers Make All-American

Posted by Club President Nery Porrás and Coach Dave Gonzales:

Harvard 24, Coast Guard 22

In preparation for the upcoming Ivy League tournament, the HRFC traveled down to New London, CT to play the US Coast Guard Academy. It was Harvard's first game of the spring and Coast Guard was coming off two victories versus Northeastern and Norwich in preparation for their trip to the DII National Tournament. The rain held off which allowed for good playing conditions. Harvard wound up winning in a close one 24-22 with both teams gaining lots from this early spring scrimmage.

Harvard wins over Northeastern and Providence College

The following weekend, due to a cancellation by McGill University, the Harvard Rugby team traveled down to Providence to play a round robin against Northeastern and Providence College. The Friars, who played Northeastern in the opening round, were warmed up and pounced early on the cold Harvard team. After a few minutes the HRFC was warmed up and ready to go and quickly put the game in back in their favor. Harvard ended up winning the game. They had only short break to get ready for the rested Northeastern side. Tired from the previous game, Harvard seemed a bit slow in the beginning. However, Harvard was able to find their rhythm once again and quickly took control of the game and won.

Harvard Wins Beanpot

This year's Bean-Pot tournament was played in a modified format because Boston College could not attend. Playing Northeastern two weekends in a row would appear to be tricky, but Harvard once again came out on top. A close one at the half, Harvard took control and put the game out of reach in the second half. Replacing many starters, the BU game was competitive however once again Harvard succeeded. Harvard seemed prepared going into the Ivy League tournament.

Second Place Finish at Ivies

Hosted by Columbia in New York City, the Ivy League tournament was filled with plenty of rugby. As the number one seed, Harvard was pitted against Cornell in the first round. The game was not close as Harvard scored quickly and often solidifying a first-round win, 39-7. Harvard next faced Brown, a DII underdog that had managed to upset Yale. Brown gave Harvard a very competitive game. Harvard scored twice near the end of the game to put them ahead 28-8. Harvard held on to win and would play Dartmouth for the third straight year in the Ivy final. Dartmouth, Nationals-bound, came prepared for the final. Dartmouth came out hard and fast and scored quickly. Harvard was able to slow the game down but was not able to cross the try line. Dartmouth would continue to score in the second half and went on to win 41-0. It was an unfortunate weekend for Harvard who came up short but an overall successful spring.

Successful Alumni Weekend

To close out the spring season the HRFC held its annual alumni weekend. Those alumni who were available got together with players on Friday night for a few drinks at the new college pub, the Queens Head. The following day the alumni and the undergrads met on a very wet and rainy day in Cambridge. The game went on with out a hitch despite the conditions and plenty of alumni and undergrads were able to get in to play. Following a successful game, the HRFC got together for dinner and awards at the Sheraton Commander. The Judge Bentley Kassal for the Most Improved player went to Sophomore Rob Tennyson. The Bob Woods Memorial Award for contribution to the team went to senior Isaac Ickes. Senior Rob Campbell took the Keith Oberg MVP award.

Harvard also had many players received all star selections:

All Ivy 1st team: Nery Porrás '09, Colin Kelly '08, Dan Deighton '10, Rob Campbell '08

All Ivy 2nd team: Mike Hoffman '08, Brock Corbett '10, David Renteln '11,

Honorable Mention: Rob Tennyson '10, Jonny Miller '10

All American ARN Down Under Rugby: Teddy Barron '11, Nery Porrás '09, Rob Campbell '08

Tough Early Schedule (Army, Dartmouth, BC) for Crimson

Looking forward to another competitive fall season, the HRFC hits the ground running playing its first three games versus three of the four top teams from last years NERFU standings (Harvard is the other, placing third last year).

The team travels first to West Point, NY to face Army on September 13th. The following weekend Harvard defends its home field versus Dartmouth (9/20). A trip to Boston College (9/27) caps the first three weekends for the HRFC.

Although the second half of the schedule may appear easier, games against the always tough Northeastern (10/4) and UConn (10/25) teams will be good games. Yale (10/18) has in the past been able to stun Harvard in the past and should not be overlooked. And despite their in experience from last year, Norwich (10/11) will be in its second year since playing in the NERFU playoffs.

Harvard lost quite a few starters who graduated, but the talent pool is still strong. A large and strong junior and sophomore class, along with experienced senior players will provide Harvard with the talent needed to compete this year. It should be an exciting fall season and Harvard Rugby Football Club has high expectations.

Note to 40th Anniversary Attendees and Ruggers '65-'73

Sione Tupouniua '69 is putting together an all-rugby reunion event for ruggers from the class of '65-'73. Please get in touch with Sione at sionekt@yahoo.com if you are interested and available.

Contact Friends of Harvard Rugby by email at HarvardRugby@gmail.com

Tentative Fall Schedule Announced

(Home matches in bold)

Saturday Sept. 13 th :	at Army
Saturday Sept. 20 th :	DARTMOUTH
Saturday Sept. 27 th :	at Boston College
Saturday Oct. 4 th :	NORTHEASTERN
Saturday Oct. 11 th :	at Norwich
Saturday Oct. 18 th :	at Yale
Saturday Oct. 25 th :	UCONN
Saturday Nov. 22 nd :	YALE
