Brown Posts Perfect Conference Record in Fall 2008

by Head Coach Jay Fluck ’65
The Brown men’s rugby team, under the capable field leadership of co-captains Nick Stoker ’09 and Brendan Warner ’09, enjoyed the following highlights in 2008.

Spring 2008: posted an 8-4 record; lost a close match to the Cayman Island National Team; finished third in the Ivy League Tournament; loss to Alumni in the Annual Commencement Match (highlight for the alums).

Fall 2008: Dave Laflamme took the helm of the day-to-day coaching; Eddie O’Sullivan, former Irish National Coach, ran pre-season training; 5-0 conference record; fourth-place in New England Second Division; First XV goes 6-4-1 overall, Second XV goes 7-1.

We currently send out e-mail reports of each match and we e-mailed an electronic newsletter last June, so most of you are up to speed on our recent success. We are competitive in the Second Division and were able to start very quickly this fall thanks in large part to Eddie O’Sullivan. Eddie’s extraordinary coaching talent led to improvement in the players’ individual skills and in our game preparation.

In the fall of 2007 Brown lost to Coast Guard and Bentley on successive weekends. This fall we defeated them both and followed up those victories with wins over Providence College, Boston University and then a strong University of Rhode Island squad that also had defeated Brown the previous year.

With such a good conference record, Brown was seeded in the top four in New England, defeating Saint Michael’s College in the first round of the New England playoffs. With a 6-1-1 record entering the New England Final Four, the team boarded the bus for Middlebury, Vermont where the playoffs were held.

Our first match was against a very big and athletic University of Maine, Orono squad. Brown had been very fortunate to play all of its matches in excellent field conditions, but not for this match. A muddy field and a strong wind were new to the Bears. Brown did not realize the urgency of playing with a strong wind in the first half. I have often referred to these conditions as a “20 point wind.” If the team with the wind does not score 20 points, it will not be enough. Not only did Brown not score enough, but we also gave up two tries against the wind for a 14-3 deficit. Although the team came back to 14-10 and 21-15, the Bears were never in this match, losing 30-15.

The second day was a rematch with Coast Guard, under the same muddy conditions and perfect for Coast Guard’s smash mouth rugby. Brown was unable to move the ball wide to use its outside speed and skills, losing 12-7. Brown had found ways to win either from in front or behind in their conference matches. However, injuries, lack of depth and an inability to rise to the occasion had caused two tough losses.

In spite of the result, the Middlebury weekend had only determined first through fourth place in New England. Brown would compete in the Northeast Territorial playoffs against Met New York and Upstate New York. The two top teams after two weeks of competition would qualify for the National Final 16 in the spring of 2009. Brown traveled to Connecticut for a first round match at Fairfield University. Brown lost 26-21. Just about everything imaginable went wrong with several key players playing injured, and two others taken off during the match. Even so, Brown had several late match opportunities to win but again could not break the negative momentum of the late season.

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In the end, Brown was too thin and too banged up to make much of an impact at the national level but did have a good run in their conference. Looking back, this team made the most of its early season and there was significant improvement in most aspects of play. Brown now gets a two-month respite until the dreaded early morning workouts for the spring season. The spring will be a challenge. Prop Bob Forrester ’10 (Scotland), scrum half Dave Riley ’10 (Australia), flanker Ben Mossbarger ’10 (Denmark), lock Rall Walsh (Argentina) and flanker Gabe Heiderich ’10 (Denmark) are all First XV players and will be abroad this spring. However, hooker Jay Smith ’10, who has been in Australia for the fall semester will return this spring. Recruitment looks like an important element as we look forward to 2009.

New Field Coach

Dave Laflamme took over the on-field coaching this season with great enthusiasm. His performance as coach both spring and fall has been thorough and Brown has enjoyed success under his field leadership. Dave has now been coaching at Brown for 11 years.

Also, many thanks to Matt Medina and Yves Benassis who ably assisted us this fall. We are also grateful for the time and effort of Kelly Teixeira, our trainer who kept the team taped together for the season and to Dr. David Barrall was on the spot for emergency medical needs.

Each year we elect officers for the calendar year so that the leadership becomes accustomed to their jobs during the spring season and be fully engaged for the fall league season.

2009 Officers Elected

President: Sam Rabb ’10
Co-Captains: Hao Li ’10, Andrew Alvarez ’11
Match Secretary: Alexander Hansen ’10
Treasurer: John Hermansen ’11
Social Chair: Jay Smith ’10

Tour Chairs: Ben Baker ’10, Brad Arlington ’10
Recruiting: Chris Carney ’10, assisted by James McGinn ’12, Peter Amato ’12, Dan Levine ’12
Equipment: Mike Donnell ’12
Website: Ben Lux ’09
Alumni Notes (Jay Fluck’s Responses in Italics)

John and Polly Moyle P’91 (John) ’93 (Rob)
(jpimoyle18@aol.com):
We will be in Rhode Island from Sept. 18-21. Robert is getting married (at long last) in Narragansett. His brother, John, will be the best man. I doubt that we will be able to get to Providence, but Brown Rugby remains on our minds.

Rob did get married on Sept. 20 in Narragansett.

John Campbell ‘83 (campj@mmc.org):
I have followed the successes of the rugby team since graduating in 1983, and also theadder events such as the passing of Dave Zucconi ‘55. I have always looked upon my rugby experience as one of the highlights of my time at Brown. I retired from rugby after being steamrolled by the wing forwards during the alumni game at my fifth anniversary in 1988. However, I still insist on throwing a football underhanded and sometimes believe I could still slice through a line of halflbacks, head fake the fullback, and score a try. I live in Maine now with my wife and three children and am the Director of Hospital Psychiatric Services at Maine Medical Center in Portland. Life in Maine is ideal. I shouldn’t have taken it for granted that Brown would be the perpetual Ivy League Rugby Champions but that was certainly the case during my tenure on the team from ’80-’83. I have no doubt that with your involvement, alumni support, and a few lucky bounces, the team will be back on top.

We play a Commencement Match each year. Come back for another try!

Josh Spector ‘96 (joshuaspector_esq@yahoo.com):
In the parlance of sports, I got another one past the goalie and Ilan Spector was born in early August at 7 pounds, 16 ounces. Ilan joins big brother Asher as the future of Brown’s fighting weight of .5 stones and 3 ounces. Ilan Spector was born in early August at 7 pounds, 16 ounces. Ilan joins big brother Asher as the future of Brown’s fighting weight of .5 stones and 3 ounces. Ilan joins big brother Asher as the future of Brown’s fighting weight of .5 stones and 3 ounces.

John Weatherby ‘66 (jweatherby@carey.com):
Why don’t you bring the team out for a California tour? U of C, UC Davis, Stanford, SF, Santa Clara, San Jose State, Sac State then head down to UCLA and whip Dave Olson’s ’67 old team. San Diego, Clairemont are other possibilities. The team would love a road show, and the alums out here would love it. Remember the road show to Bermuda in ’65 and ’66! I understand that Mr. Olson played in a match when he was 60+, a few years ago, so you will have an extra scrum half out here for stubbing. Rich O’Toole ’66 is in Southern California, and is ready to step up at Lock. I don’t play anymore. My neck hasn’t recovered from playing prop in the USAF some 35 years ago.

West Coast Rugby is competitive. We will come out when we can put on a good show for our Calif. alums.

Erik Fleming’02 (erik.fleming@yahoo.com):
I’m still playing rugby and the LA Rugby Club finished ninth in the nation last year in our first year back in division one.

Great to hear that you are still playing at a high level.

Pat Curran ’06 (Patrick.F.Curran@gmail.com):
I’m living in San Francisco. Going out for Golden Gate Rugby this fall. I’ve met a good group of guys that are playing there so getting back in shape now and gearing up for the season. Played some 7s and touch in the offseason. Applying to med schools now.

Pat Curran playing 7s is a tough one-on-one tackle.

Roger Metzler ’67 (rmetzler@speakeasy.net):
I played with the team from 1963-67. Thanks for the updates. I ran into Dave Olson ’67 in a bar in San Francisco a long time ago. Other than that, little to no contact with Brown. Please let me know if the team is headed to the Portland, Oregon area (and I’ll host some sort of gathering) or the West Coast (at least from SF up to Seattle), where I’ll at least make a meaningful effort to attend.

Olsom in a bar? Never!

Dave Munro ’85 (dmunro@sfgrotto.org):
Well done lads! I’m singing celebratory songs in my kitchen right now and getting dirty looks from my wife (a Smithie, what can you expect) very proud you all stayed with it, weathered the down years, and did what it took to get the team back in winning form. Jay’s epiphany thanks you, and no doubt Zook is toasting St. Peter as we speak.

A bit early for a Fluck epitaph, but the success this fall was a great change.

Ben Kintisch ’03 (benjaminkintisch@yahoo.com):
Congrats Jay on a fine season! I am so glad to see my old team’s resurgence. Please send my congrats and warm greetings to the other coaches and players as well. I continue to play rugby as the scrum half for the B squad at Columbia Business School RFC. Mark Scott ’03 recently enrolled at CBS, and has joined the team. He played a great tourney last weekend, and will probably get bumped into the A team very soon. I am proud to be a Brown RFC alum and look forward to many more great match reports.

Ben, are your Spider Man days over?

Richard Halstead ’91 (richard@wineintelligence.com):
Great stuff Jay – congrats to the boys. In return may I offer a much less eloquent match report from my team (who coincidentally are also 4-0)
http://www.birfc.co.uk/fixtures/view.asp?id=143

Richard is COO of Wine Intelligence Ltd. (www.wineintelligence.com). Running a wine company? Sounds very suspect from a beer swilling Brown Rugger.

David Tingley ’87 (dtinguee@tingue.com):
Way to go, Bruno! Pride was enough, but I also just won a bet with my Boston University grad girlfriend. Icing on the cake. Thanks!

What was the bet, Dave?

John Richards ’73 (Richards@ausequity.com):
Thanks for your updates on Brown Rugby. It’s a good, immediate connection to what’s happening with the club. Not certain that you’d remember. I played in the same time frame as Dave Siegfried ’72, (who sadly recently succumbed to prostate cancer). Also played with Truett Tate ’72, Jeff Brodlieb ’73 and that crew. I only get to the US on occasion, having moved to Australia almost immediately after graduation. For an old rugger, it’s a great place to be. All the best. If you ever get down here, look me up. Or if the lads want to organise an end-of-year tour, I’d be happy to assist with arrangements.

A trip to Australia is a dream, and we’ve got your e-mail address.

Keep in Touch

With Brown Rugby

If this is the only information you have received from the Brown men’s rugby team this year, you are not receiving our weekly match reports and other messages via Brown’s broadcast e-mail system.

Please update your personal information by either going on line at www.alumni.brown.edu/brunet, or by calling the Sports Foundation at (401) 863-1900.

You can also sign up for our e-mail match reports and updates via www.sportsfoundation.brown.edu/newsletters.

If we have your mailing address and a current e-mail address, we can reach you by both e-mail and hard copy newsletters (sent once per year).
Support Brown Men’s Rugby: Fundraising Update

Endowment Total: $1,109,292 (as of 6/30/2008)
The earnings from this endowment total are used to support the annual-use needs of the men’s rugby program.

Men’s Rugby FY ’09 Annual-Use Goal: $50,000
Our men’s rugby alumni have built a tradition of excellence. Every player on every team is a key part of our history.

As you can see from the chart at the right, last year we had a record-breaking fundraising effort, with $91,660 in gifts to support the annual-use needs of the men’s rugby team.

We thank you those of you who supported the team last year, and hope you will renew your support. Seventeen percent of our alumni made a contribution last year, and we’d love to get the number up to 20 percent this year. We need you in the game!

The Plan for Athletic Excellence
The Sports Foundation’s goal for its 25th Anniversary year is to raise $25 million by Dec. 31, 2008, to provide long-term stability and growth for Brown Athletics. These funds will directly support the Plan for Athletic Excellence, a comprehensive strategic vision and financial plan developed by Director of Athletics Mike Goldberger. The plan is guided by the following core principles:

• The Department of Athletics & Physical Education should be an integrated part of the educational mission of the university;
• The health and safety of our students and athletes is paramount in all we do;
• Brown is committed to being a competitive member of the Ivy League;
• Our programs and facilities should reflect the excellence of Brown University.

With your support, you can help Brown Athletics achieve the following specific objectives that support the overall vision:

• Enhance compensation to retain and recruit a world-class coaching and administrative leadership staff;
• Provide resources for equipment, travel and recruiting to allow our teams to compete at the highest level;
• Support the transformation of Brown’s athletic facilities to reflect our overall commitment to excellence.

We need your help to reach this lofty goal. We ask you to think about what the Brown Athletics experience means to our student-athletes and make a gift to support the men’s rugby program, or support all of Brown’s student-athletes with a gift to the Athletic Director’s Excellence Annual Fund.

For more information on the Sports Foundation’s 25th Anniversary, visit www.sportsfoundation.brown.edu.

2008-09 Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time/Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>Providence Men’s Club</td>
<td>First XV - L, 19-24</td>
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<td>Second XV - W, 36-5</td>
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<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Norwich</td>
<td>First XV - T, 0-0</td>
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<td>Second XV - W, 17-0</td>
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<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Coast Guard</td>
<td>First XV - W, 24-12</td>
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<td>Second XV - W, 20-0</td>
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<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Bentley</td>
<td>First XV - W, 18-16</td>
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<td>Second XV - W, 31-0</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Providence College</td>
<td>First XV - W, 25-12</td>
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<td>Second XV - W, 42-0</td>
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<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>First XV - L, 43-14</td>
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<td>Second XV - W, 24-23</td>
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<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>URI</td>
<td>First XV - W, 25-24</td>
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<td>Second XV - W, 24-22</td>
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<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>St. Michael’s College</td>
<td>First XV - W, 25-17</td>
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<td>Second XV - W, 40-5</td>
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<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Univ. of Maine (Orono)</td>
<td>L, 15-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Coast Guard</td>
<td>L, 7-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Fairfield Univ.</td>
<td>L, 21-26</td>
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Our spring season begins Feb. 28 and ends on Commencement Weekend with the annual Alumni Match scheduled for Saturday, May 23 at 2 p.m. If this is a reunion or just a good year to play, make the commitment to getting fit and come back and participate!