



The Breakdown

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Did you know?

If a player calls a mark and catches the ball after it deflects from a post or crossbar, the mark is still considered successful.

Learn more rules of the game at:
www.irblaws.com

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Fall 2011



Beantown Tournament at UMass

Results & Upcoming Games

Fall 2011

9/10-11 Beantown Tournament @UMass Second Place, Division I
9/24 vs. Boston University *Postponed*
10/2 @ Boston College L 15-17
10/8 @ Army L 73-0
10/15 vs. Northeastern W 48-0
10/22 vs. UMass W 34-7
10/23 vs. Boston University L 5-12
11/26 @ New York Sevens Tournament 1-3

Spring 2012

3/12-3/18 Ireland trip (games in Cork & Dublin)
3/31-4/1 Nashbash Tournament (@ Nashville, TN)
4/7 round-robin vs. Brown and AIC (@ Brown)
4/14 round-robin vs. BC and Tufts (home)
4/21-4/22 Beast of the East Tournament (@ Providence, RI)

A Message from Coach Mark

Happy New Year to one and all.

Everyone should be looking forward to the spring season, which includes an Ireland tour and various tournaments and double headers, with opportunities for all to participate and stake their claims for positions in the fall, where we have to aim to qualify for the playoffs both as players and as a coach.

As a coach this is an interesting time where I can develop the team in knock out competitions whilst blending the fall rookies with experienced players in said tournament situations. Playing against teams we don't normally play against and the opportunities to win things.

So everyone make the time to get to indoor practices to have some fun, get fit and ball skill ready. See you all at practice.

Spring 2012 Officers

President

Alycia Washington

Vice President

Chelsea Martin

Back Captain

Emily Webster

Pack Captain

Amy Brown

Treasurer

Christie Scheer

Match Secretaries

Maggie Reiss

Lauren Poirier

Fundraising Chairs

Leann Bickford

Jess Diaz

Public Relations

Angie Les

Kelly Macko

Social Chairs

Michelle Scatamacchia

Taylor Edinger

Recruitment Chairs

Lindsay Beckler

Amanda Barney

Club Sports Reps.

Chelsea Martin

Christie Scheer



New York Sevens Tournament

On November 26, UConn Women's Rugby participated in the 53rd annual New York Sevens Tournament, hosted by The New York Rugby Club. The unseasonably warm weather made for ideal playing conditions and everyone who participated had a great time.

"This was an awesome way to finish off our fall semester season, especially since our season ended a bit early. We got to hang out with some alumni who were playing for other teams in the tournament and we also met so many new people from all over, particularly a team from Montreal who were a blast!" -Taylor E.

"New York 7s is usually a day where we play at least four games and try not to freeze to death on Randall's Island. This year we still played four games, but the weather was ridiculously warm, which made the day much more enjoyable. We had about 13 players, including several rookies. Since many of the attendees had never played 7s before, it was definitely a learning experience. We only won our first game, but we had fun and played our best in all of them. We even got to see several alumni play with their various post-grad teams. The great day was capped off with a fantastic social, and nobody got lost, as has happened in the past. It was an awesome way to end Thanksgiving break." -Dee S.

Rookies

This semester was one of the most successful in our recruiting history. We found a large group of talented and enthusiastic rookies, and we had a lot fun time teaching them the game this semester.

"Joining the rugby team my first semester at UConn evoked a mixture of emotions for me. I played rugby in high school so I knew the game would be the same as it had been, but I wondered if it would be as simple to adjust to an entirely new group of girls. My first week of practice I was uncertain - the weather was a straight downpour and we were forced to cram into a small section of the Field House to run drills. But that weekend, the girls invited me to join them at the Beantown tournament at the University of Massachusetts. I had the opportunity to experience the team outside of practice and to start to truly understand them beyond their positions on the field. And when I saw them play UMass and grind their competition into the dirt, I smiled and knew that I had joined the right team." - Bailey M.

"When I started at UConn I was looking for a sport to play, and I am so glad I picked the Rugby team! My first semester on the team has been grand; my teammates are awesome, playing the game is a blast, and we always have the best of times together. With the end of the Fall season, I am having a bit of rugby withdrawal, so I'm looking forward to the start of our Spring season." - Krissy P-B.



"Deciding to join Rugby was the best thing that's ever happened to me. It is a happy medium between a varsity sport and intramurals, which was exactly what I was looking for when choosing a school. I have not only learned a new sport and acquired the skills to face tough competition, but I have made some of the best friendships of my life, which is invaluable to me. I feel as though I am part of a family who I not only share common interests with, but who I know I'll always have a bond with in many years to come." - Taylor E.

"My rookie season was a lot of fun and I'm really happy that I tried a new sport! RO was a blast and learning about the Rookie Rugby program was exciting. I'm so glad I started playing as a freshman, so I have another 3 years to look forward to with this team. Can't wait to get back out on the pitch this spring!" - Gabby B.

"Being a part of the Uconn Women's Rugby team is something that has made my Uconn experience that much better. I'm a junior and being an athlete my whole life, I really missed being on a team and playing a sport since I graduated high school. Especially because I joined as a junior, it made me realize that it's never too late to start something new, and you never know how much you could love something until you try it! Rugby really is an awesome sport and I hope to continue being involved with it even after college!" - Hannah B.

Upcoming: Spring Break in Ireland

If you haven't heard, this spring break our team has gotten the amazing opportunity to travel to Ireland together. Almost 30 girls, plus coach are taking this trip so it will be a great bonding and learning experience that will affect the whole program. We will be there from March 12-18. Our trip begins in Dublin where we will get the chance to train with a top international rugby coach, tour The Avila Stadium - The Home of Irish Rugby, and play a local team. Next we move onto Cork where we will get to kiss the Blarney stone and play more rugby! We are all very excited about experiencing Ireland and improving our game. This is a great way to start off our season and we hope to bring some new skills back to the States for our spring schedule.

"As it is getting closer, I am getting more and more excited. It is so cool for me being able to go on the trip, especially since I've never been to Europe, never mind with 30 something of my good friends." - Taylor E.

Spring Tournaments

"This spring semester is going to be extremely exciting between the various trips we're taking and games we have planned. The return of NashBash is something that I am looking forward to most. It's been called "Christmas in March", but I think it might actually be better than Christmas. What could be more fun than packing vans full of your crazy teammates, driving 17 hours, playing 2 days of rugby, exploring Nashville, and then driving home on no sleep just in time for class Monday?! Nothing. Nothing is more fun. Add to it that a lot of alumni are planning to come this year, and this could be a recipe for the best NashBash ever." - Dee S.

"Tournaments are always fun to go to and a good way to learn more about rugby. Beast of the East has always been one of my favorite tournaments because you're surrounded by both men's and women's games that are helpful in understanding the game. Also, we get to play against teams that we would typically never play in a regular season. It allows us to stay on top of our game even more so if we don't know how another team performs." -Minh N.



Fundraising

"This semester was especially important for fundraising because everyone is trying to raise money for our trip to Ireland in the spring. We came together for several fundraisers; cleaning up after hockey games, asking for donations at football games, and selling Silpada jewelry around campus. These fundraisers raised more money than those in past semesters and will prove helpful come springtime." -Christie S., treasurer

The upcoming semester is going to be one of our busiest to date, and we prepared last fall with a great deal fundraising. With the help of UConn supporters and our team's hard work we have brought in money that will be used for a combination of our trip to Ireland and other team necessities, including new jerseys. With limited resources from UConn we are always looking for ways to finance everything we need. This fundraising is vital to allowing us to take on these new opportunities and continue to have a successful team. If you would like to donate you can find a link on our website or contact one of the fundraising chairs (contact info is also on the website).

AlumNotes

Who's interested in a spring alumni weekend?

"A spring alumni weekend would be a wonderful idea. We are able to connect with our alumni more if we spent more time with them. This will allow the past players see how much our team has grown over the years, the progress that our team has made." -Minh N.

Every fall we host an Alumni Weekend where past and present players get to play rugby and reunite. This past fall we had so much fun that we want to do it again, so we are inviting all alumni to join us in the spring. It is a great experience getting to see old friends or hear stories from past seasons. While the people may have changed, it is clear that many UConn rugby traditions have not. The preliminary date for our Spring Alumni Weekend is April 15. This is subject to change so look out for emails. We look forward to seeing all our alumni soon!

Solutions to Rugby Brain Teaser:

hooker
UConn
scrum half
alumni
social
wing
Saturday
tackle
boatrace

the marrying kind



Left & center: UConn rugby alum Emily Ryzak traveled to New Zealand for the 2011 Rugby World Cup
Right: Free "hugs" will be given to alumni that visit us during our Spring Alumni Weekend!



UConn Women's Rugby Football Club

We are a division I club team at UConn and our season takes place in both semesters, with the fall being our primary season. We play with an A side and a B side and we're always welcoming new players. No experience is needed to join our team. It is an awesome opportunity to not only improve in athletic ability and intensity, but to gain some solid friendships.

If you are not looking to play, we welcome you to join our fan base; come support us at our next game!

<http://uconnwomensrugby.com>
@UCwomensrugby