



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS AT AUSTIN
MEN'S RUGBY CLUB

2023 EDITION

OCTOBER

UTTER

RUCKUS!

Welcome to the latest issue of UTTER
RUCKUS!, your go-to destination for
everything Texas Rugby!



Your unwavering support is truly invaluable to us here at Texas Rugby. We don our jerseys with immense pride, as we understand the honor of representing you each time we step onto the field. We are committed to making you proud, both on and off the field. Thank you for standing by Texas Rugby, and we look forward to your continued support.
Hook 'em!

VICTORY OVER OU!



Side A Team Photo Post Match with OU
From left to right: Taj James, Carter Benson, Guy Le Roux, Jackson Dubree, Tom Marlow, Digby Dalton, Daniel Jing, Alex Teague, Michael Grogan, Alden King, Eyga Reddy, Dom Romo, Assistant Coach Brian Hannon, Oli Duthie, Mac Jordan, Head Coach Van Stewart, Jack Slaney, Jackson Frederick, (not pictured) Adrian "Toro" Carrera

SIDE A MVP: BACK ALEX TEAGUE



Side A MVP Back Alex Teague (with ball)
and Forward Jack Slaney Fighting for Meters

Following their participation in the 'Dust off the Rust' event at Texas State and the subsequent internal scrimmage and trial, both Sides A and B were thoroughly prepared for their inaugural regular-season clash against OU during the Texas/OU Weekend in Dallas, TX. On this momentous occasion, both the A and B Sides showcased their remarkable skills, emerging victorious with final scores of 24-21 and 12-10 against OU. What a great day for rugby!



Alden King Driving The Offense Forward

Alex Teague, the standout MVP of the match, delivered a dominating performance against OU. Hailing from Croydon, UK, Alex boasts a remarkable 15-year rugby career. Currently studying internationally here on the 40 Acres, having transferred from the University of Edinburgh, he eagerly joined our club with the mission to "Spread the gospel of the most beautiful game." Rest assured, the Red River Conference is on the cusp of bearing witness to his remarkable testimony.

Alex, with his remarkable feat of scoring 2 tries, proved to be an unstoppable force on the field. His incredible burst off the starting line showcased his natural game-breaking abilities. Complementing his impressive speed, Alex's exceptional strength and finesse truly illuminated the potential of Texas' offense. Side A collectively delivered a solid performance, with unwavering determination displayed by all of its players.

THREE CHEERS FOR SIDE B!



Side B Team Photo Post Match with OU

From left to right: Gilbert Huron, Justin Padilla, Brian Hannon, Chester Ashby, Alex Campbell, Ben Ruiz Ocampo, Tom Marlow, Van Stewart, Leonidas Varveropoulos, Jack Magee, Anthony Locke, Colin Kerrigan, Joseph Gomez, Constantinos "Costaki" Skevofilax, Cristopher Moctezuma, Cole Kalenak, Alex Broadnax, Patrick Domingo, (not pictured) Adrian "Toro" Carrera

THE DOMINATION CONTINUES



We are WINNING this SCRUM!

SIDE B MVP: FORWARD CRIS MOCTEZUMA



Side B Locked In

Left to Right: Brian Hannon, Toro Carrera, Christopher Moctezuma

Side B seamlessly continued the dominant performance initiated by the first side, upholding their high energy levels during the transition. Their credit for this readiness goes to their rigorous practice schedule, with dedicated sessions held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6-8 PM. This regimen has not only benefited the seasoned players but also prepared newcomers, some of whom had never previously experienced rugby, for our challenging sport.

Thanks to their exceptional communication, seamless teamwork, and unwavering consistency, Side B decisively sealed the victory over OU. Every position on the team exhibited a strong performance, with particular recognition going to first-year Forward Cris Moctezuma. Hailing from Cypress, TX, this marks Cris' inaugural rugby match. "I've always been told that I've got a stockier build so I wanted to play a physically brutal sport and dominate"

THE COACHES CORNER

HEAD COACH VAN STEWART



Team Breakdown after fitness drill

Q: What inspired your decision to take on the role of Head Coach for the UT rugby team?

C.V: I am very fortunate to be head Coach at UT. After moving to the US and finishing my playing career in 2021 I was eager to give back to the game that has done so much for me. I joined the coaching staff at UT with Brian in 2022, and became head coach in 2023, I am excited to see the development of the team and the program.

Q: What are your goals for the future of rugby at UT?

C.V: Rugby has always brought me a great sense of community and I want to bring that back to UT rugby. Covid set us back a number of years and my goals are to continue to grow UT rugby and put us back on the map within the school and within Texas. We are looking to win the Red River title within the next few years and represent UT at Nationals.

Q: What does it mean to you to be coaching young men as both players and as people?

C.V: College years are some of the most pivotal in anyone's development. I feel honored and excited to be in a position to help our players grow as rugby players and grow as men. UT produces excellent members of the community and I hope that UT's rugby club are some of their fondest memories students have while they are at school.

Q: Who's someone who sticks out to you as a great player and a great person you're proud to say has come out of your club?

C.V: We are lucky enough to have a great group of men who are part of our leadership committee this year. Each one of these players put a lot of time and effort into making sure we are able to run a successful club. I want to give a shoutout to Parker and Carter who are especially putting in a lot of behind the scenes work.



Head Coach Van Stewart

THE COACHES CORNER



Head Coach Van Stewart, Assistant Coaches Brian Hannon & Nicholas Navarro

Q: What's your playing history?

C.V: I grew up playing rugby from a young age in Sydney, Australia. I captained the Sydney U18s team and was named Colts club captain for my club, the Manly Marlins. I then went on to play first grade for the Marlins before moving to the US and playing two seasons with the Houston Sabercats.

Q: What's your goal for this season?

C.V: We have been putting a lot of work into our recruitment this year and have two competitive teams, which is great. We are looking to continue to build our overall skill sets and play a fun brand of rugby where players have attacking options from all over the field. We are 2 form 2 at the moment and are looking to build on our performances.



Carter and Costaki going at it in training

THE COACHES CORNER

ASSISTANT COACH BRIAN HANNON

Will McNamara and Henry X on the Pads

Q: Where are you from and what is your playing history?

C.B: I grew up in Indianapolis, IN, and have played rugby since I was 12 years old. In high school, I played 4 years with the High school all-American team, both 7s and 15's. I was also selected to play in Nanjing, China my senior year to play in the Junior Olympic games for 7s. My high school team won 3 national championships in my 4 years playing and 3 state championships. In my senior year, I was named the best HS player in the country by Alex Goff. I attended Indiana University and played for 4 years. During this time I also played 7s with the Chicago Lions.

Q: What is your coaching history and why did you decide to become a coach at UT?

C.B: I started my coaching career with the Royal Irish in Indianapolis and decided I wanted to pursue coaching at a higher level of rugby. I found out through the rugby community that UT was looking for a coach and I was set on the opportunity to be in Austin and coach at the pristine University.

Q: What does it mean to you to be coaching young men as both players and as people?

C.B: I have grown so much as a man coaching at the University of Texas and have been so blessed with the players, alumni, and fans for the support. It has been a pleasure to become a Longhorn and I have a ton of pride in the success of the club over the past 2 years. We have continued to raise the standard of play and culture of the club and we don't have any plans to slow down.



Backs Coach Brian Hannon

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UPCOMING MATCHES

ALUMNI WEEKEND! @ HOME VS TEXAS A&M - 11/3/23 @ 7 PM
TEXAS VS LSU @ LSU - 11/17/23 @ 2 PM
TEXAS VS UTSA @ UTSA - 12/2/23 @ 7 PM



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TEXAS VS

BAYLOR

FINAL 25-20

MATCH MVP: FORWARD MICHAEL GROGAN

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TEXAS

VS

SAM HOUSTON

LOSS

MATCH MVP: FORWARD COLIN KERRIGAN



THOUGHTS ON THE WEEKEND

COACH VAN:

“Both games were a good hit out and I’m glad we were able to get every player some quality game time. We are going to continue building our game structure and make sure we are able to utilize our backs as effectively as possible.”

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:

1. Kick chase defense
2. Depth on attack
3. Ruck work

COACH BRIAN:

“Our game against Baylor was a dog fight and a full 80-minute team win. We got the Win and that is what is most important as we are shooting for a conference championship. This being our second game there is a ton of room for our improvement, but it is clear the potential this team has. We are going to continue to get better every week and we are excited for a bye week to get healthy and primed for our next game.”

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SUPPORT US!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of Texas Rugby. Each and every one of you is sincerely appreciated, and we recognize that without your support, none of this would have been possible. If you're interested in continuing to support us, we invite you to visit our team website at texasrugby.club. Here, you can learn more about our staff, what we are about, and find ways that you can get involved. Keep an eye out for the upcoming team store, where you'll have the chance to support Texas Rugby in style!



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THANK YOU
FOR READING!
UNTIL NEXT TIME!



HOOK 'EM!



15 AS ONE!
TEXAS FIGHT!