2024 EDITION

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

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Your unwavering support truly means the world to us here at Texas Rugby. We don our jerseys with immense pride, as we hold 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!







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## COMMANDING WITH HONOR, URPOSE, AND PRIDE

This 15's season, Texas Rugby dominated the Red River conference, blowing out teams in a competitive but humble manner. The mission for this season's campaign was to dominate and command the field. However, our boys took that a step further by doing so with honor, purpose, and pride.

Each one of our practices was extremely competitive, full of energy and drive to push the brother next to you to get better in every possible way they could, picking each other up every step of the way.

Taking that to the field, our boys were respectful, even when challenged not to be so. Our team held each other accountable, letting our play be the showcase of ourselves, not by chatter. Taking this as a stepping stone, our boys wore the Brunt Orange and White with pride and controlled the pace of each game to deliver a finishing blow. To win with honor gave us purpose and that's what we here at Texas Rugby strive for each and every day both on and off the field.

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#### Head Coach Van Stewart

**Q:** What were your thoughts on the season?

**A:** I thought our 15s season was very successful. For the first time in a few years we were able to field a 1st and 2nd grade team and this is the standard we are looking to continue over the next few years. We had back to back shut out performances against Texas Tech and TCU, which shows our players dedication to training and their effort and mindset going into these games. Although the loss to A&M was disappointing, we have come leaps and bounds from where we were at this time last year and are looking to continue on this trajectory. We have had players who are new to rugby cement themselves in the game day roster and are looking to continue developing our players throughout the 7s season.

The additions of Mark and Russ this year have been instrumental for our players, bringing in valuable experience from all over the world. We have ambitious goals of growing the rugby community within the school and becoming recognized as one of the best rugby programs in the state and are looking forward to even better performances in the coming years. Bring on the 7s season!

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## THE COACHE'S CORNER

#### **New Forwards Coach Mark Rooney**

**Q:** What has joining Texas Rugby been like for you and what are your goals for the club? **A:** Joining the UT Rugby team as a coach, coming all the way from Ireland, has been an incredible experience. The camaraderie, dedication, and spirit of improvement within this team, regardless of skill level, have truly stood out to me. Since its inception in 1985, UT Rugby has been about more than just the game; it's about building a community that supports and uplifts each other. Under Coach Van's leadership, we're aiming to elevate this program to new heights. His vision and leadership, combined with our collective effort and passion, set us on a path to greatness. I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved and excited for what's ahead. To reach the next level, we need everyone's buy-in and support. It's through our unity and determination that we can continue to grow and succeed. Let's keep pushing forward, supporting one another, and striving for excellence. Together, we are unstoppable. Proud to be part of this journey.

Coach Mark

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# CORNERS OF THE COACHES

#### New Backs Coach Russ Webb

**Q:** What has joining Texas Rugby been like for you and what are your goals for the club? **A:** I had the absolute privilege of joining UT midway through the season and I was captivated and charmed by the grit and desire to get better by not only the players, but my fellow coaches in Coach Stewart and Coach Rooney as well. On top of all of this, there was a real togetherness and accountability amongst the players, something we as coaches cannot teach.

Of course the 15s season ended in slight disappointment just losing out to A&M in the final minutes, but that shows just how far we as a team have come. Especially if you look at the way they celebrated their victory alongside results against them in previous years. We as coaches strongly believe we are on the right trajectory to becoming a real competitive school within American Collegiate Rugby, and hopefully with the sevens season about to start, we can show case that in the different form of the game of rugby. Having played alongside and against some world class players during my collegiate and international career, I believe I have a good indication of what a player with real quality looks like, and we really do have some incredible potential within our team. If the boys continue to work as hard during the off-season and in the semesters to come, UT Rugby will to be a real force within collegiate rugby.



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### UPCOMING 7'S SEASON

#### APRIL

6th: 7's Tournament Warmup @ TCU 14th: 7's Tournament @ ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY 27th: 7's Championship @ BAYLOR

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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 <u>chance</u> to support Texas Rugby in style!

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