

Brown Rugby Update – Winter 2021

February 12, 2021

To All Brown Men's Rugby Alumni, Parents and Friends,

It was almost one year ago with Brown Rugby prepping for the Ivy League Spring Seven's Tournament when COVID-19 reared its ugly head and put Brown Rugby on the sideline. We had just installed new officers for the Club and this group of leaders were determined to take the team to a new level of success. The good news over the spring and fall of 2020: Brown was undefeated and unscored upon. The less good news is that no matches were played.

Our seniors are now just hoping to get an opportunity to slip on the Brown Rugby jersey one more time before May graduation. Their last official task was to select the new administration for calendar 2021 and on a recent Zoom call new officers were announced and will lead the program for this year.

In spite of no rugby the team stayed in touch through planned Zoom calls and events to maintain contact and friendships. The team has had several career nights at which Rugby Alumni provided the career paths taken and relevant education received to reach their current careers. Several presentations have been made by Coach Laflamme regarding match tactics and situational rugby. Individual "virtual" fitness programs have been provided to the squad so that players were able to improve strength and conditioning without compromising Brown's social distancing requirements. All of these activities were well received. The squad remains healthy and ready to resume playing as soon as the University provides an OK.

Recent new directives from Brown indicate that perhaps within a week or two, athletic teams, including rugby, will be able to work in groups no larger than 15 to improve fitness and do ball drills without contact and while wearing masks. This step will hopefully energize the team and lead to a further relaxation of the COVID restrictions.

Although a return to full contact rugby is not anticipated until our fall pre-season in August, we will take any opportunities to play rugby that the University allows as we get into the warmer spring weather, perhaps in mid to late March, April or May.

We thank the 2020 officers for their leadership this year: Austen Royer'21 (President), Sean Lumkong'21 (Captain), Christos Economos'21 (Vice-Captain), Max Spurrell'21 (Match Secretary), Jack Schaeffer'21 (Treasurer), Alan Green'21 (Recruiting Chair), Internal Recruiting Committee: Julius Abaje'21, Dylan Brady'22, Peter Smith'22, William Zeller'23, Campbell O'Conor'23, External Recruiting Committee: Jon Kim'22, Dan Archer'23, Elijah Soto'21 and Lucas Tay'23 (Social Media Chairs), Cameron Webster'20 and Sam McGoldrick'20 (Tour Chairs), George Wilde'21 and Duncan Grant'21 (Social Chairs). President delegated Freshmen to take care of Field and Equipment. We also thank the squad of almost 80 players who have maintained their involvement and loyalty to Brown Rugby through these difficult times.

We welcome the new 2021 officers and hope for a return to normalcy during their tenure: Peter Smith'22 (President), Jon Kim'22 (Captain), Dan Archer'23 (Vice Captain), Adam Eberle'23 (Match Secretary), Jack Schaeffer'22 (Treasurer), Chase Bekkerus'22 (Recruiting Chair), Internal Recruiting Committee: Campbell O'Conor'23, Brett Geiss'23, Dylan Brady'22, External Recruiting Committee:

William Zeller'23, Pablo Lavilla'23, Hudson Lee'22, Lucas Tay'23 (Social Media Chair), Duncan Grant'22 (Social Chair), Will Eveld'22 and Amar Dhillon'22 (Officers at Large).

The new Brown Freshman Class of 2024 did not arrive at Brown until the second semester. A total of approximately 30 first year students comprised of recruits and those new to the game have signed on with Dave and he is optimistic that this group will fill in the gaps left by the strong and experienced graduating seniors. Coach Laflamme will hopefully have updates as the spring unfolds, if we are able to get more active with full contact.

Stay well and we will alert you if we are given the OK to play anytime soon.

Cheers,
Jay Fluck'65
Director

Dave Laflamme
Head Coach