

Yale Rugby, Est. 1875

SPRING 2008



Yale Rugby Travels to Argentina

David Wheelock

A welcome opportunity for all Yalies to enjoy a respite from New Haven, spring break gives the rugby team a unique chance to play the game overseas on its annual spring tour. Argentina's exceptional rugby, mild weather and delicious food enticed the team to return this year after a 2 year hiatus. Thanks to the hospitality of several Argentine rugby clubs, Yale Rugby spent an unforgettable week in March experiencing the very best of local rugby and culture both in Buenos Aires—the Paris of South America—and in the northern city of Rosario.

The first day in Buenos Aires included a two-hour team training session led by a former member of the Pumas, Argentina's national rugby team. The team picked up some valuable drills and worked some of the younger players into the fold. The first match, against the local Curupayti

Rugby Club, was a high-scoring contest in which Yale, despite a strong showing from veterans and rookies alike, came up just short. A boisterous reception followed the match, and players from both sides happily exchanged not only gear but rugby songs as well. After traveling to Rosario several days later, Yale endured a much tougher treatment on the field at the hands of the well-trained Jockey Club, but the team managed to take away some key lessons nevertheless. The hospitality at Jockey was generous and heartfelt.

When away from the rugby pitch, Yale Rugby took full advantage of the occasion and explored Argentina's plentiful attractions. Highlights included a visit to the famous Cemetario de la Recoleta in Buenos Aires, a midday journey along the beautiful Tigre Delta, and meals featuring vast quantities of rich

Argentine beef. It was all too soon, then, that Yale had to leave the sun-soaked Southern Cone for a comparatively frigid New England. The indispensable support of alumni and the dedicated efforts of the team's tour secretary Pat Madden '10 truly helped Yale Rugby sweep through Argentina in style.

With the success of the tour of Argentina, Yale Rugby has already begun looking forward to next year's excursion. New tour secretary Patrick Mitchell '11 has been exploring options in the Caribbean, and the team has two extremely promising tour options in either Trinidad and Tobago and the Caymans. Patrick and the rest of the team are currently weighing their options and should have a tour destination decided by the start of the fall season.

Coach's Corner

Coach Jan Pikul

The 2008 spring season had its ups and downs. The season began on a high note, with a thrashing of defending Division II national champions Middlebury by a count of 46-10, and was capped off by a disheartening defeat by Princeton in the Ivy League tournaments. Both of the

tournaments we played, Cherry Blossoms and Ivies, did not go as planned, but a few very positive things came out of both tournaments.

The inclement conditions in D.C. did not favor our fast-paced style of play but Yale's defense, on a pitch covered with more than ankle-

deep mud, was phenomenal. The A side did not allow a single try in 4 matches. Some young players played exceptionally well, and prop Mike Horrell '10 had a breakout tournament, scoring two tries and saving another under our posts. The Yale B side was also in the tournament and played well. Young player Arturo Zindel Mundet had a fantastic tourna-

YALE RUGBY SPRING NEWS:

- *Captain Sean Walbridge '08 was named a Collegiate All-American by americanrugbynews.com.*
- *Sean Walbridge '08, Cameron Maloney '08, Taylor Giffen '09, Sam Cartmell '10, and Tim Shriver '11 were all named Honorable Mention All-Ivy, based on their play during the Ivy League Championships at Columbia.*
- *Yale defeated defending Division II champions Middlebury 46-10 to kick off the spring season.*
- *Yale finished a disappointing 6th at the Ivy League Championship this year, with losses to eventual 3rd-place Brown and Princeton, and a win against Cornell.*
- *Yale Rugby would like to thank the Class of 2008: Hooker Teddy Bunzel, Number 8 Marc Cotter, Center Tom Kidd, Number 8 Cameron Maloney, Lock Scott Proctor, Prop Ben Swiss, Flanker Sean Walbridge, and Wing Sam White. Their four years of hard work and commitment to the club have been integral to the club's recent resurgence and success.*

Coach's Corner *(continued)*

ment, playing multiple positions in the back line. As for Ivies, we suffered 4 tournament-ending injuries in the match versus Brown, including a knee injury to captain and All-American Sean Walbridge '08, and we had a difficult time overcoming them. The good news is that several young players got the opportunity to play throughout the rest of the tournament and they played well; in fact, our first XV against Princeton contained only 1 senior. It was a good opportunity for me to take a look at next fall's team and there is a lot of promise. This year, we will graduate more than half the starting pack, with key players like Scott Proctor and Cameron Maloney saying their farewells. The key to our success next fall will be the play of the young forwards. We will have a small pack, but we have explosive backs and the forwards should be mobile enough to mix into the back line as well. If we can manage to keep possession and recycle quickly and effectively, Yale should have a good fall season.

I am anxiously looking forward to next season, and to taking a bigger role

in the club's administration. The new officers are working hard to make sure the equipment is ordered, tour (to either Trinidad and Tobago or the Cayman Islands) is organized and our schedule has more games. We have a pre-season scrimmage weekend at Yale and a mid-week scrimmage at Fairfield prior to our first game. Tour is almost organized, the team has a "rugby" house and we have a good core of young returning players. We are still looking for one or two assistant coaches to help us this fall and in the future. If anyone is interested, or knows someone who is interested, email me at janpikul@hotmail.com.

A special thanks to Ralph Bosch and John Marshman for their fantastic support, effort with FYR and for organizing a great 2nd annual alumni match. Without the help of FYR, the club would not exist at its current level of participation and play. Thanks to John Walbridge for 4 years of tremendous support of Yale rugby. And finally, thanks to the Whites for hosting the team during our last 2 trips to the Cherry Blossom Rugby tournament.

Coach Pikul

YALE RUGBY FALL 2008

SCHEDULE:

- 9/6: Round Robin Scrimmage (Opponents Coast Guard and Northeastern)
- 9/10: Evening Scrimmage at Fairfield University
- 9/13: At UConn
- 9/20: Army
- 9/27: Dartmouth
- 10/4: At Boston College
- 10/11: At Northeastern
- 10/18: Harvard
- 10/25: Norwich
- 11/8 or 11/15 Brown (venue TBD)
- 11/22: At Harvard (The Game)

Yale Rugby's Second Annual Alumni weekend.....

...was great. Three matches were played in total. Southern Rugby played a mixed Yale B/C side. The game was played in three-30 minutes halves. Yale went up early, but Southern was able to battle back and take the lead. Finally, in the third period, Yale scored twice to win 35-25. The second game matched up a possible fall 2008 A-side versus alumni and seniors. The match was hard fought, but finally the alumni side was able to secure a victory. (to be fair, some of the players for Yale had already played in a match). The third game was a mixed game of Yale alumni, Yale undergraduates and Harvard alumni. Both teams were a little short on players, so we played 25 minutes halves. Momentum swung back and forth during the match, which ended with the "Harvard" mixed side winning by a try. After the matches, everyone cleaned up and headed to the Yale Golf Course for a fantastic banquet, which included great food and a the traditional exchange of our favorite rugby ballads. Two father-son groups were in attendance this year, Ross and Neal Brendel and Tim and Tim Shriver. The Alumni Weekend tradition will continue for years.

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Online At:

www.yale.edu/

rugby

This fall, the website will be greatly improved, with more extensive match reports, up-to-date player profiles, and match videos available online.

If you are interested in donating,
individual donations* may be sent to:

**YALE RUGBY CLUB
YALE ATHLETIC DEPT.
P.O. BOX 208216
NEW HAVEN, CT 06520**

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