



# Yale Rugby

## Elis Eying Berth at Nationals

Although the leaves may yet be green, and the weather hot, Yale Rugby, the illustrious Boys of Fall, are once again on the pitch, leaving no doubt that autumn has indeed arrived.

Yale's squad will return 25 veterans of a team that capture the D-I Beast of the East tournament last spring.

This depth of experience will be crucial in a fast and furious five regular-season matches in the Southern division of the New England Rugby Football Union.

Of particular note are the home matches against the University of Rhode Island and the Coast Guard Academy. URI won the D-II section of the Beast of the East last Spring, and split two tests with the Yale side last year, while Coast Guard represented the Northeast at Nationals last year.

If the Bulldogs achieve success in this divisional play, they will be well positioned for a potential run at the National Tournament. With a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year coach, 25 skilled veterans, and a new scrum sled, Yale is confident of the likelihood of success.

As the season progresses, keep up with the team's progress and hopeful march to the National Tournament on our website, [www.yale.edu/rugby](http://www.yale.edu/rugby), which we guarantee will be consistently updated.

This promises to be an exciting and challenging year for the Elis, who have several tough tests to pass, but have the skill and experience to do so.

### Yale's International Core

The success of Yale's spring performances at Beast of the East exposed the value of expertise brought to the club by Yale's foreign nationals. Led by Ervin Yeo '07 and Dong-Ok "Mushy" Jeon '05, both Singapore under-19 national players,



*Will Harper '05 viciously pulls away a Princeton player lying on the ball*

#### FALL SCHEDULE

<b>Sept. 11</b>	@ Amherst (exhibition)
<b>Sept. 18</b>	@ Providence
<b>Sept. 25</b>	URI
<b>Oct. 2</b>	Central Conn. State
<b>Oct. 9</b>	@ Trinity
<b>Oct. 16</b>	US Coast Guard
<b>Oct. 23</b>	NERFU Qualifier Location TBD
<b>Oct. 30-31</b>	NERFU Tournament Location TBD
<b>Nov. 6</b>	Northeast Quarterfinal Location TBD
<b>Nov. 13-14</b>	Northeast Tournament Location TB
<b>Nov. 20</b>	@ Harvard

Terence de Pentheny O'Kelley '07, an import from the prestigious Harrow School of London, and South African born flyhalf Rob "SARS" Smith '06, Yale showed the experience and dynamic that was to lift the team over formidable opposition.

Players such as Ervin, Terence, Mushy and Matthew Devlin '05 of Ampleforth College, England, bring an elevated level of play to a pack of forwards built predominantly of former American football players. Their wealth of knowledge and their willingness to improve the standard of American rugby has helped develop the play of Yale's rookies and will continue to do so in the coming seasons.

Success facilitated by international experience has had the added benefit of gaining the club legitimacy and recognition within Yale's international community. Drawn to the club by recent success, Yale freshman Sean Waldrige, a product of St. Albans College, one of South Africa's elite rugby-playing high-schools, has taken to helping the club on the heels of fellow South African and St. Stithians product SARS. Yale also looks forward to the services of former Canadian School Boys national Matt Finkelstein '07 at scrumhalf that should add more experience to an already talented backline and help Yale succeed in their quest for the national crown.

## Lean Mean Scrum Machine

When you're 5'7", 250 lbs, it takes a lot to make you sprint across a pitch in the dead of summer heat. But when Jordan "Sweat Truck" Hanson '07 and the rest of the Yale pack returned from the summer to find the Enforcer on the pitch, they could barely contain their excitement.

The Enforcer, or the "Goat" as some people call it, is a scrum machine of the exact same model used by the Australian National Team. Not only does the machine provide more resistance than the old sled, but it also allows for the pack to practice

offensive and defensive wheeling, and several other scrummaging maneuvers.

In a span of three weeks, the trustees of FYR pounced on the rare opportunity to purchase a world-class scrum machine for the Eli pack. The addition of the top-flight scrum machine should work wonders for improving the Yale scrum.

Pietro "P-Train" Desario '07 asserts that "with this machine, you really feel like you're getting better. With the old one, you were just worried about getting hurt."

Sweat Truck, dripping with enthusiasm, added, "This is a fantastic play by our alumni. This is going to make a big difference this year, and also for years to come."



*Injury-prone lock Nick Moscow has already laid claim to the seat on the new sled.*

## Meet the Captain

Nobody hopes for Yale's success quite as much as captain Mikey "Sloice" Atkins '05. During his four years with the Yale Rugby club, this former hockey player from Larchmont, New York has exhibited the finest aspects of Yale's storied rugby tradition, scoring tries and celebrating victories in proper form. Sloice combines gifted play



with a strong off the field presence, commanding a respect usually reserved for better-looking men.

To be fair, the large scar on Mikey's forehead is, as he will tell you, a "battle-wound," sustained while playing a rough sport. However, in truth he hurt himself during a collision in practice – with Yale's scrawny flyhalf.

Still, there is not a more dedicated member of the team than Atkins. In the off-season, he has attended rugby training

camp, and during practices he hustles and always works towards improving his game. Moreover, Atkins is so committed that when the team traveled to Ireland, he opted to forgo any female attention in favor of shaving a large "Y" into his hair.

Indeed, Yale is lucky to have a captain so willing to sacrifice himself for the team. Sloice earned his captaincy through hard work and talent, and he is a strong and valuable leadership presence both on and off of the pitch.

## Help Support Yale Rugby

Donations are welcome year-round and help the team achieve success on the field. Contributions directly fund coaching, transportation, and equipment purchases, but can be earmarked towards any specific use. Donations can be made out to "Friends of Yale Rugby" and are eligible for tax exemption. Donations should be sent to:

Club Sports Office, Yale Rugby, P.O. Box 208216, New Haven, CT 06520

## Do You Remember Your Teammates?

In an effort to enhance our ever-growing record of Yale Rugby alums, Friends of Yale Rugby is looking for any information concerning former teammates. If you remember club members from your time at Yale, please send in their name and class year if possible, to be added to our records. Any other information or records such as team pictures would be greatly appreciated. Information can either be emailed to [matthew.reagan@yale.edu](mailto:matthew.reagan@yale.edu), or sent in to:

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### Current known Members of Graduating Classes from 1956 - 1960

Mr. Ray Foote '56	Mr. James Kinney '58	Mr. William Parkhurst '59
Mr. William Mercer, Jr. '56	Mr. Henry Burt, Jr. '58	Mr. Lauren Williams '59
Mr. Allen Moore, Jr. '56	Mr. Arthur Lubke '58	Mr. Clay Simon '59
Mr. John Niles, III '56	Mr. Richard Skewes '58	Mr. Charles Griffith '59
Dr. Joseph Ross '56	Mr. Peter Wight '58	Mr. Dennis Maher '59
Mr. Peter Bartlett '56	Mr. Howard Phelan '58	Mr. Wallace Pflug '59
Mr. Richard Money-maker '57	Mr. John Embersits '58	Mr. Hugh Wyatt '60
Mr. Alfred Ward '57	Mr. Edward Moore '58	Dr. John Curtis '60
Mr. Joseph Mark '57	Dr. Gordon Peterson '59	Mr. Hugh Price '60
Mr. Robert Barton '57	Mr. Paul Lynch '59	Mr. Michael Lane '60
Mr. Dennis McGill '57	Mr. Norman Benford '59	Mr. Andrew Kugler, Jr. '60
Mr. Lars Kulleseid '57	Mr. Alexander Kroll '59	Mr. David Ball '60
Dr. William West, III '58	Mr. James Sloan '59	