

THE GAIN LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
MIAMI UNIVERSITY MEN'S RUGBY CLUB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Volume 7, Issue 2

August 2009

murugby.com

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Miami U. Men's Rugby Football Club Alumni Association, Inc. shall be organized and operated to develop, support and sustain collegiate rugby football at Miami University.

MIAMI RFC FINISHES THIRD IN USA RUGBY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a terrific run through the fall 2008 and spring 2009 seasons (details on page 5), Miami's A side traveled to Stanford University in California at the beginning of May this year to compete in the Final 4 of the National Division 2 Tournament. Miami lost to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the semifinal (a heartbreaker: 14-12). Middlebury College became the National D2 champion by defeating Wisconsin 27-11, completing a perfect 15-0 spring season. Coach Jared Moore provides his impressions of the weekend in the report that follows:

The Trip: We left on Wednesday afternoon, only 5 days before final exams; the guys packed not only their kits, but their text books as well. The airport time and plane ride was quiet, studious; many of the guys are pre-med or business majors, with several seniors looking to graduate with both top grades and a National Championship. We arrived late to the hotel that evening, a few van rides to Taco Hell, then more studying, and then off to bed.

Preparation Day: The itinerary was slightly less militant than for the first two rounds of the tournament in Florida. Going through the huge success two weeks earlier I figured we knew what to do and the guys appeared to be ready as well. My goal for Thursday was to get the guys acclimated to the environment; shake off the travel rust, and not to focus too much on the game just yet. We had study sessions planned throughout the day, as well as a short day trip to the San Francisco downtown area, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Bay Aquarium — a few hours to walk around, see the sights, team bond, and clear their minds. The stragglers from the day before (unable to join us due to tests, classes, and one missed flight) met up with the team just before lunch and we decided to split up to get fed more quickly. Thank you to John Zins for picking up the stragglers from the airport and delivering them to us.

After lunch we headed back to the hotel, a quick change, and then onto the pitch for a light run-through and team check in with USA rugby. The practice was unusually chippy and some of the coaches seemed a bit higher strung, as well. I was encouraged to see the team as intense as they were; I encouraged them to relax a bit, but I think the environment, seeing the BYU team unload from their caravans, as well as the magnitude of the entire scene may have overridden some of our team's ability to focus as a unit.

Dinner was held at an a campus dining hall. It was a perfect fit: plenty of healthy food, served immediately, and we dined together as a group. Thank you Woody Fox for picking up the tab! The guys may have overdone their fuel intake, big lunch, bigger dinner, but I figured they're young and growing; they can take it. The chippiness still seemed to be in the air, and I again thought it was a good sign. (Continued on Page 2)

**DON'T MISS IT -
OLD BOYS WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2009**

Details on page 4



Miami (in blue) dominated the lineouts

(Continued from Page 1) We returned to the hotel, I attended the coach's meeting; afterwards, we had a short team meeting in which I announced our goals for the semifinal match, and explained the rules and regulations of the field and tournament grounds. The team was ready.

Game Day: We played late in the day, even later according to our internal EST time zone clocks. I left much of the time on game day morning to the guys to study, sleep in, etc. Sticking to the schedule similar to day 2 in Florida (also a late afternoon game), we decided have a brunch type meal late morning, closer to noon. About a third of the team chose to stay to study and rest. They were not hungry, I sensed more uneasiness, but I have always told them that they need to prepare the way which is best for them. Everyone's pregame routine is different and I was not going to force them into a set team meal before the match. I thought a late day game has always been a tricky one to prepare for, a lot of idle time to over think for the match; but we had a very successful late game in Florida and I tried to mimic the schedule as much as possible.

We had another team meeting in the coach's room. We reiterated our goals, discussed the game plan, and two alumni from the 84 team addressed the team. Former Captain Steve "Pookie" Williams was first to address them. He spoke of wearing the MU jersey and referenced his email from two weeks earlier about the fight in the dog (sorry I didn't take notes, it was a very inspirational talk though). Then Terry Ryan spoke of living in the moment and playing for this time, letting it all out on the field (again, no notes, but very good words – I was ready to play). Thank you to Steve and Terry for making the trip and taking the time to address the team, it was very inspirational and we appreciate it. I handed out the jerseys and we rushed to the vans and traveled to the pitch.



Tom Cox '84 & Steve Williams '83 at the Final Four

The Match: It was overcast, raining, and around 70 degrees; great weather for fat Midwest play; unfortunately we're a fast team that welcomes hot, humid weather and a fast paced game (Old Boys, look out on 9-12-09!). However the last time we faced Wisconsin it was in the thirties, raining and snowing and we won 24-0. Perhaps this victory hurt us a bit with our mental preparation, I don't know, a team that has never been in this situation before facing a team we beat easily 5 months earlier (then again we had never been to the Midwest championship before, and we won there?).

Just as penalties have plagued us all season, they again would be one of the determining factors in this game. The Wisconsin side was on the board first, 4 minutes into the game, UW up 3-0, 4th minute. We shook it off, just as we have all year, and with a very good series through the backline, MU #11, Ryan Grote, slashed through the UW defense and placed the ball down just over the try line (9th minute). Unfortunately, the young ref was out of position and what should have been a try was called a knock on and it was an UW scrum 5 meters out. They won the scrum and cleared the kick. UW continued their attack and again from almost the same spot as the last foul, Miami would give the UW kicker another shot at the posts, fortunately he missed (12th minute). Quickly Miami was back on the attack after the 22m kick, and we found ourselves getting our own shot at posts, but the kick was wide and play would restart with a UW 22m kick at the 15th minute mark. It was a very back and forth game in the first 20 minutes. Miami controlled much of the game's pace and the only opportunity UW had for any offense was at the expense of our penalties. When the UW side decided to kick the ball into touch we dominated the line; as with the first meeting between these two Midwest D2 powerhouses, we controlled the lineouts this time, stealing 8 of UW's lineouts during the match. Then about 20 minutes in, off of a lineout, Lee Ruddock, our Irish import #9 darted up the outside edge of the lineout, taking the ball to about 30 meters out. A nice pick and go by #4, Vince Juron, led to a UW penalty. Lee, knowing we had advantage, tried for a drop goal. It was unsuccessful, but playing the advantage, we received the penalty kick and Luke Markovich (#10) hit the easy shot and at 20 minutes the game was tied 3-3. With the momentum in our favor, the ensuing kickoff was caught by graduating senior flanker, Nate McGill, and he leveled the pursuing UW tackler with a vicious shoulder. The crowd went nuts, and we followed the ruck with a beautiful high ball into UW territory. Again a penalty would kill our attack, an alleged hit in the air by our #14, would give the ball back to the UW side as well as quiet the crowd (later reviewed on film it was a very clean hit, the ball bricked off the UW player's chest and then the hit was made immediately following with both of his feet on the ground). The next ten minutes would give the UW side two more shots at goal and they made both of them; we entered half down 9 to 3. Penalty count MU 8, UW 4.

The second half began with more phase play by both sides. Then the UW fly half kicked over the MU defensive line, and the ball bounced short of our freshman fullback coming up to make the catch and run a counter attack. The ball also took an unusually high bounce away from our fullback's path, and on the second bounce it was just out of his reach; the UW player covering the kick caught the ball at full stride and ran the ball into the try zone. UW 14 MU 3 at the 45th minute. We continued to put pressure on the UW side with a strong flat line defense and eventually put several phases together. Over the next 20 minutes we scored 3 penalty kicks, all by John Lyons, and it was 14-12 at ~65th minute. With about 10 to 15 minutes left in the game we tried to get some offense going but our Achilles heel showed itself again and we were penalized 4 times in the last 10 minutes. Unable to keep the pace going and allowing the UW side to control much of the final minutes we were unable to make up the difference. The final whistle blew and we exited the National Tournament in the semi-finals with a 14 to 12 loss.

On the plus side, we were the attacking side much of the game, we dictated much of the game's flow (except the final 10 minutes), and dominated the lineouts. Although UW controlled all of their scrums, our back row defense was smothering; UW did not get the ball more than a meter past the gain line on any attacking 8-man pick. We had some excellent counter attacks, high balls, and long breaking runs. Rucking was even; we won a majority of the rucks despite the UW side diving over the entire game. UW owned the scrums (much different than the last time we faced them, and the only team to do this to us the entire year), and they took advantage of the penalties we gave up by the posts (all their kicks were between 22 and 35 meters out). This was an unfortunate example (for us) of two good sides playing, and the side that won making fewer mistakes.

By the Numbers: Scrums: MU won 13, lost 1 (9 of our scrums went backwards); UW won 20, lost 0, stole 1
Lineouts: MU won 6, lost 1, stole 8; UW won 5, lost 8, stole 1
Penalties: MU 16; UW 8

(Continued on Page 5)

Miami University Men's Rugby Football Club Alumni Association, Inc.
Eighth Annual General Meeting – Agenda
Shriver Student Center, Oxford, OH – September 12, 2009 – 10:00 am

- I. 10:00 Open Meeting / Roll-Call
 - II. 10:05 Approval of Minutes from September 6, 2008 AGM
 - III. 10:10 Reports
 - I. 10:10 Board of Directors Update
 - II. 10:05 Club President (David Vargo/Jared Moore)
 - III. 10:10 Committee Chairmen Reports
 - i. 10:10 Communications – Steve Seilkop
 - i. Newsletter Content / Assistance
 - ii. 10:15 Investments – Dike Ajiri
 - iii. 10:18 Club Administration – J. Moore / M. Coco
 - iv. 10:20 Physical Assets Committee – Ron Pruitt
 - v. 10:22 Coaching Committee – Toby Edison
 - vi. 10:25 Fundraising – Scott Skillman
 - vii. 10:32 Scholarships – Sean Edwards
 - viii. 10:34 Touring Committee – Woody Fox
 - ix. 10:37 Parents Committee – Craig Scheiderer
 - x. 10:40 Governance – Mike Coco
 - i. Fiscal 2008-2009 Financial Statements & Review
 - xi. 10:42 Treasurer – Craig Scheiderer
 - i. Current Balances
 - ii. \$30/person Match Fee Reminder
 - iii. 2009 – 2010 Membership Dues Levels

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Miami Supporter | \$50 to \$119 |
| Select Side | \$120 to \$249 |
| Eagle | \$250-\$499 |
| Doug Edwards | \$500-\$4,999 |
| Lionel Young | \$5,000-\$10,000 |
- IV. 10:45 Old Business
 - I. Discussion of possible removal of “Men’s” from MUM RFC AA name and change in mission to include women. – Toby Edison
- V. 11:00 New Business
 - I. 11:00 Elections:
 - i. Expiring Board Seats: M. Coco, S. Edwards, B. Slutzky (3 year terms)
 - II. 11:10 Hosting USA Rugby Events – Toby Edison
- VI. 11:15 Other New Business
- VII. 11:25 Approval of time and location for next Annual General Meeting
 - I. 10:00 am, Saturday, September 11, 2010 in Oxford, OH
- VIII. 11:30 Close Meeting



Note: Short Board of Directors Meeting to take place immediately following AGM:

- I. Officers (elected from within the Board by the Board):
 - i. Vice President – 2 year term through 2011
 - ii. Secretary – 2 year term through 2011
- II. Next BOD Meeting
 - i. Sunday, September 20, 2009, 9 pm ET

Miami RFC 2009 Old Boys Weekend Schedule

Friday September 11, 2009

- Golf Outing – Houston Woods (contact John Zins john.p.zins@hotmail.com)
- Evening Gathering – The Stadium

Saturday September 12, 2009

- 10 am Annual General Meeting at Shriver Center
- 12 noon Touch 7's at Pitch (Ditmer Field on Rt. 73, just east of the horse stables)
- 1 pm A-side Match
- 2:30 pm B-side Match
- 4 pm BBQ & Awards at Pitch

HOTELS:

The Best Western is booked for Old Boy's weekend. Sean Edwards called the Holiday Inn uptown and booked a block of rooms for Friday and Saturday night. The rooms are under MURFC and run \$169.95/ night for a king and 179.95/ night for a double queen. They will be reserved until **August 11th**. Please call them at 513-524-2002.



Miami RFC in the scrum against Un. Of Wisconsin at the USA Rugby Final Four, May 1, 2009

Miami Un. Men's RFC 2009 Fall Season Schedule

- 8/29 Cincinnati Wolfhounds DIII (Away)
- 9/5 Notre Dame (Away)
- 9/12 Miami RFC Alumni (Home)
- 9/19 Kent State (Away)
- 9/26 Xavier (venue TBD)
- 10/3 Ohio University (Home)
- 10/10 University of Cincinnati (Home)
- 10/17 University of Dayton (Away)
- 10/31-11/1 Midwest Tournament Rounds 1&2 (Away)
- 11/7-8 Midwest Tournament Finals (Away)



(Continued from Page 2) **Post-Match:** After the game, I thought we had at least a consolation match to play Georgetown, but apparently they stopped consolation matches several years ago. Since our flight didn't leave until Sunday, we had a weekend to reflect on our season and final match. Dinner was generously hosted that evening by Mr. and Mrs. John Zins at an Italian joint close by. Following an awesome meal, three very complimentary toasts were given by Ms. Suzie Thompson (the mother of 3 MURFC players), senior captain Dan LeMoine, and alumni President Mike Coco. Thank you to the Zins for a great dinner! It was a great time for players to celebrate the great accomplishments of the season, and I am proud of the team of how they handled themselves in defeat.

The Rest of the Weekend Most of the guys studied for finals the entire next day. A group of guys went to Santa Cruz for some cultural enlightening (hippies and beach freaks); some guys spent the day with their families. The coaches and club captain Kenny Thompson watched Wisconsin lose to Middlebury for the D2 National Championship – very tough game to watch, I wish all the guys went to it. Later that day the entire team watched BYU upset Cal. The guys recognized that the skill level wasn't much different than ours, the plays weren't much different than ours, the main difference that sets the BYU's and the Cal's of the world from our team was the intensity of the match from kick off to final whistle and the size of the individual players. Similar to our games and something I didn't want the guys to see is that the BYU side was penalized and sinned binned as much as we were this season (I didn't think it was possible for another team to accomplish this) and still won the match; it was an incredible game.



John Zins, '92 and wife Lilly

After the game we convinced a pizza shop to stay open late and we had the run of the place. Thanks for nothing, Mr. Jeff McCarthy; maybe you can pick up dinner next year? Through the other alumni, and a presidential decision by Coco, the dinner was picked up once again by the alumni – thank you. We returned to the hotel, packed our bags, and headed out at 4am for the trip back to Oxford, passing at the door some alumni just stumbling in for the night (they'll remain nameless).

Plans for the Upcoming Year: We lost 7 starting seniors in total and an Irish imported scrum half – all contributed greatly to our success. It will be a challenging 2009/2010 season. However, I started making lists of corrective actions on the plane ride home: Two of the coaches attended an upper level coaching clinic this past summer. We are enhancing the manner in which we practice and prepare. This past summer, two returning players, Brandon Croley (#2) and Kenny Thompson (#1) (in addition to our graduating captain, Dan LeMoine(#12)) competed on the Midwest All Star Team, several players played on D1 Men's Seven Teams, other players worked out all summer and rehabbed injuries. We have returning, from injury and suspension, a Midwest tighthead prop and a second row who is a team leader in fitness and aggressiveness – both of whom did not play in the national tournament. We also have a large senior class who all played in California, and a junior class that is ready to peak and play an all new style of Miami Rugby. We have been selectively recruiting a new freshman class and have plans to aggressively recruit freshmen on move-in day.

We are a maturing club, learning as we go. In 2007, we lost in the second round of the Midwest tournament to a team we knew we should've beat; a year later we grew, added a few new players, and won the Midwest Championship. In 2008, we lost in the semi-finals of the national tournament to a team we previously beat 24-0; a year later, although facing new and possibly greater challenges, I know, and our players know, that we can and will win the National title.

Thank You! I've said it time and time again in emails, but it can not be said enough. Thank you to the alumni and parents of the MUMRFC. Over the last two years you have continued and increased your support of the players and coaches. Without you, our success would not have been nearly as great. We will need your continued support moving forward and I know without question you will be there. Several alumni and parents made the trip to Florida and California – thank you, it was awesome and a bit strange to be in distant places and see guys I only see once every blue moon at Old Boys standing and cheering us on, Thank you!

Thanks again and I look forward to seeing you all at Old Boys Weekend, **Jared Moore '98, Coach MUMRFC**

MU RFC 2009 Spring Season Summary—

A-side

Regular Season: 4 wins 1 loss; 1-0 vs. D2 opponents, 3-1 vs. D1 opponents Points for: 149; Points against: 34

National Tournament: 2 wins, 1 loss; Defeated South #2 seed East Carolina U. (38-10), Defeated West #1 seed Univ. of N. Colorado (50-7); Lost to Midwest #2 seed Univ. of Wisconsin (14-12) Points for: 98; Points against: 31

Total Spring Record 6-2; Total Points For: 247; Total Points Against: 65

B-side

Regular Season: 3 wins 0 loss; Defeated Ball State, Notre Dame, Ohio St. Points for: 145; Points against: 43

Mudpig Tournament: 3 wins, no losses; 1st place; Defeated Wright State D3 A-side (12-10), Wittenberg D3 A-side (46-0), Marion Men's Club (22-5); Ohio Classic 3-1

Total Spring Record: 8-1

Miami Rugby Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1603
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USA



Miami RFC enjoys Sweet Sixteen National D2 Tournament victory over U. of Northern Colorado (50-17)



Contact Us

Membership: Contributions of \$50 or more per year qualify you as a member of the Miami Rugby Alumni Association. Mail them to Mike Coco, P.O. Box 1603, Traverse City, MI 49685, use the enclosed envelope. or pay via PayPal at www.murugby.com

Gain Line News: If you have a story, picture, or other information that you'd like to contribute, contact Steve Seilkop, 3942 Rives Chapel Rd., Siler City, NC 27344 (seilkop@earthlink.net)

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