

# THE GAIN LINE

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

## Old Boys Weekend 2007



They came from near and far, both young and old, to our 35th annual Old Boys weekend (September 7-9, 2007). It was a great success, with some of the best Old Boys rugby play in recent memory, a reconnection with many long-lost alumni, and a chance to get to meet the current Miami players (see pictures on [murugby.com](http://murugby.com)). Formal activities for the weekend started Saturday morning with a well-attended Annual General Meeting of the Miami University Men's Rugby

Club Alumni Association in the Shriver Center. President Mike Coco led discussions concerning our organization and its ongoing efforts in fund raising, scholarships, and coaching support.

In the annual Miami A-side match against the alumni, the Old Boys used their experience to dominate a scrappy Miami side, winning by a score of 37-17. The Old Boys forwards dominated ball possession and showed great determination, with tries being scored by Mark Hirselj, Ferd Schneider, and Matt Ellerbrock. The scrumhalf/flyhalf combination of Bob Deck and Dike Ajiri was extremely potent, producing 4 more tries. The game was a bit more competitive than the score indicated, with the youngsters getting the upper hand towards the end of the match, scoring the last of their 3 tries in the final minutes. Truth be told, if the match had gone on longer, or the Old Boys had not been using hockey style free-substitution, the score would probably have been much closer.

The outcome of the second Old Boys match was unusual, with the "age and treachery" of the Really Old Boys (some in their 50's) resulting in a lopsided defeat of the Miami B-side. Inspired by strong back-row runs from Tom (Igor) Cope, the Old Boys' pack covered the field better than their years would seem to have allowed, securing the majority of ball possession which was well distributed to speedy high school ruggie wings Gareth (son of Bill) Griffes and Ben (son of Ken) Glassmeyer. Of particular note were tries by oldsters Marty Brix and Ron Pruitt, as well as the flyhalf efforts of Ken Glassmeyer, who was playing with a torn rotator cuff, but managed to drop a goal (in tennis shoes, no less).

Soon after the matches, a thunderstorm and torrential rain conspired to cut picture taking short, and brought everyone together under the large tent that we had at the pitch. To the great delight of everyone (especially the female contingent), Dike Ajiri and John Coughlin took a scantily clad run through the downpour, finishing it off with diving mudslide tries. This effort salvaged Dike's bid for Best Old Boy Play, which despite his 3 tries, was in jeopardy due to his being beaten by Luc Marcovich's chip kick for Miami's final score.

A delicious barbecue dinner, prepared by Bill and Nancy Griffes, was then served under the tent (with the rainfall continuing). After awards, speeches, and many "I remember's" we adjourned for further festivities in uptown Oxford.

### Awards:

- Best Old Boy Play: Dike Ajiri
- Best Young Boy Play: Luc Marcovich
- Outstanding Alumni Volunteer: Tom Kelly (Sr.)
- Outstanding Young Boy Volunteer: Noah Klein (Field Mgr.)
- Lionel Young Award: Ron Pruitt
- Steven Smith Scarlet A Award: Jeff Montee
- Lionel Young Memorial Scholarship (\$500): Anton Dolenc
- Doug Edward Memorial Scholarship (\$500): Dan LeMoine

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Dike Ajiri*  
*Michael Coco*  
*Toby Edison*  
*Sean Edwards*  
*Tim Galvin*  
*Jon Gustin*  
*Steve Gustin*  
*Mark Hirselj*  
*George Muhoray*  
*Craig Scheiderer*  
*Steve Seilkop*  
*Brian Slutzky*  
*Mark Wiet*

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**PRESIDENT**  
Michael Coco  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Mark Hirselj  
**TREASURER**  
Brian Slutzky  
**SECRETARY**  
Craig Scheiderer

### 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 U. RFC News

### Fall: After Slow Start, Miami Nearly Takes Midwest DII Championship

#### Fall Season A Team Results

9/9/07	Old Boys	17-37	L
9/16/07	Ohio U.	0-27	L
9/23/07	Kent State	43-0	W
9/30/07	Dayton	5-16	L
10/6/07	U. of Cincinnati	31-11	W
10/13/07	Wright State	50-0	W
10/20/07	U. of Kentucky	24-18	W
10/27/07	Ball State*	20-14	W
10/28/07	Michigan*	18-22	L

\* Midwest DII Playoffs Hosted by Miami

Miami's opening loss to the Old Boys was followed by a disappointing showing against Ohio U., in part reflecting an injury-decimated side, but also lack-luster play. Alum Jared Moore, who has stepped up as Head Coach, cited issues with line outs, penalty decisions, tackling, and fitness. He and coach Tim Williams went to work on these problems, producing a near-miraculous turnaround, with the club posting victories in 4 of its next 5 matches. Only a hard-fought loss to a good Dayton side marred the team's league record. By the time that Miami played a big, troublesome U.C. team, fitness and discipline had improved dramatically, resulting in a convincing defeat despite a slow start in the match. After a blowout of Wright State, Miami squeaked by a determined U.K. in a match that Jared characterized as a "complete mess: poor rucking, a narrow field, and a clueless ref." Nonetheless, the victory secured a berth in the Midwest DII playoffs.

In the Midwest playoff match against Ball State, Miami prevailed in a very tough match. Miami dominated in the first half and entered halftime at 17-0, but Ball State clawed back to 17-14. With 15 min. left, fullback Chris Thompson slotted 3 points on a penalty kick to assure a 6 point lead. Miami ended the game threatening another try but ran out of time.

In the Midwest quarterfinal against Michigan, Miami played extremely hard, but came up short in the final minutes. From a 15-3 deficit at halftime, our boys managed two tries early in the second half, bringing the score to 15-13. Michigan then scored a converted try (22-13). In the 70th minute of the match, the Miami pack scored a push-in try to reduce the margin to 22-18. With 30 seconds remaining in the match, Miami was awarded a free kick 8 meters from Michigan's line. The decision to take the ball on with the forwards resulted in a lost ruck, buried ball, and the end of a closely contested match. Although the outcome was a disappointment, making it that far was a considerable accomplishment considering how the season started. Congratulations to the MU club and coaches Jared Moore and Tim Williams!

The final word on the season from Coach Jared: "The fire will burn inside us for all of the off-season and Spring. We will recruit, get the organizational side of the club in order and hit the Fall season next year reloaded, hopefully with two complete sides, and we will dominate the Ohio DII union. We have everyone coming back but two guys, . . . so next Fall is the time to go to Nationals, anything less will be a greater disappointment than the Michigan loss. We will all learn this off season, practice all spring, and hit the ground running in the Fall of 2008. **The Old Boys better represent well at the 40th anniversary weekend because they will have their hands full - in every aspect of the game.**"

#### Miami Notches First Win of 2008 at University of Florida

In an early year road trip to Gainesville (January 18), the club's A side defeated a strong Florida team in a close (10-9) come-from-behind victory in the last minute. The MU boys started fast and had UF on their heels from the opening whistle. A penalty from 10 meters in front of the posts gave MU a 3-0 lead. For most of the half we played very aggressively and had several opportunities, but could not get the ball across the try line. In the last 10 minutes of the half we committed several penalties, due to early season lack of conditioning. UF connected on 2 of them to take a 6-3 lead at halftime

In the second half we got our second wind and kept UF on their heels most of the time. The forwards continued to play well, and both teams played good defense when they had to. UF had several penalty kick opportunities and made one for a 9-3 lead as the time was winding down. With less than 2 minutes remaining, UF pushed us back into our end. We were awarded a penalty and re-started to the backs. Our aggressive forward play then paid off; after winning several phases, the backs broke through and had a nice 40 meter run for the only try in the match. We converted for the 10-9 lead, which we held until the final whistle. A great way to start the rugby year! Thanks go out to alumni Ron Pruitt, Randall Reid and others who turned up to root on Miami Rugby in the deep South!

#### 2008 Spring Season Schedule

3/29	Wabash University (Oxford)
4/5	Indiana University (Place TBD)
4/12	Ohio State (Oxford)
4/19	Ohio University (Athens)
4/26	Ohio Classic (Columbus)
	<i>Usually 3 matches</i>
5/3	Queens City Men's Club (Cincinnati)



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## MU Men's RFC Alumni Association News

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### Board of Directors Set Strategic Goals

After successfully operating for five years, an all-day strategic planning session was held by the MUM RFC AA Board and other interested alumni the day before 2007 Old Boys Weekend. Participants included: Mike Coco, Mark Hirselj, Toby Edison, Jared Moore, Dike Ajiri, Brian Slutzky, Craig Scheiderer, Joe "Mario Nauman (Club President), Steve Fazekas, Mark Wiet, Steve Gustin, Steve Seilkop, Ron Pruitt and Alan Weber. The primary purpose of the meeting was to develop a set of prioritized goals and objectives for our organization, and to develop a Strategic Plan to accomplish these objectives. The top three objectives:

1. **Coaching:** Provide high-quality, consistent adult coaching support for the students in both the short and long term. A head coach and dedicated assistants will provide the adult continuity and stability Miami RFC needs to be successful.
2. **Club Administration:** Assist student members of Miami RFC in leading and operating the club. MUM RFC AA will take an active role in mentoring students and helping with organizational needs.
3. **Membership:** Increase the number of dues-paying, active members in the MUM RFC AA. Use Miami RFC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as leverage to contact and connect with Miami RFC alumni.

Immediate actions to address these goals: 1) Acceptance of Jared Moore's offer to step in as Head Coach, 2) Creation of a MUMRFCAA/MU RFC liaison position that was taken by Mark Hirselj to help with club administration, 3) Initiation of planning for the 40th anniversary, as described below.

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### Eric Mather Contribution Launches \$100,000 Capital Campaign

In December, 2007, Eric Mather, '81 donated \$31,000 in stock to be liquidated for exclusive use by the men's rugby club. Funds are to be distributed in support of the club over the next five years (approximately \$6K/year), with a primary goal of supporting coaching.

We are challenging our other members to match Eric's generous gift at a 2 to 1 rate to generate an additional \$69,000. This will provide our Alumni Association with \$100,000 of new operating capital, which will allow us to institute and maintain annual expenditures of approximately \$15K over the next five years, and to add to our existing assets (which total approximately \$55K liquid, \$30K in real estate) for long-term support of MU RFC.

The estimated annual budget of \$15K (allocation may vary, depending on needs) is broken down as follows:

- Coaching
  - Support of two assistant coaches (\$4,000/year)
  - Support of a head coach with overall responsibility and accountability (\$8,000/year).
- Medical and Fitness Trainers (\$1,000/year)
- Ongoing equipment needs, e.g., storage facilities, scrum machine maintenance, etc. (\$2,000/year)

Contributions to this campaign are considered to be above and beyond what members give annually for dues. We will offer several ways to donate (one time check, monthly via PayPal, stock, etc.).

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### MU RFC's 40th Anniversary Celebration (September 5-6, 2008)

This year marks the MU Rugby's 40th year of continuous play (as well as our 36th annual Old Boys weekend). In anticipation of what we hope to be the largest alumni turnout ever, we are organizing an event that should appeal to the oldest and the youngest alumni. If you have not been to an Old Boys weekend lately, **this is the one to attend**. We are particularly hopeful that the Really Old Boys from the early days of the club, as well as those from the 80's will make their way back to Oxford. Please note that **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PLAY** to enjoy yourself; the primary objective is to reconnect and reminisce with your rugby teammates from days gone by.

If you are interested in helping with this event, contact Jared Moore (tighthead@zoomtown.com or 317-319-8410).

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**New MUMRFCAA Board Members** This year we had a great turnout of alumni from the 80's (see page 4). We were doubly pleased that three of them (Tim Galvin, George Muhoray, and Scott Skillman) made the commitment to step up and support MU rugby by joining the MUMRFCAA Board of Directors. Jon Gustin also joined the Board representing the young Old Boys.

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Miami University Men's Rugby  
Football Club  
Alumni Association  
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USA



**THEY'RE BACK!** After a long absence, there was a good showing of the 80's crew at Old Boys 2007:  
(L-R): Eric Mather, Dave Anzo, Nick (the Enchanted) McCardle, J.R. Hassett, Scott Skillman, George Muhorey,  
John Keiler, John (Flounder) Trauth, Tim (Deep Throat) Galvin, Tom (Igor) Cope.

## Contact Us

**Membership:** Contributions of \$50 or more per year qualify you as a member of the MU Men's RFC Alumni Association. Mail them to Mike Coco, P.O. Box 1603, Traverse City, MI 4968 or use the enclosed envelope. Or pay via PayPal at [MURugby.com](http://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](mailto:seilkop@earthlink.net))

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