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September 2012

Clemson Rugby Foundation Newsletter

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Homecoming 2012

November 8th:
Founder's Dinner

November 9th:
CRF Annual General Meeting
Clemson v FSU XVs Match

November 10th:
Rugby Tailgate

November 11th:
Alumni Matches
Post Match BBQ

[more information to follow](#)

Clemson Rugby Fall Schedule

14-Sept: Furman XVs

29-Sept: ACRL 7s

30-Sept: ACRL 7s

13-Oct: ACRL 7s

19-Oct: VT XVs

27-28 Oct:

ACRL 7s Championships

9-Nov: Florida State XVs

17-Nov: Turkey Trot 7s

30-Nov & 1-Dec:

USA Rugby 7s Championships

Home Games in blue

Our Sponsors

The Clemson Rugby Foundation is looking for sponsors for the team please contact the team or the CRF to have your company sponsored

Dear James,

Thank you for reading through all of the exciting news to follow. The students have started a new year and Clemson Rugby is back on the field. Changes in recent years to the collegiate competition has added new interest and energy around the sport of rugby. Clemson's ACRL competition continues to improve with the addition of the Naval Academy while adding a Sevens Series which takes place this fall. The inclusion of rugby Sevens in the 2016 Olympics has captured the imagination of many and it was great to see so many rugby clips included in the opening ceremonies of this year's Olympics.

Over the last five years the CRF has been supporting the student's goals through your generous support and contributions. With Homecoming just eight weeks away and we look forward to sharing with you, firsthand, some of the exciting developments and goals the students have set for the coming year.

As we share this news with you, we hope that you will share this news with others. Please forward this on to your old teammates, friends and family. Our common bond is Clemson Rugby and together we can do incredible things.

Pass it Back to Move it Forward

We continue to work as a team...

CRF 2011-12 Accomplishments

Contribution total:

With your help, the CRF raised over \$28,000 in 2011 from 75 members, partners and supporters in 2011. This continues our growing trend of raising the annual contribution total. The next \$5,000 collected will bring our five year tally to over \$100,000 which is incredible. These contributions have had a tremendous impact on the team as they continue to grow the program.

Scholarship update:

The Clemson Rugby Foundation grew the scholarship program to include a second four year \$4,000 scholarship as well as the CRF Coaching Scholarship.



First year recipient, Nick Johnson '15 out of Charlotte, NC has been a great addition to the CURFC and has taken a leadership role with the team in 2012. Nick looks forward to having a big impact on the field this year and maybe someone can actually catch him on film a few more times this year. He was named the fastest player at the

Junior All-American combine last December.

The second CRF Scholarship recipient is incoming freshman, John Jamison out of



here.

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Charleston, SC. He comes to the team from the Academic Magnet School and has an impressive academic and athletic resume. His stiff arm is obviously quite impressive which he plans to wield throughout the ACRL in the coming years from a forward position with the Tigers.

We look forward to seeing them in action and wish these two young men and their teammates great success!



The Clemson Rugby Foundation Coaching Scholarship was another exciting addition to the scholarship program. This award further demonstrates our commitment to the coaching staff, students and Clemson University. Coach Justin Hickey is the beneficiary of this award and looks on track to complete his Ph.D. in the spring of 2014.

Recruiting:

The CRF has also been supporting the costs associated with recruiting each year so that the team can travel to meet with students in some of the established rugby regions in the country. This year's recruiting class is an incredible collection of athletically and academically gifted athletes. [Here is a story on RugbyMag.com about this impressive incoming class of 2016.](#)

Team staff:

The CURFC is proud and fortunate to have incredible coaches at the helm of the team. The CRF and CURFC has increased our financial commitment to the coaching and training staff in the last year. While Coach Hickey and Coach Henry are both part-time, we are doing our best to make sure they know we value their dedication to Clemson Rugby's future success.

The CRF has also partnered with the University in the hiring of a dedicated Athletic Trainer. This position will be a Grad Assistant responsible for the athletic wellness of the students who play rugby at Clemson. The ATC position has evolved beyond the person who sprays the magic water on your torn muscle and it miraculously enables you to finish out the match. The pre-match prep to post-match recovery will be extended throughout the week with minor injury rehab occurring before and after training. This has been a difficult position to fill and we look forward to seeing this critical position become a part of the program.

Families join the CRF:

Our parents, friends, professors and extended family have always been an important part of our success. Many times a few generous parents and others have hosted BBQs, fronted funds for a road trip or set of jerseys to make sure the team was taken care of. The CRF's founding members include several parents who knew that Clemson Rugby was a big part of their son's success at Clemson. Recently, we have had several more families get involved and now we welcome an effort taken on by Christine Volponi to organize these Boosters. We are excited to see these families join the CRF's efforts to support Clemson Rugby. For more information please contact [Christine](#).

Clemson Rugby Team Update

The players returned from the summer ready to get back on the pitch and the expectations are very high with their season opening RugbyMag.com ranking at #20. The Tigers have graduated five and return a host of players who contributed to the squads success. The recruiting efforts have paid off big with 15 players joining the squad with years of rugby experience.

Competition

This year, the [Atlantic Coast Rugby League](#) has organized a Sevens Series that will have four series stops and include teams outside of the ACRL to heighten the competition. The ACRL is being viewed as the new standard for collegiate rugby competition and Clemson has been climbing the competitive ladder since its inception. Clemson completed a strong 2012 ACRL 15s campaign with a 6-1 record with their only defeat a 26-17 loss to eventual Champions the Maryland Terrapins. The Tigers led offensive and defensive categories with individual point scorers and lowest points allowed. Some of you will remember great Clemson battles against the Naval Academy team. Those battles will once again take place as the USNA squad has joined the ACRL in 2012. The Naval Academy has tremendous resources to pull from on campus and we must all raise

our standards and level of support to stand tall against their program.

Summer Camp

The summer of 2012 saw the first Clemson Rugby Summer Camp which was a resounding success. Clemson University administration got behind a proposal by Coach Hickey to get this camp started and the future looks very bright. High School Campers enjoyed their time in training, film analysis, and competition while staying in campus dorms and eating in recently renovated dining halls. The summer camp is an important part of the CURFC's recruiting strategy and fund raising activities. Proceeds of the camp go to the programs operating fund and further establish Clemson Rugby on campus as highly respected organization.

Coach Hickey at the IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy

Clemson's Head Coach was part of another US National Team staff and this time the Junior Eagles won the [JWRT Championship](#). The win has earned the USA U20s a berth in the 2013 Junior World Championships in France. Coach Hickey has a goal in mind that Clemson Tigers are represented on this team and more in the future.

Clemson Rugby student honors

2012 USA Rugby Honor Roll:

Flyhalf - Ethan Picone
Loose Forward- Matt Fetty

2012 ACRL Freshman of the Year: Dan Collins, Clemson

2012 All-ACRL First Team:

Lock- Spencer Hutchinson
Flyhalf/Hooker- Dan Collins
Scrumhalf-Tyler Thompson
Wing- Tyler Blaser

2012 All-ACRL Honorable Mention:

Prop- Max Simons
Loose Forward- Matt Fetty
Loose Forward- Tommy Evans
Inside Center- Nolan Courvall
Fullback- Stefan Friend

2012 All-Academic Team:

Chris DiSanto, Clemson (Management, 3.72 GPA)

More team news can be found on their web site [here](#).

A new home for Clemson Rugby? President Barker approves new fields

Over the last 45 years, the Clemson Rugby Club has had several homes on campus. The original field was rumored to be somewhere near the bottom of a hill where the team could literally roll out of bed and onto the pitch. I believe a few other items may have been rolled onto the pitch as well during that time. After further review the pitch was closer to Death Valley where a parking lot now sits. It's ironic that where the Club had it's beginnings the same rings true today. The team is playing on a river bottom backfill area of campus that serves mainly as parking lot for football fans. This location has served the team very well and has even hosted a rugby wedding years ago. The field was evaluated by the University for potential upgrades and determined that they weren't going to invest anything more to upgrade this area as there are too many issues to overcome. The CRF leadership has been approached by the University to partner with them on a privately funded facility development campaign at the Campus Beach property. The Campus Beach, formerly know as the Y Beach, has been the focus of planning and discussion for the last 10 months with the rugby, lacrosse and soccer supporters. Recently, two completely new competition athletic fields were approved by President Barker to be sited in the field area furthest from the lake. This is an exciting opportunity to see a dramatic improvement of the field conditions for the rugby program. Collegiate rugby teams throughout the country have felt a surge of university support and Clemson Rugby's current field ranks very low in comparison to any of our competition. Locally, both USC and Furman rugby teams have new fields that rival top NCAA surfaces. This field development campaign is still in the planning stage and the opportunity can grow based on the level of support that can generated. If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact [Jim Gain](#) as he has been a part of the discussions for this development.

Pass it back...

Supporting Clemson Rugby through the CRF

As you can see, the Clemson Rugby Foundation has been busy finding ways to provide the best support to the current Clemson Rugby players. We can only do this with the growing support that you provide. While there have been some very generous supporters in the past we cannot move forward without your support and the support of others. The CRF has been challenged many times by the students with requests that we have been unable to fund. We have compromised and negotiated with the team on many of their requests creating a true partnership that grows with each year. This partnership has improved our communication with the students and Clemson Rugby's relationship with Clemson administrators. We plan to further strengthen this bond with more activities in the future.

2012 Goals

- \$35,000+ in collected contributions
- 150 for 150: 150 contributors at the \$150 'Member level' or higher
- Increase funding support to the students
- Strengthen relationships with Clemson University administration

There are many ways you can be a part of the success of Clemson Rugby. From helping a student find a summer internship or job after graduation to sending in a contribution, these are all great ways you enhance the Clemson Rugby experience. Whatever it is that you choose to do, we ask that you do what makes you feel good.

Announcements

If you have an announcement that you would like to share with your fellow Alumni please send it in so that we may add it to the announcement section of the Newsletter.

The Clemson Rugby Foundation members and contributors are proud to support the students of the rugby programs at Clemson University. It is with these generous contributions we are able to ensure a great experience on and off the pitch. We ask that you continue to help us grow our membership by informing others of the continuing efforts to see today's Clemson Rugby reach their goals.

Sincerely,

Jim Gaine
Clemson Rugby Foundation

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