



Rice Rugby



Rice Rugby

www.ricerugby.com

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Congrats to Jack Reidy for winning the old school All Black Jersey Raffle. The raffle raised over \$1500 to help cover Duncan's airplane expense.



In the middle of the alumni party, Phil Myer, class of 1989, stands on a table and bellowed a legendary speech. Unfortunately, I don't have a recording and while I can't put the magic in the bottle, I will paraphrase. Back in the late 80's the Rice team struggled to win games. Phil Myer knew that a change was needed. Somehow, he came across the a New Zealander named Duncan Rossiter. Phil tapped Duncan on the shoulder asked Duncan if he could coach our team. The rest as they say is history....

As Duncan later added (on solid ground), the first practices were pretty brutal. Players were trying to survive practices more than anything else. Rice still lost their first game under Duncan, but the margin was smaller than the week before. Thanks to Duncan's formula of fitness and discipline, the team got better week to week. Soon the team was the best team in Texas. And for more than a decade, through different coaching re-



gimes, Rice remained the best team in Texas.

The alumni party, held at the Rice Pub, was a huge success. The number of attendees were too many to list. Keith Coach also class of 89, came all the way from Baltimore to attend the festivities. An alumni enjoyed catching up with Lorna and Duncan. On that front, through a raffle and other fundraising efforts, Dun-

can and Lorna's plane trip from New Zealand was paid for. Duncan and Lorna are hanging around Texas until mid January when they return to New Zealand. Other highlights of the evening including handing out two \$1000 scholarships to team president Kurt Wilson and team treasurer Jim Aman. The rest of the evening was spent hanging out with friends and interacting with players and alumni. The next day, on a gorgeous Saturday, the alumni defeated the current team.



This year's team has two very talented freshman props.

The rugby team still hosts the holiday party and Spring formal.

Facebook—look for the Rice Rugby Fan Page—the only official fan site created and maintained by the club!

Webpage will continue to post updates.

Team Notes

Rice *played 18*

games this fall! OK, some of the games were shortened tournament style games. Nonetheless, the team is kicking it *Old School* with an increased number of games. In addition, for the first time in many years (perhaps 10), the team has two legitimate sides. An enormous amount of credit is due to team president Kurt Wilson and other team leaders such as Sergio for stepping up the recruitment. In addition, scheduling more games and activities is helping to retain players. Early in the season Rice had to play men's teams such as St. Thomas and UH (both teams are no longer student teams) in order to find play local games. Finally, Kurt has worked hard to *bring back the fun and passion* to Rice Rugby.

This year marks the first year

that Rice has played in Division II. Before I get into the results, let me first describe the landscape. There are only four teams in Division I—LSU, Texas A&M, Texas, and Sam Houston. Of the four teams, only LSU and Texas A&M are dominant. Sam Houston and Texas are no better than many of the Division II teams. The worst collegiate teams play in Division III. So far, I've been impressed with the quality of competition in Division II. The increased popularity of high school rugby in Texas has been a huge boon for larger Texas schools. In addition, since other schools have lower admission standards they can more easily recruit talent. While other Texas schools have gotten better, Rice has moved in the other direction (until recently). Right now LSU and Texas A&M are on a level above Rice and playing them in Cup game was futile. In Division II, Rice has the opportunity to play quality opponents and has a chance of winning.

In Cup match play, the team has two wins and two losses. Without getting into details, Rice's captain was unfairly suspended and could not play in the last, close cup play. For the coming year, the forward pack should be very strong. They are adding a junior player who was barred from playing because of his music scholarship. Unfortunately, the backline got weaker due to the defection of two starters. One had academic issues and the other needs to find a job to pay for school and can't come to practice. With the top four teams advancing to the playoffs, Rice has a chance to go to the playoffs. But it will not be an easy task since they will need to play some of the leagues strongest teams including Texas Tech who is crushing everybody. Rice's first home game next year is against Texas in a non cup match. If you can (see schedule) come out and support YOUR TEAM as they push towards the playoffs. You will not be disappointed by the effort of the players or the product on the field.

Remaining Schedule— Check Website for Updates

Fall 2009

Sat-Oct-24 Rice beats University of Dallas 15 - 5.

Sat-Oct-31 Rice beats Angelo State, 6 -5

Sat-Nov-07 Rice loses at Baylor,

Sat-Nov-14 Alumni Wins at Alumni Game.

Sat-Nov-21 Ruggerfest tournament @ SFA—Rice wins once, ties twice but fails to advance.

Sat-Dec-5 Rice loses to University of North Texas, 29-25.

Spring 2010 (assume 2:00pm)

Mon-Jan-11 First class

Sat-Jan-23 UT @ Rice

Sat-Feb-06 Rice @ TX State Cup Match

Sat-Feb-13 TCU @ Rice Cup Match

Sat-Feb-20 Tech @ Rice Cup Match

Sat-Feb-27 Div. II Playoffs for top 4 teams

Sun-Feb-28 Div. II championship

Sat-Mar-20 TX State Friendly Tourney

Sat-Mar-27 HS Tourney at A&M (recruiting)

And most likely some sort of tournament ...

Player Profiles—true student athletes

I wish that everyone reading this had the pleasure of knowing these fine young men who represent our rugby team. These players put the team ahead of the themselves, a rarity in today's "me first" world. They do not play for scholarship and the team still athlete. His personality and charm off the field is what separates him from the others. Two years ago he came up with the ingenious idea of recruiting players on Facebook - before they even attended Rice. A bit goofy this intellectual is a joy to know. Maclovio "Mac" -

ergy. This summer he interned at the options trading company owned by Thomas Hutchinson



Sergio and my wife assisted with the creation of the Rice Rugby fan page.

manages their own activities including arranging games, practices, equipment, recruitment, etc. There is nothing like it on campus.

Kurt Wilson—

An extraordinary good president. A chemical engineer with a near perfect GPA, this guys does it all. As a sophomore, he stepped up to be the team's treasurer and helped organize the Ireland tour—the club's first international trip. At the first day of practice/meeting, he presented a power point presentation explaining the virtues of rugby. But don't worry, the traditional recruiting techniques are still used today...

Sergio Jaramillo—

Through hard work, he managed to transform himself from talentless player to real

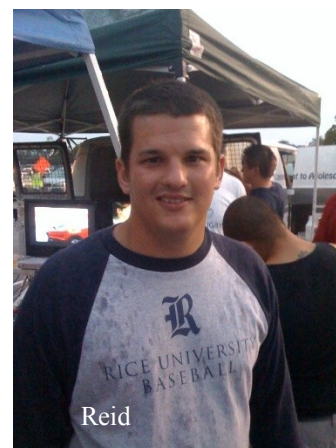
This fifth year was the captain last year and has the heart of lion on the rugby pitch.

Mike Taylor-

A rare junior captain, Mike is a



loose forward who plays with a lot of athleticism and a lot of en-



(1998 Rice Rugby Captain). He is very competitive and is intent on winning.

Reid Poyner-

A senior, Reid played prop for all four years at 5-8, 185 pounds. Due to a lack of players, he often played back to back games and never complained. He was nicknamed "the marine" by then coach Robbie Healy. A true warrior, this soft spoken West Texan brings the pads to practice and does the dirty work for the team both on and off the pitch. He majors in Mechanical Engineering.

Alex Bonnel—a premed senior who convinced the campus store to sell Rice Rugby gear!

Matt Jones—a muscleman Mech Engineer who is power lifter and a real tank on the field.

Ben Kohl—a talented but laid back Californian skater. Though only a sophomore is turning into a bright young leader for the club.

Jim Aman—transformed himself from an out of shape tuba player into a true rugby player. He is the current treasurer and the biggest guy on the team.

So many more to speak of.....

Thanks to Chip Mathews and Dr. Dick Greene, two rugby players will receive \$1000 scholarships this year!

Go to www.ricerugby.com for regular updates.

Why we give back

Our rugby club cannot survive without your support.

Because the club is run by volunteers - alumni and players—

100% of your donations goes straight to the team.*

No funds go to me or any other organizer. I do not receive a bonus nor a trinket for clearing a fundraising goal. No funds go towards fancy buildings, offices, staff, call centers, chartered flights, 4 star hotels, etc. The players still pay for their own equipment and many work part time during the school year or summers to pay for basic expenses. Most of the Rice rugby funds

go towards coaching and a myriad of league fees that have risen through the years. Every year I audit the club's finances to ensure that every nickel is properly spent. The team continues to be run by students and receives virtually no administrative help from the school. It is the largest club sport and largest self run sport on campus. By supporting Rice Rugby you get lots of ***bang for your buck.*** At Rice, a single varsity athlete costs more than 100 times more than a single rugby player.

I believe that a ***great education should go beyond the classroom.*** In my opinion, supporting Rice rugby is

the most efficient education gift you can provide to Rice.

Kent

President

Kent Bayazitoglu

kent@gelbercorp.com

Rice Rugby Alumni President

713.412.2050

Vice President

Cary Kottler

carykottler@hotmail.com

com

713.412.1682

Potential Challenges Ahead—Rugby Field

Right now the rugby team enjoys a decent field. However the field is not sloped to allow for proper drainage. This creates issues in the winter months when flooded fields force the cancellations of games and practices. At some point, the field needs to be modified to provide minimal drainage.

To address this and other issues, we arranged for a meeting with Rice field officials. I was surprised to learn that the rugby field was almost wiped away. About five years ago, the Rice Board wanted to construct a new street and more buildings onto the Rice campus. Thankfully, green space restrictions saved the rugby field. We need to beware of these occurrences to make sure the rugby team always has a pitch to play. In addition to sloping, we also discussed adding a shed for equipment storage, shaded stands, and PA equipment. At the meeting, field officials through up some regulatory/ bureaucratic roadblocks towards these ideas. However, if we show enough alumni interest, I believe we can make some cost effective improvements to the field.

Alumni Note

Even if you can only donate a small amount, your participation still matters.

Giving Directions

Directions below are for the endowment fund, our primary fund. Copy me, alumni president Kent Bayazitoglu or Cary Kottler on any donations made. This allows us to track your donation to make sure it goes to the right place (it normally does).

Kent

kent {at} gelbercorp {dot} com
713.412.2050

Cary Kottler

carykottler {at} hotmail {dot} com
713.412.1682

Alumni Endowment fund:

Online

- (1) Go to giving.rice.edu (no www is required)
- (2) Click on the blue circle to make a gift online or directly go to <https://online.alumni.rice.edu/giving/giving.asp>
- (3) At the designation, put OTHER
- (4) ****In the special instructions area, write Rice Rugby Endowment E21236**

Write check

- (1) ****In the memo write Rice Rugby Club Endowment E21236!!!**
- (2) Write check to Rice University and send to

Office of Development MS-81
 P.O. Box 1892
 Houston, TX 77251-1892

Scholarship Fund:

A fund started last year by Dr. Greene. Currently a \$1000 check is given to those players who have given an exceptional amount of time and effort on and off the field to the team. This is great way to support a deserving student.

Online

- (1) Go to giving.rice.edu (no www is required)
- (2) Click on the blue circle to make a gift online or directly go to <https://online.alumni.rice.edu/giving/giving.asp>
- (3) At the designation, put OTHER
- (4) ****In the special instructions area, write Rice Rugby Scholarship Fund G81403**

Write check

- (1) ****In the memo write Rice Rugby Scholarship Fund G81403!!!**
- (2) Write check to Rice University and send to

Office of Development MS-81
 P.O. Box 1892
 Houston, TX 77251-1892

Other ways to help

Last year's online merchandise sale raised \$700 for the team.

Call or email an old teammate and tell him to attend alumni weekend.

If you need assistance with finding someone, send me an email.

kent@gelbercorp.com

There are others way to help other than just donating money. The teams needs help with **Recruitment**. Because of the unique academic challenges of Rice University, Rice is unable to recruit in the same manner that other more inclusive schools in Texas can. In addition, the growth of rugby in Texas high schools has been a huge boon to larger universities such as Texas A&M, UT, etc.

To counter this, we need to be more creative and cast a wider net for our rugby/student recruits. We need to recruit at elite high schools where rugby is played and the academic standards are high. Similar schools exist in great numbers in Argentina, France, South Africa, England,

etc. Since we have no staff, I am calling on you to make this effort. If you know of a qualified candidate, please let me know ASAP. We can assist with the application process to better the chances of entry. The earlier the application, the better the chances.

We, the rugby club, were a bit disappointed with the school deci-

sion to not accept an extremely qualified kid from Singapore. Not only was he an elite rugby player, he was a bright, creative young man who took the time to visit Rice in person. He would have been a fine addition to the student body. Despite numerous recommendations from myself and others, he was denied entry.

That being said, his application could have been better. That is why we need to know as early as possible if a potential rugby player is interested in attending.



Since we are a volunteer organization, we rely on alumni like yourself to promote and support our club. **Assistance is needed with event organizing, communications, coaching, and fundraising**. You can help the club and your company by **actively recruiting from the rugby club**. Please look for the resumes email or send a job opening to me. Because I have hired a handful of rugby players, I can personally tell you that these guys make great employees. Finally mentors are also needed to guide these men in the right direction. If you have any questions about helping out, please contact Cary or myself.

Stewart Morris BBQ

Over 60 students and dates went to the founder of Rice Rugby, Stewart Morris's house for his annual BBQ with the team. The event was total success. We again are extremely grateful to Stewart for his overwhelming generosity of his money and

time. In addition, this summer team leaders met with Stewart, Chip Mathews, and myself to discuss the coming year. Through the years Chip has been the club's most generous benefactor and has also helped greatly with the women's rugby team.



From the heart of deepest Africa where the Yanks have never been lies a bunch of



More Photos—from Rice vs. Angelo State (mostly second side)
To see more photos from this game, go to <http://billarnold.zenfolio.com> under “Rice Rugby”



Rice Rugby President Kent Bayazitoglu with his wife (Kristen) and daughter (Kayla) at the Alumni Game