



Fall 2004

## Who's Who of Bruin Rugby

### Men's

Scott Stewart, Head Coach

Ken Cordaro, Assistant Coach

Adam Polk, A-side Captian & Executive Board President

Rob Eriksen

Zack Atkins

Brian Rankin, Recruitment

Ben Iγμα, Fundraising

### Women's

Tam Breckenridge, Head Coach

Marni Vath, Assistant Coach

Stuart MacDonald, Assistant Coach

Felicia Burt, Assistant Coach

### FOBR

Karl Hamner, President

Larry Layne, Vice-President

Marni Vath, Treasurer

Felicia Burt, Burt

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## Friends of Bruin Rugby

Please, make checks payable to:

# The UCLA Foundation

## Post to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Friends of Bruin Rugby**  
c/o KMH Consulting, Inc.  
1601 Cloverfield Blvd.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South Tower  
Santa Monica, CA 90404

For:     General Fund         Men's         Women's         Equipment

Dear UCLA Rugby Alumni and Friends:

On behalf of Friends of Bruin Rugby (FOBR) as President, I thank you for your continued support and welcome you to another year of great Men's and Women's Rugby at UCLA. FOBR has entered its third year of supporting Rugby at UCLA. A big thank you goes out to all who contributed last year, both with money and with time and effort. A special thanks goes to the Men's coach Scott Stewart both for his exceptional coaching, his vision, and efforts on FOBR's behalf. We had the pleasure of watching the Men's team go from the very tough loss against Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo at the start of the season to winning the Santa Barbara Tournament. The men have been commended by multiple sources for both their on-field play and off-field activities. The members of FOBR are proud to have contributed to such a momentous turnaround.

With your support, last year was good year for FOBR. We raised nearly \$20,000 using the money to help pay for gear, trips, and coaching services. We expect an even better year for UCLA Rugby. FOBR has been strengthened by Women's Rugby partnership and is receiving excellent support from Cultural & Recreational Affairs.

Both teams are recruiting new players and expect a strong season. But in order for this season to be better than last, they need your continued support and participation. FOBR's fundraising goal for this year is \$40,000. The scrum sled is dead. Other crucial equipment need purchasing (please, see the Wish List in this newsletter). Help us by donating money to buy equipment or sponsor a player for one of the planned tournaments (make checks payable to the UCLA

Foundation). If you have or know a business that might sponsor Rugby at UCLA, let us know. Finally, get involved! Let us know how to reach you. Write, call or email us. FOBR is holding a pre-game tailgate party at the Homecoming football game October 30. Last year's tailgate was great. Come and help us make this year better. Look for the UCLA Rugby banner in front of the Rose Bowl in the main tailgate area. We'll start serving food and drinks two hours before kick-off. Other FOBR events will follow. Men's and Women's Rugby both have a home-game January 29 and FOBR will have a gathering after the match. Also, we are also planning a big dinner in May of next year. With your contact information, we shall keep you posted on the details. You can get involved by attending to a meeting. FOBR meets every first Wednesday at 7PM at Ye Old King's Head Pub in Santa Monica. We always need folks who can come and help out.

Both Men's and Women's Rugby look forward to your continued support and meeting you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,  
Karl Hamner  
President, Friends of Bruin Rugby  
c/o KMH Consulting, Inc.  
1601 Cloverfield Blvd.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South Tower  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
karl@knhconsulting.com

## **Fond Memories of the Pitch**

Brian Rankin, UCLA Men's Rugby 8-Man

I look back on last season as the best of my relatively short, six-year rugby career, not necessarily as the finest in terms of winning percentage or amazing highlights, but certainly as the season of my fondest memories. During a first pre-season game against San Diego State, I remember popping up to steal the ball after making a tackle and looking up just in time to see a flash of an opponent's knee as it slammed into my face. I got up a little dazed and very confused as I looked through what I thought to be sweat covering my eyes. After wiping off my face, however, I realized that it was blood.



Those people fortunate enough to have experienced the game of rugby will entertain with stories of glorious victories, terrible defeats, and, of course, the rugby life off of the pitch.

The regular season began with a brutal trouncing at the hands of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. We lost 72-0, not a very good way to get the season rolling with some momentum. We were disheartened and discouraged by the loss. Nevertheless, we continued through the season with the determination and perseverance that our coaches and fans have come to expect from UCLA Rugby. Anyone could observe our growing discipline and execution could be markedly observed throughout the season in regular matches.

At the end of the season, we played in the California Invitational at UC Berkeley against Washington, San Diego State, and Berkeley. We received compliments from all teams' coaches, commenting it was "good to see UCLA Rugby striving back towards its rugby powerhouse days of old." We carried this energy into the last full-side tournament in Santa Barbara. In two days, we won five out of five games against teams from all over the Western United States to clinch the title of tournament champions. The season was an incredible journey for my teammates and I.

One of the major supports for our program development this year was our new head coach, Scott Stewart. At the beginning of the regular season the team received word that our former head coach, Jake Pike, was some to be replaced by Scott. We knew very little about Scott at the time. The team's only real impression of him was that he liked hard work.

Scott ran a skills practice for us the previous year and it was generally decided that he enjoyed watching my teammates and I suffer through grueling conditioning. We came to realize through the course of the season that Scott's experience and demand for excellence would bring us to a whole new level in our game. Scott honed our skills and taught us to work as a team by supporting each other on the field. More so, he taught us the importance of team unity off the pitch. We started to spend more time with each other in social atmospheres, which boosted our overall team unity.

I look forward to the upcoming season because we have many strong returning players as well as promising recruits. There is not a doubt in my mind that this season will be the best season that UCLA Men's Rugby has seen in a long time. The team looks forward to working with Scott for the full season, coming out on top at the end of the season, and creating more memories.

Another good memory (that was not so great at the time) comes from the Berkeley Tournament. We had San Diego State pinned back against their try-zone. The ball came out of a scrum to their fly-half, who tried to kick the ball away. I flew off of the back of the scrum to block the kick, but misjudged my jump, successfully blocking the kick with my groin. I fell to the ground, ready to keel over and die. I heard my teammates yelling at me to get the ball, and I looked up to see it resting nicely in the opposition's try-zone. I half-crawled to the ball, touched it down for the score, and my friends helped me back to our half of the field where I promptly collapsed from the pain. The memories that I have from off the pitch are probably not much different from those commonly shared by all ruggers who have attended post-match socials

(which I'll share in another time and place).



I encourage all to attend as many games as possible. We will not disappoint.



## **Women Ruggers Enter the Fold**

Marni Vath

The 2004-2005 season promises to be very exciting for the female ruggers of UCLA. After many dominant years of competing in the national club division of women's rugby, UCLA has made the switch to compete in the collegiate realm. UCLA WRFC will compete in the Southern California Division II bracket, facing Occidental College, Claremont College, and University of Arizona in the upcoming season. Matches are scheduled against the Division I teams UC Santa Barbara, Arizona State University, and the reigning Southern California champions UC San Diego. The women hope to make a stunning show of their talents in this first season, and are determined to win Division II and advance to nationals in their first collegiate season.

Leading the efforts are returning students Diana Tran, Meenon Gunonoyagam, Camilla Liou, Erin Kane, Shu Ong, Erin Murray, and Michelle Kwandham. They have assembled a staff of coaches and managers including Tam Breckenridge (former World Cup Lock for the USA and former USA Eagles forwards' coach), Felicia Burt (former UCLA club side player), Stuart MacDonald (former Occidental

College and Santa Barbara player), and Marni Vath (former UCLA club side player).

Marni Vath has also taken up the position of Treasurer and Felicia Burt as Secretary of FOBR, participating as the women's representative in this alumni organization.

UCLA Women Rugby hope to participate in building a strong cohesive rugby program in Los Angeles, competing at the national level, drawing recruits to UCLA, hosting tournaments and clinics, and inviting back alumnae to support their efforts. It is a large task at hand, but with the help of the Men's side and Friends of Bruin Rugby, the women of UCLA Rugby believe anything is possible!!

## Coach's Corner

Scott Stewart, Head Coach UCLA Men's Rugby Football Club

In the last 11 months, UCLA Rugby Program has experienced significant growth in the areas of on-field performance, recruiting, fundraising, campus relations and organizational structure. We accomplished many of the goals set for ourselves and made significant headway toward building a program that achieves meaningful results on and off the field. There remain still other areas that need more creative and diligent efforts to achieve *all* our goals. Should we be successful in doing so, UCLA Rugby will comprise the necessary structure and organization to once again become one of the most successful intercollegiate sports programs on campus and around the nation. No small feat!

On the field, a high performance program was designed and implemented to strengthen the basic structure of our training and game strategy. The players responded well to the new regimen. Ultimately, a positive learning environment was created and realistic goals were set in which each player was accountable. The result was that the UCLA players began to believe in themselves, they took pride in being a Bruin and had a chance to win every game they played. Our UCSB Tournament win was testament to this with the Championship being one of the best-played and most exciting games seen in recent years.

On the recruiting front, we have developed new relationships with Youth Rugby programs throughout California and across the U.S. and Canada that have allowed us to talk to young players about the opportunity to study and play rugby at UCLA. Youth players wishing to advance their careers in Rugby now view our program as legitimate and we expect to be on the short list of every kid that is considering applying to either Cal or Stanford. Additionally, we are actively recruiting students already on campus and working closely with other contacts within the Athletic Department to find as many potential players as possible. We hope to support three

teams this 2004-05 season!

Off the field, we have implemented an annual alumni fundraising appeal that achieved success in raising funds and increasing the awareness of our existence and objectives. The donations and responses received from these supporters were genuine and reflect the importance that UCLA Rugby has had in their lives. Additional alumni events, a corporate sponsorship program and student-based fundraising endeavors are being developed to further enhance and diversify our access to operating income and endowment funds.

We have been working closely with both the UCLA Cultural & Recreational Affairs Department and the UCLA Foundation regarding UCLA Rugby and its goals and are developing the positive working relationships with the key decision makers in both departments. Our understanding of their policies and structure continues to evolve and we look forward to further developing those relationships in the future.

The Friends of Bruin Rugby board continues evolving as both Karl Hamner and Larry Layne have taken on the roles of President and Vice President respectively and FOBR now recognizes UCLA Women's Rugby through the appointment of Marni Vath to the position of Treasurer. Let's give a heartfelt welcome to the ladies!

We look forward to continue our progress on all fronts. The support that the Alumni have shown to date has been tremendous and we aim to continue building UCLA Rugby in a way that will make everyone proud.

We look forward to seeing you on the sidelines!

### Rugby Events 2004 – 2005

#### Men's Side

##### **Home Matches**

##### **Opponent**

(pre-season)

30 October 2004	Cal State Long Beach Tournament
13 November 2004	LMU
20 November 2004	Claremont
5 December 2004	USC

(regular season)

8 January 2005	Santa Monica RFC	
22 January 2005	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	
29 January 2005	Cal State University Long Beach	
11 February 2005	ASU	
13 February 2005	University of Arizona	
19 February 2005	University of British Columbia	
20 February 2005	Western (Men's & Women's)	(TBD)

26 February 2005 University of San Diego  
 15 March 2005 Carlton

**Away Games****Opponent**

(pre-season)

6 November 2004 Westmont/UCSB

(regular season)

15 January 2005 Stanford

5 February 2005 UCSB

5 March 2005 San Diego State University

12 March 2005 UCSD

26 March 2005 SFU

30 March 2005 University of British Columbia

2 April 2005 University of Victoria

(post-season)

9 April 2005 LA Cougars

(friendly, TBD)

23-24 April 2005 UCSB Tournament

**Women's Side****Home Matches****Opponent**

(pre-season)

11 November 2004 Riverside (friendly, double header with Men)

5 December 2004 Claremont

(regular season)

29 January 2005 Claremont College (Division II)

30 January 2005 Arizona State University

5 February 2005 Occidental College (Division II)

6 February 2005 University of Arizona (Division II)

12 February 2005 UCSD

**Away Games****Opponent**

(regular season)

8 January 2005 SFGGWRFC (friendly, San Francisco)

9 January 2005 Berkeley (friendly, Berkeley)

15 January 2005 UCSB

22 January 2005 Occidental College (Division II)

19 February 2005 Claremont College (Division II)

5 March 2005 University of Arizona (Division II)

**Special Events**

7 November 2004 Rookie Round Robin (Women's)

12 – 14 November 2004	Scrum by the Sea
25 November 2004	Thanksgiving Dinner
5 December 2004	Christmas Social
25 – 29 March 2005	British Columbia Tour
23 -24 April 2005	Santa Barbara Tournament
7 May 2005	Rugby Alumni Formal