

August 12, 2021

Dear parents,

Welcome to the Fall 2021 University of Michigan men's rugby team! My name is Rob Janke, and I have agreed to serve as the parental point of contact for Coach Matt Trenary. My eldest son, George, currently serves as the club's president, and my second son, Otto, is joining the team this year as a freshman.

I didn't know much about rugby before George joined the team (I was actually on the club rowing team during my time at Michigan). Nevertheless, I have been impressed and excited by the program Coach Trenary and the players have built—and are continuing to build. Michigan Rugby offers an opportunity for active sports participation in an environment that is both competitive and character-building. I found my participation in the nascent men's rowing program formative and critical to my experience at Michigan. I see my sons' participation in rugby similarly. (I'll also point out that parent and alumni support was the critical element in building a men's rowing program at Michigan—a program that competes within the Big Ten, nationally, and internationally.) Rugby is a demanding sport that allows athletically and academically inclined young people to participate at the collegiate level without necessarily having ANY experience prior to their University admission.

This year, the team's first game is against Adrian College's varsity program on Friday, August 27. I hope to see you all on the sidelines. Additionally, Parents Weekend has already been scheduled for October 23 and will be a great opportunity for you to get to know the team. You'll hear more information on Parents Weekend soon. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me by email or text (cell: 703-989-8086) if you have any additional questions.

Go Blue!

Sincerely,  
Rob Janke  
LSA, '86  
Public Health, '88  
Medicine, '93