

February 13, 2022

Michigan Rugby parents, welcome and thank you!

Completing this past fall's season without interruption was an incredible accomplishment and brought great fulfillment to our team and players. The growth on the field was inspiring as dozens of players joined the Michigan Rugby community. And our return to competition brought the familiar challenge that motivates all within U-M.

These two main facets of rugby—competition and community—are the focus of our team's mission. While we strive for on-field success and to embody Michigan's Leaders and Best ethos, we embrace rugby's ability to create new relationships and lifelong bonds. We believe rugby's dual-mission experience is the best in all of athletics.

We're actively taking steps to strengthen this experience for our players and supporters. This past fall we implemented improved gameday experience elements, consistent game livestreaming, and comprehensive athletic trainer coverage. Our next target for improvement is away game buses instead of student-driven vans. This will significantly improve safety while also providing better competition preparation and additional opportunities for studying.

Funding for buses and other incremental improvements most often comes from increases in annual giving to [our gift account](#). In addition, our endowment is nearing \$200,000 and distributes a small percentage of funding back to the team. To help guide our program's upward trajectory, this past fall we launched our joint 10-year strategic vision with the women's team, called [Michigan Unrivaled](#) and supported by the [Michigan Rugby Foundation](#). We appreciate the support which makes our mission possible and are excited by what lies ahead.

We would love for you to experience some of what we're trying to accomplish by attending our home tournament this spring on April 16. Our spring season is focused on 7s, or 7-a-side rugby (as compared to 15s in the fall). This exciting format has shorter games and tournament competition. Our tournament in April will be the culmination of the Big Ten 7s Series.

From here, top teams in the conference will advance to national championship tournaments in May. We will be attending the [Collegiate Rugby Championship](#) in New Orleans over May 28-30. Previous CRC runs by our program were incredibly meaningful and provided an exciting culmination to our year's work.

We look forward to another great season and hope to see you along this spring's journey. Thanks for the support and Go Blue.

Regards,
Matt Trenary
Head Coach, University of Michigan Men's Rugby
Engineering, '02