

Dear Michigan Rugby Parents:

Welcome to Fall 2022 and University of Michigan Men's Rugby! I've written previously as a supportive parent of our two sons (George—LS&A Class of 2023—and Otto—LS&A Class of 2025) who have found their niche at Michigan playing rugby. Without previous experience or even a basic understanding of the game, we have seen both boys embrace the game and learn the value of teamwork and commitment to a shared goal.

The team plays at the division one level as part of the Big Ten—the highest level of intercollegiate rugby. Notre Dame is joining the Big Ten this season as the eighth team (Michigan, Michigan State, Purdue, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio State, and Wisconsin are the others). Michigan's success and future is built upon a long Michigan rugby tradition (est. 1959) but also upon the players' continued hard work on and off the field—and our support. I'm hopeful every parent has the opportunity to see a game this fall, meet the team, and speak with Coach Trenary and others who support the program.

As always, the schedule is posted on the mrugby.com The team does a great job keeping this site current and it is a wealth of information about the team all around. Highlights of this season include the team's Parents Weekend against Northwestern on October 22 and a stadium game in Lansing on October 28.

I encourage everyone to actively engage with their son's commitment and participation with the Michigan Rugby program. While hardly a nascent program, our continued support (financial and otherwise) remains a critical component of their success. Please reach out to your son or Coach Trenary to understand how you may be able to make the biggest impact. I look forward to meeting everyone in the coming months and Go Blue!

Sincerely,
Rob Janke
LS&A Class of 1986
SPH Class of 1989
Medicine Class of 1993