

Dear Michigan Rugby Parents:

Welcome to Winter 2023 and University of Michigan Men's Rugby! I'm writing as a parent of two rugby players (George and Otto) to welcome new families to this community and to encourage all families to support the team by being an active member of the community and watching games. In addition, the team appreciates any financial support you can provide.

George and Otto have found their niche at Michigan playing rugby. Without previous experience or even a basic understanding of the game, my wife Robin and I have seen both sons 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 play for intercollegiate rugby. Notre Dame joined Big Ten Rugby last fall as the eighth team, joining Michigan, Michigan State, Purdue, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio State, and Wisconsin. Michigan's success and future is built upon a long Michigan rugby tradition (est.1959) and also upon the players' continued hard work on and off the field. The team plays "15s" in the fall with one game each weekend, and plays "7s" in the spring with several short games in each full-day tournament. I hope every parent takes the opportunity to see a tournament this spring, meet the team, and speak to Coach Trenary along with others who support the program.

As always, the spring schedule is posted on mrugby.com. The team does a great job keeping this site current and it is a wealth of information about the team all around. Robin and I plan to attend Pittsburgh Dome 7s on February 18 and—if they qualify—the Collegiate Rugby Championship (CRC) tournament in Maryland at the end of April. The CRC is the highlight of the spring season and the team could send a side to play in a stadium environment against some of the best varsity teams in the country.

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
LSA, Class of 1986
Public Health, Class of 1989
Medicine, Class of 1993