
Rugby championship

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/01 10:06

Anyone plan to be at the Rugby semifinals (and hopefully finals) at Stanford this Friday and Saturday?

I'm working about 5 miles from the Stanford rugby stadium and plan to be at both games.

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/02 20:43

Just returned from the BYU Rugby game at Stanford's Steuber Rugby Stadium.

BYU beat Colorado 42-13. BYU missed their first seven 2-pt conversion attempts (five at very bad angles), thereby leaving 14 pts on the field. Half-time was 25-6. Colorado scored only once in the 2nd half with 10 minutes left about the time BYU started to slowly put in some subs.

BYU gave away another score when the player crossed the goal line and tried to take the ball to down it near the goal post and was tackled just short of the post. If he had downed it further out we would have had another score. I think the 7 missed conversions was the reason he was trying to improve the angle.

Cal beat St. Mary's 41-26 if I remember correctly. Cal gave up a couple scores hat the end when they began to send in subs.

We play Cal for the championship at 5:00 PM tomorrow afternoon.

Utah Valley Univ. plays for the D-II championship at 1:00 PM. Nice to have them here since BYU and UVU fans and players are pretty supportive of each other.

Cal looks real tough. They have some big guys and a couple of real speedy little guys. Their kicking game was way better than what BYU showed.

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by COUGARSTU - 2008/05/02 23:05

Thanks for the update, wish I was there.

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by MountainMD - 2008/05/03 05:36

Conosticator wrote:

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Thanks Conosticator. Your info and reporting is extremely helpful. Karma to you. Go BYU!

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/03 11:04

MountainMD wrote:

Conosticator wrote:

Just returned from the BYU Rugby game at Stanford's Steuber Rugby Stadium.

BYU beat Colorado 42-13. BYU missed their first seven 2-pt conversion attempts (five at very bad angles), thereby leaving 14 pts on the field. Half-time was 25-6. Colorado scored only once in the 2nd half with 10 minutes left about the time BYU started to slowly put in some subs...

Thanks Conosticator. Your info and reporting is extremely helpful. Karma to you. Go BYU!

My pleasure. I'll be at the final today and provide a report afterwards. BYU needs to be able to make their conversions if they are to have a chance to beat Cal. Cal is seeking their 24th Rugby NC. What a dynasty! And BYU is easily the best candidate to end it. :cheer:

BYU gave up three or four very long runs yesterday that they must try not to repeat today since it looked to me that Cal is a bit faster than Colorado. :blush:

I'm hoping to make it to at least part of the UVU game at 1:00 PM. If they awarded championships according to enthusiasm, then UVU would be the winners hands down. I don't see that level of excitement amongst the BYU crowd but perhaps it is because we've been in this position before, or maybe it's knowing that we are again playing Cal for the championship essentially in their back yard. :P

I noticed many people wearing Stanford shirts rooting for Cal. That was weird. I just can't imagine rooting for yewtah in any sport while wearing a BYU shirt. Now perhaps if I was wearing a "Benedict Arnold is my hero" shirt... :laugh:

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by BYUtx - 2008/05/03 19:01

At the half, Cal was up 40-0. We're now down 45-0. That sucks.

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by BlueNate - 2008/05/03 20:10

Did anyone hear what the UVSC outcome was, I have a good friend playing on the team.

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/03 21:06

BlueNate wrote:

Did anyone hear what the UVSC outcome was, I have a good friend playing on the team.

They lost. Not sure of the score though.

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/03 21:22

BYU vs Cal scoring...

I did the best I could on the times. My angle to the scoreboard was not very good.

First half:

0-7 35:30

0-14 31:15

0-21 15:10

0-28 11:20
0-35 5:20
0-40 1:30

Second half:

0-45 39:15
0-52 21:25 Cal started subbing in 2nd string after this score.
7-52 10:05 St. Pierre scored.
7-59 8:20

BYU came out with far less intensity than they had against Colorado. They looked very tentative to start the game. Cal has three really big tall guys that control a lot of the lineouts. They had two very fast wing players. I only saw one BYU guy that could keep pace with them.

I'd guess that there were probably 4-500 BYU fans out of the 3700 finals attendance. Of course it's hard to tell since a good number of the BYU fans that I saw made no attempt to wear the school colors.

Also, many of the Cal fans wear a lot of dark blue but not much yellow (I'd do the same if I were them), and Penn State (lost the womens' final with no time on the clock to Stanford) is dark blue. The combination made it difficult to get a good estimate of the BYU support. Of course a couple of scores so the BYU fans would have had something to cheer about would have been helpful.

I tried to buy a BYU rugby shirt or a BYU anything shirt from the vendors at the north end of the field. They had Cal, Penn State, & Stanford items, but no BYU.

For what it's worth... I asked the guy running the biggest booth about it and he said that they had some problem regarding licensing fees but didn't have any problem with the other schools.

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by aegis47 - 2008/05/03 21:33

BlueNate wrote:

Did anyone hear what the UVSC outcome was, I have a good friend playing on the team. UVSC lost to Radford 25-14. Tough day for Utah Valley teams. :(

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by Mars - 2008/05/04 02:13

Finishing #2 in the nation for the 3rd year in a row is nothing to sneeze at. Rugby has easily been our most successful sport this decade I would say, with lacrosse and volleyball right behind.

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Re:Rugby championship

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/04 11:52

Mars wrote:

Finishing #2 in the nation for the 3rd year in a row is nothing to sneeze at. Rugby has easily been our most successful sport this decade I would say, with lacrosse and volleyball right behind.

I agree. BYU has shown the ability to beat anybody except Cal. But then no one else seems able to beat Cal either. Cal has fielded a rugby team since 1882. According to the information in the program that I bought, rugby was Cal's first intercollegiate sport.

BYU's rugby success without varsity sport status is very significant. You could say BYU just repeated as the national

collegiate club champions and Cal repeated as the NCAA varsity rugby champions.

Of the 327 D-1 schools, Cal is the only one where rugby is a varsity sport. BYU's rugby success without the varsity sport status is very significant. You could say BYU just repeated as the national collegiate club champions ;) and Cal repeated as the varsity rugby champions. :dry:

Every year Cal has 50-70 players on the team. That depth gives them an advantage in tournaments like for the NC. Cal started several different players for the BYU game as compared to the St. Mary's game.

In the first round of the playoffs Cal benched their first squad for the entire game against Tennessee yet still won 102-3.

Overall, BYU is making fine progress with their rugby program. Cal is the program to which all other collegiate programs can aspire. Even though it is a varsity sport at Cal, they do not receive athletic scholarships like all the other varsity sports. Still they have a 98% graduation rate. Their success both on and off the field is phenomenal.

That we were the last one standing against them is a tribute to BYU rugby.

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