

# Brown Men's Rugby

## Weekly Match Report

Saturday, December 10, 2022  
AVEVA Stadium  
Houston, TX

### Brown University. Queens University National Collegiate Rugby D1 Final

Scoring Summary		Brown	Queens
First Half			
13 min	Brown Penalty (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	3	
21 min	Brown Penalty Try	7	
<b>First Half</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
Second Half			
41 min	Queens Try		5
43 min	Brown Penalty (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	3	
66 min	Brown Try (Daniel Archer '23)	5	
76 min	Brown Penalty (Dylan Lewis)	3	
<b>Second Half</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Final Score:</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>

Some say thirteen is an unlucky number. Not on this day as the Brown Bears capped off their 13<sup>th</sup> and final win of the season beating Queens University 21-5 to capture the National Collegiate Rugby Division 1 National Championship. Was there some drama... you betcha but that's what you get when both teams are laying it all out there in the hopes of bringing home some hardware.

Brown's first opportunity for points came 13 minutes in as a Queens player was slow to get out of a ruck. Lansonneur easily slotted the penalty to put the Bears up 3 point to nil. The only other scoring this half would come off Brown's strength... their scrum. Queens had a scrum 5 meters out from their line. They somehow managed to get the ball away but were penalized for holding on in the tackle. Brown chose the scrum. Queens were then penalized again, this time for an early push. Once again, Brown chose the scrum. Again, the two sides packed down. The ensuing push from Brown was too much pressure as the Brown Bears moved the scrum forward. Not being able to stay connected, the Queens back row disengaged forcing the referee to yet again blow his whistle. Seeing that they were continually dominant in this area of play, Brown chose yet another scrum. The queens players dug in but were unable to match the pressure. The referee had no choice but to award Brown the penalty try and card the Queen's #1 for collapsing the scrum. The next 20 minutes of the half would see both sides slugging it out with Brown trying to build on their lead and Queens trying to close the gap. Silly play by both sides would result in multiple cards. At one point, it was 13 on 13. The card that would prove to sting the most would be a red against the Queens #8 for bringing down a Brown player on their head in a tackle. Despite all this, Brown would end the half by being up 10 points to nil.

Queens came out firing in the second half. Brown, a little slow to get their momentum conceded a Queens score just one-minute in. No conversion was made however Queens had halved the score. Brown needed to respond and respond they did. Queens received the kick to restart play but were immediately penalized for holding on in the tackle. Despite being into the wind, Brown chose the safe option to go for points. Thirty-five meters out, slightly to the left of the posts and a wind in his face was nothing Lansonneur couldn't tackle as he slotted the uprights to put Brown up 13-5. Back and forth play over the next 15 minutes was more like two heavyweights slugging it out in the ring. Brown worked their way into the Queens half and set up an attacking lineout on the left side of the pitch. As the ball was brought down, Queens were deemed to have brought the maul down illegally with another yellow card to follow. Brown now knew they had to turn the screws and went back to another lineout. Brown knew they had to produce points and points they did. The Queens attempt to stop the drive was unsuccessful as, only fitting, captain Archer would end up with ball in hand and credit for the

5-points. The conversion was no good but Brown was now two scores up with just over 10 minutes to play. Brown would not make the next 10 minutes easy as not one but two Brown players would end up in the sin bin. Now, 13 on 14 (in Queens favor) could Brown hold on? With three minutes remaining, Brown had an opportunity to put the game further out of reach for Queens. With Lansonneur attending to a cramp, Dylan Lewis was the next man up to get the job done. That's just what he did slotting the 3-point penalty to nudge the lead up to 21-5. Brown would hold on over the next few minutes and control possession. With the ball in possession by Brown at the back of a ruck, the referee would indicate that time would be up at the next stoppage. Lansonneur dropped back in the pocket and kicked the ball into touch. Unfortunately, the celebration would be ant-climatic as two Queens players decided to spoil the day with a significant late hit on the Brown #10. Tempers flared but referee Seaton would have no more. The final whistle blew and Brown were crowned D1 National Champions.

#### Brown Squad:

1. Henrique Gabriel '26 – replaced by Omar Al-Jendari '24 at 63 minutes
2. Joe Al-Hasso '25
3. Dan Archer '23
4. Brett Geiss '23 – replaced by Tony Zhao at 69 minutes
5. Oliver Corbett '24
6. Kaspar Pitblado '26
7. Cameron McAlpine '26
8. Antonio Esteves '25
9. Dylan Lewis '24
10. Raphael Lansonneur '25
11. Campbell O'Conor '23
12. William Zeller '23
13. Junior Gafa '23
14. Max O'Donahue '25
15. JT Dyer '25

Referee: Ian Seaton

The players and the coaching staff deserve a tremendous amount of credit for what they have produced this season.

- A second consecutive Ivy League 15's Championship
- A Liberty Conference D1 Championship in their first year in the league
- A 13-0 undefeated record
- Amassing an incredible 585 points against their opponents (almost 50 points per game average)
- An even more impressive defensive season only giving up 74 points all year (5.7 points per game)
- And a first time ever, National Collegiate Rugby Division 1 National Championship

These remarkable achievements could not be done by only the product you saw on the field. There are many unsung heroes to thank like the dozens of support players who never failed to come out to training and work the championship group even after they knew there would be no more games for them this fall... The university, particularly those in athletics, who provided resources and support along the way... The alumni who made the games and pulled the strings behind the scenes to afford this group the opportunity to be competitive... and the parents of those involved in the program who week in and week out showed up to provide emotional support as well as food and drink for the players when it was most needed.

I always say as part of my recruiting pitch, guys don't choose Brown University with the intention of winning a National Championship. They choose Brown for the education they get and the opportunities that a degree here can lead to later on in life. Competitive rugby is really the icing on the cake. I guess I may have to modify this statement since Brown is now a National Championship Team.