

Brown Men's Rugby

Weekly Match Report

Saturday, November 5th 2022
Fairfield University
Fairfield CT
Liberty Conference Final

Brown v. American International College

Scoring Summary		Brown	AIC
First Half			
4 min	Brown Try (Antonio Esteves '25)	5	
	Conversion (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	2	
23 min	Brown Penalty Try	7	
26 min	AIC Converted Try		7
35 min	Penalty (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	3	
First Half		17	7
Second Half			
50 min	Penalty (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	3	
53 min	AIC Converted Try		7
58 min	Penalty (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	3	
67 min	Brown Try (Antonio Esteves '25)	5	
	Conversion (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	2	
79 min	Penalty (Dylan Lewis '24)	3	
Second Half		16	7
Final Score:		33	14

What's better than winning the Ivy League Championship and winning the entire Liberty Conference (with 26 teams in two divisions) ... well not much!

It's been a record season for the Bears going 10-0 since the first game back on September 3rd. Equally impressive is the fact that the boys have scored a total of 523 points over the course of the year while only conceding 53. Fun fact... in 8 of the 10 games, we have scored in less than 4 minutes.

Let's not count our chickens before they are hatched. We still have more rugby to play. It's not time to completely celebrate as things only get tougher... more to come on this later.

The scoring vs AIC opened up at just after the 3rd minute of the game. Brown was awarded a penalty and chose to kick to the corner. Uncontested, the ball was won as a maul was constructed. Brown drove to the line however the maul was disrupted by some questionable AIC pushing from the side. Esteves, who had been the recipient of the caught ball in the initial lineout, gathered the ball and drove over the line for Brown's first score. The kick was good as Brown were now ahead four minutes into the game.

The next scoring opportunity came off of one of the numerous penalties that AIC seemed to be getting all over the field. This one, for offsides, allowed the Bears to pull out their most potent weapon... their scrum. A well-executed shove was more than the massive AIC pack could handle. Another penalty against AIC. This one for unbinding at the scrum. Again, recognizing Brown had the upper hand, a scrum was called. Again, AIC were shunted back. When the referee blew his whistle this time, Brown was on the 5-meter line. This time, the referee was forced to penalize the 289lb loosehead prop for popping up in the scrum. He would spend the next 10 minutes in the bin. Side note... as the colossal young man lumbered over to the sideline, he approached coach Laflamme and politely exclaimed "man... I've never been under that much pressure in the front row... you guys are really good". Odds makers in Vegas could have predicted what Brown would do next. You guessed it, another scrum. They say three times is a charm. Brown's dominance in this area of play was

rewarded. The AIC scrum had been completely fragmented. Another whistle ensued, however this time, the referee was standing under the posts as he awarded a penalty try.

Not long after the Brown score, at the 26th minute mark, Brown was penalized for driving up in a scrum. AIC reached into their bag of tricks and came up with the best play they had... give it to a big man. And that they did. The tackle was made however the tackler was caught on the wrong side of a ruck and a second penalty given. Again, AIC chose route 1... give it to another big man (they did have 8 to choose from). As the player was met on the goal line, he rolled to his left. Unfortunately, the weight of this giant Sequoia was difficult to keep from falling. Additionally, the try line was not clearly marked so the Brown players went for the poach. Regardless, AIC were now 7 points behind as the conversion went over for the extra 2.

As the half was winding down, AIC received another penalty for diving over a ruck. Brown opted to add a cushion to their lead by taking the three extra points. The half would end with Brown being up by ten. Brown went into the half knowing that there were areas of opportunity that they had to tighten up if they wished to come away with some hardware.

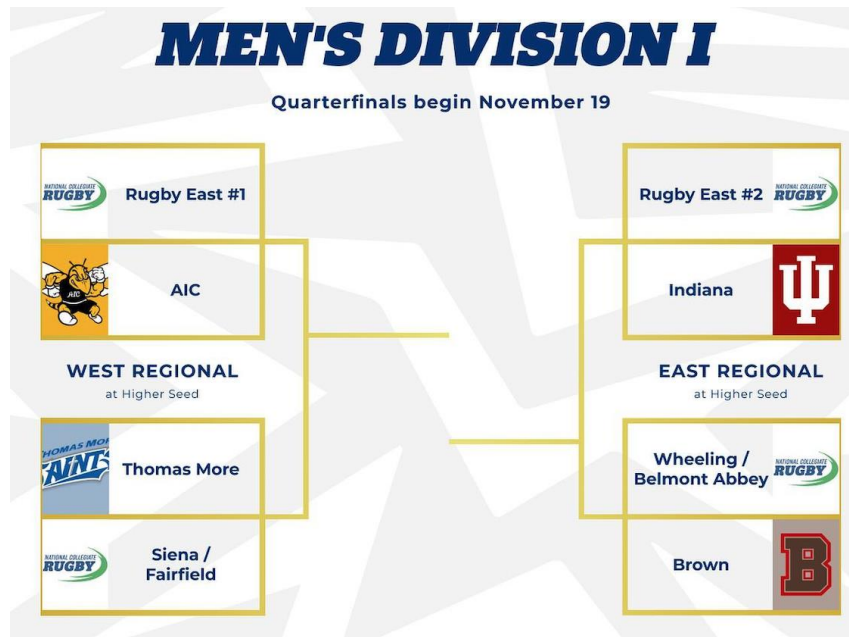
Brown started the scoring in the second half slotting a penalty at minute fifty. Three minutes later, AIC would once again give it to one of their big men for another score. A review of the score seems to appear that the AIC player downed the ball in front of the goal line however the touch judge was not in position and could not say so the try was awarded. At the 58-minute mark, AIC knocked the ball forward. One of their own teammates picked it up causing a penalty that Brown took advantage of by adding three more points. Up now 23 points to 14, with over 20 minutes to go, it was still anyone's game. Brown knew that they would have the upper hand in the last 20 minutes. AIC were big but lacked fitness to last the whole eighty. Brown had to play smart and have patience as play moved deeper into the second half.

Another scrum penalty against AIC at the 65th minute allowed Brown to move the ball up the field for a lineout, just outside the AIC 22-meter line. Again, the lineout was not contested. Brown punched it up in the middle of the field but this time attacked back to where the lineout originated. Dyer to Lansonneur to Corbett, as Ollie took the ball at pace and attacked the outside defender. In support was #8 Esteves. A flat pass at pace found Antonio in full stride as he raced past four defenders to place the ball down in the corner. Lansonneur slotted a beautiful conversion to add the extra two. Brown could sigh a bit of relief however there was still just over 10 minutes until any celebration could be happen.

Unfortunately for AIC, no more points were to be had. With no time remaining, Brown were awarded one last penalty. Down to 13 men at this point due to two yellow cards, Brown made the smart decision to allow Dylan Lewis a shot at goal. Dylan, having a solid boot of his own, happily took this opportunity to add a final 3 points and finish out the game. Brown had achieved another milestone. A new league for them brought on more hardware as Brown had won the Liberty Rugby Conference D1 Final and were crowned champions. Brown had also earned home field advantage in the quarter final round of the NCR National Championships.



The Brown Bears now advance to the NCR National Play-offs. On November 19th (2pm KO), Brown will host the winner of the Wheeling Jesuit (Wheeling West Virginia) vs Belmont Abbey (Belmont NC) game being played on November 12th. The Rugby East 1 and 2 seeds will also be determined on November 12th but that is likely to be St. Bonaventure from Allegany NY and Queens University out of Charlotte NC.



Brown Squad:

1. Henrique Gabriel '26
2. Joe Al-Hasso '25
3. Dan Archer '23
4. Brett Geiss '23
5. Ollie Corbett '24
6. Kaspar Pitblado
7. Cameron McAlpine '26
8. Antonio Esteves '25
9. Dylan Lewis '24
10. Raphael Lansonneur '25
11. Aaron Mertzler '25
12. William Zeller '23
13. Campbell O'Connor '23
14. Santiago Cortabarría '25

Referee: Marty Steffens