

Brown Men's Rugby

Weekly Match Report

Friday, October 14, 2023
 Mazzella Field, Iona University
 New Rochelle, NY

Brown v. Iona University – First XV

Scoring Summary		Brown	Iona
First Half			
7 min	Iona Penalty Kick		3
9 min	Brown Try (Tito Edjua '27)	5	
	Conversion (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	2	
13 min	Brown Penalty Kick (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	3	
16 min	Iona Penalty Kick		3
21 min	Iona Penalty Kick		3
29 min	Brown Penalty Try	7	
34 min	Brown Try (Oliver Corbett '24)	5	
	Conversion (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	2	
First Half		24	9
Second Half			
50 min	Brown Try (Asa Rosenmeier '27)	5	
	Conversion (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	2	
57 min	Iona Try		5
	Conversion		2
68 min	Iona Try		5
	Conversion		2
Second Half		7	14
Final Score:		31	23

The Bears went into New Rochelle, NY for their send away match of the 2023 season, and 2nd of 3 in a row to end the regular season, against the #8 ranked Gaels of Iona University. Iona was celebrating their Homecoming weekend and enjoyed a good turnout from their supporters, despite the chilly and rainy conditions. Meanwhile, Brown supporters in attendance included families who were bussed in from campus alongside the team bus, alumni who made the trip north from New York City, and many others who made their way to Iona and watched on the livestream, to remind our boys that this was their family weekend, too. We thank everyone who was able to show their support in what would be a tense match, it certainly helped to have our fans with us.

Iona came in riding high off an upset victory over Dartmouth last weekend, and sitting just a few points behind Brown in the standings. A win in this one would have been a big announcement of their arrival as contenders. Bringing that kind of energy to start the match, it was Iona who scored first, opting for a penalty kick from right in front of the Brown posts in the 7th minute of the match, to go up 3-0 – the first time Brown has trailed in a match this season. The Bears did well to answer quickly, turning over the ensuing kick-off and getting the upper hand in attack deep in Iona territory. Flyhalf JT Dyer '25 spotted space in behind the defensive line and put a grubber kick through for Tito Edjua '27 who corralled the bouncing ball in the corner, just 90 seconds after Iona's points. Vice Captain Raphael Lansonneur '25 converted the kick from the width and Brown was back in the lead, 7-3. 5 minutes later Brown was awarded a penalty from the midfield in Iona territory and opted to kick, Lansonneur converted, putting Brown up 10-3. As they've shown in previous matches this season, Iona

was not going to back down. A pair of penalty kicks helped them close the lead to just 10-9 with less than 20 minutes left in the first half. The rest of the half would belong to Brown. Dominating set piece and the territory battle, Brown won penalty after penalty and were eventually awarded a penalty try from a scrum to add some cushion to their lead, 17-9. Only 5 minutes later Brown captain Oliver Corbett '24 would get the ball over the line and Lansonneur would add another conversion to give Brown a solid 24-9 lead at half time. 10 minutes into the second half, Brown was able to add to their lead when Asa Rosenmeier '27 took a powerful carry in for a try, Lansonneur again converted, going 3/3 on the day and bringing the Brown lead to 31-9. A resilient Iona side would capitalize on some late lapses from Brown and leverage those opportunities into two more converted tries. The score was 31-23 with a bit more than 10 minutes left and the Bears trying to drain a yellow card. Brown was able to collect itself, regain control of possession and play through relentless pressure on defence and set piece dominance to withstand the desperate Iona effort toward completing the comeback. The Bears would keep the opposition pinned deep in their own territory and surrender no more scores to the Gaels, methodically closing the match out.

Brown rugby will play for the Ivy League championship next weekend, during the last week of Liberty Conference regular season play. Once again, it's familiar rivals Dartmouth University who challenge the back-to-back Ivy champion Bears for supremacy. Coming off back-to-back losses against Iona and Fairfield, Dartmouth will be eager to right the ship and maintain their position in the standings heading into the postseason. A Brown victory would guarantee at least a top-2 finish in the conference standings and a home conference semi-final match the following weekend.

Brown Squad:

1. Omar Al-Jendari '24
2. Joe Al-Hasso '25
3. Asa Rosenmeier '27
4. Oliver Bieling '24 – Mike Lau '27 @ 62min
5. Oliver Corbett '24
6. Kaspar Pitblado '26
7. Henrique Gabriel '26
8. Matt Mitchell '24
9. Dylan Lewis '24
10. JT Dyer '25
11. Theo Romero '27
12. Max O'Donahue '25
13. Tito Edjua '27
14. Aaron Mertzal '25
15. Raphael Lansonneur '25

Referee: Akira Do

Brown v. Iona University - Second XV

Scoring Summary

First Half

		Brown	Iona
3 min	Brown Try (Kenyon Graham '25)	5	
	Conversion (Ben Shirley '27)	2	
11 min	Brown Try (Antonio Cortabarría '25)	5	
	Conversion (Ben Shirley '27)	2	
18 min	Brown Try (Jack Forgione '25)	5	
	Conversion (Ben Shirley '27)	2	

First Half	21	0
Second Half		

39 min	Brown Try (Mike Citarella '27)	5
	Conversion (Ben Shirley '27)	2
50 min	Brown Try (Ben Shirley '27)	5
55 min	Brown Try (Jack Elliott '25)	5
	Conversion (Ben Shirley '27)	2
58 min	Brown Try (Joshua White '27)	5
	Conversion (Antonio Cortabarría '25)	2

Second Half	26	0
Final Score:	47	0

The Brown B's returned to their dominant ways, on the heels of last week's thrilling comeback victory against Fairfield, handling their Iona counterparts with a 47-0 drubbing in 60 minutes of play. Special recognition was earned by developmental player Griffin Kinch '27 who played in his first ever rugby match in this one.

Early in the match, B-side try scoring leader Kenyon Graham '25 introduced himself to the Gaels, scooping up a mishandled loose ball Iona spilled and rocketing down the sideline untouched from about 50M out, opening the scoring in the 3rd minute of the match. Less than 10 minutes later, Antonio Cortabarría backed himself on a quick tap penalty in close, finding a gap in the defence and scoring the try. Like the First XV, the Bears B's enjoyed near total dominance at set piece and Jack Forgione '25 touched the ball down at the back of a rolling lineout maul for the Bears 3rd try. Flyhalf Ben Shirley '27 went 3/3 on conversion attempts and the B's were up 21-0 after 35 minutes, which was when the ref called for half time. Picking up right where they left off, the B's took another lineout maul in for a score just 4 minutes into the second period of play, this time, Mike Citarella '27 would touch it down. Ben Shirley '27 added another conversion, 28-0 for Brown. To close out the match, the B's scored 3 tries in 10 minutes. First, Ben Shirley '27 would contribute to they try tally himself when the Brown forwards steamrolled the opposition at a defensive scrum, and scrumhalf Joshua White '27 put Shirley through a gap and over the goal line. 5 minutes later, Jack Elliott'25 took a lineout win the distance and found paydirt, Ben Shirley added a conversion. Finally, just another 3 minutes later, Joshua White took a cheeky snipe around the ruck from in close for the final try of the match. This time, Antonio Cortabarría '25 slotted the conversion. Collectively, the B's kickers went 6/7 on conversion kicks in the match, with Shirley going 5/6 and Cortabarría a perfect 1/1. As a unit, the B's continue to smother their opponents defensively with excellent line speed and gutsy tackling.

The undefeated Brown B's look forward to a matchup with their counterparts from Dartmouth next week in what will likely be the last B-side match of the Fall 2023 season.

Brown squad:

1. Michael Citarella '27
2. Chris Wai '25
3. Jullian Hooten '24 – Hugo Mullen '26 @ 39min
4. Mike Lau '27 – Griffin Kinch '27 @ 55min
5. Jack Elliott '25
6. Jack Forgione '25 – Vinh Legros '26 @ 55min
7. Om Sagar '27 – Carlos Ponce de Leon '25 @ 35min
8. Antonio Cortabarría '25
9. Joshua White '27
10. Ben Shirley '27
11. Kenyon Graham '25 – Malcolm Grant '27 @ 35min
12. Alex Halpin G'24 – Max McCord '27 @ 2min
13. Keigo Hachisuka '24 – Kenyon Graham '25 @ 55min
14. Freddie O'Donahue '27
15. Craig Michalowski '26

Referee: Unnamed Fairfield Player

Brown's next game will kick off on Saturday, October 21st at 2pm. Brown will visit Dartmouth University and play for the Ivy League Championship on Brophy Field.