

# Brown Men's Rugby

## Weekly Match Report

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Brown 7's

Brown University

Providence, RI

In the first 7s event of the spring season, Brown hosted local small college sides, the Crusaders from The College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA) and the Babson College Beavers (Wellesley, MA) in a friendly dual round robin format competition for each clubs' first and second sides. About 2 months removed from the end of the fall 15s season, with some players away, and some still rounding into form for the spring, this event provided an opportunity for coaches to mix personnel groups and even get some players their very first experience playing 7s. A small group of players covered 8 matches in total and both sides came out on top of their respective pools. Unseasonably warm temps in the upper 40's plus consistent sunshine and only occasional gusts of wind throughout the day gave players and spectators a pleasant environment for the start of the season.

Squad A: Jack Elliott '25, Henrique Gabriel '26, Junior Gafa '23, James Horkan '25, Garrett Mann '26, Cameron McAlpine '26, Aaron Mertzell '26, Craig Michalowski '26

Squad B: Tobias Achleitner '26, Kenyon Graham '25, James Horkan '25, Emmanuel Ojeda '25, Batisse Manhardt '26, Hugo Mullen '26

The first hit out for Brown was the second side against Holy Cross's second side. Tries by Achleitner (2), and Graham (2) (Graham converting one of them) combined with smothering defensive pressure solidified a 22-0 win to start the day.

Not to be completely outdone, the first side also posted a shutout against their Holy Cross counterparts, coming away with a 15-0 win with one try each from Elliot, Gafa, and Horkan.

The Brown B's next matchup with Babson was a closer contest but thanks to a hat trick of tries from Graham and 2 conversions from Horkan, the B's came away with a 19-15 victory.

In the only loss on the day for either side, the Brown A's allowed Babson to take a 14-0 lead late into their second match. A flurry of concerted effort to come from behind resulted in 2 quick tries, one from Gafa (converted by Horkan) and one from Gabriel but the second conversion was unsuccessful and so the Beavers got the better of the Bears in this one, 14-12.

After the lunch break both sides had a rematch with each respective opponent. This time, the Holy Cross B's matched the Brown B's point for point, putting up a 19-19 draw which would be the B-side's only blemish on the day. And in his first day of rugby action, Graham continued his assault on the score board, adding to his try total on the day.

In the second half of the day the Brown A's finally hit their stride and asserted complete control of each match. The rematch with the Crusaders saw the Bears take a 26-0 half time lead. Holy Cross would add a couple of scores in the second half, and Brown would post just one more, to bring the score to 31-12. The boys shared the ball tremendously well in this one as evidenced by 5 different try scorers; Mann, Horkan, Gafa, McAlpine, and Achleitner, and Horkan would convert 3.

The B's finale against an energetic Babson B-side was an exciting match to end the day for the B's, seeing them clinch their position atop the B-side pool with a 21-10 win. 2 more tries to budding 7s dynamo Graham, 1 to Mullen, and a perfect 3/3 on conversions for Horkan.

The final match of the day for all teams gave the A's a rematch against the Babson top side and a chance at retribution for the close loss earlier in the day. Suffice it to say, the opportunity was seized. The A's would come away with the most lop-sided victory of the day in any match with a 34-5 rout. McAlpine took control of the finale early posting 3 consecutive tries in the match's first few minutes. Freshman Aaron Mertzler displayed clever play-making ability and explosive speed taking a couple of long runs in for tries. Freshman bruiser Garrett Mann dominated contact with the ball-in-hand, punishing Babson defenders, and notching a try as well. Conversions were added by Horkan and Gabriel.

In total, over 8 matches, 173 points were scored by the home side with only 75 conceded. Match scores are included below.

**Blue = B side pool**

**Red = A side pool**

GM #	TIME	TEAM 1	SCORE	TEAM 2	SCORE
B1	10:00	Holy Cross	0	Brown	22
A1	10:20	Brown	15	Holy Cross	0
B2	10:40	Brown	19	Babson	15
A2	11:00	Holy Cross	0	Babson	28
B3	11:20	Babson	19	Holy Cross	17
A3	11:40	Babson	14	Brown	12
<b>20-MINUTE BREAK</b>					
B4	12:20	Holy Cross	19	Brown	19
A4	12:40	Brown	31	Holy Cross	12
B5	1:00	Brown	21	Babson	10
A5	1:20	Holy Cross	26	Babson	14
B6	1:40	Babson	7	Holy Cross	5
A6	2:00	Babson	5	Brown	34

3 Brown sides are in action for the weekend of February 25-26. A's and B's are headed to compete in the Premier division of the Frostbite 7's tournament in Lancaster, PA on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. While the developmental side will host local cubs Bentley University (Waltham, MA), Stonehill College (Easton, MA), and Wheaton College (Norton, MA) on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.