

Brown Men's Rugby

Weekly Match Report

Saturday, November 4th, 2023
 Rafferty Stadium, Fairfield University
 Fairfield, CT

Brown v. Siena College – First XV

Scoring Summary		Brown	Siena
First Half			
9 min	Brown Try (Antonio Esteves '25)	5	
	Conversion (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	2	
14 min	Brown Penalty Kick (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	3	
38 min	Brown Try (Henrique Gabriel '26)	5	
First Half		15	0
Second Half			
42 min	Brown Try (Theo Romero '27)	5	
46 min	Brown Try (Oliver Corbett '24)	5	
	Conversion (Raphael Lansonneur '25)	2	
53 min	Siena Try		5
	Conversion		2
56 min	Brown Try (Joe Al-Hasso '25)	5	
Second Half		17	7
Final Score:		32	7

The 2023 Liberty Conference championships were hosted again by Fairfield University in Rafferty Stadium, the site of last year's final, when Brown defeated AIC for the title. Brown was set to defend their title against D1 debutants Siena College out of Loudonville, NY. The Saints are a varsity program on the rise who earned the #1 seed in the conference with an undefeated and dominant regular season, and boasted the #5 ranking in NCR. This was the first time in program history the Bears have matched up with the Saints, and it was a memorable one. A clear and seasonable night with temperatures in the 50's were ideal conditions for rugby in November.

Siena were eager for the chance to challenge and build on their successful campaign but the Brown forwards asserted themselves early and established control at the set piece. Winning a scrum penalty in the 7th minute from the midfield about more than 40M away from the posts, Brown opted for a kick at goal but missed. Following the restart Brown drove deeper into Siena territory and won penalty advantage from an attacking scrum. Taking a series of pick and go carries around the ruck in close, Antonio Esteves '25 finally broke through and scored the first points of the match. Raphael Lansonneur '25 added the conversion, 7-0 Brown. 5 minutes later Siena were assessed a yellow card for a high tackle in their own end of the field and Raphael Lansonneur '25 slotted the attempt at goal, pushing the lead to 10-0. Siena stayed aggressive defensively while a man down and were able to withstand the shorthanded shift without allowing a point, but Brown continued to dominate set pieces. Just before the end of the first half, Brown were awarded a penalty resulting in an attacking lineout 5M from the try line. The Bears drove the ensuing maul near the goal line and Henrique Gabriel '26 barrelled through and dotted it down, getting the lead to 15-0 going into the halftime. The feeling with the players at halftime was confident but also that there were points still left on the table. Siena mishandled the opening possession of the half and gifted Brown with a scrum deep in attacking territory. Then, conceded a free kick at that scrum, and the Brown attack capitalized, capping several strong pick and go's with a simple pin and pass to the short side and Theo Romero '27 getting the score. 20-0, Brown. Just a few minutes later, the Brown forwards mounted a lineout maul that everyone who witnessed it will be talking about for some time to come.

From more than 40M out from the try line, the Brown forwards drove their opposites the length of the field and Captain Oliver Corbett '24 put the ball down for the try. Raphael Lansonneur slotted the conversion and the Bears were out in front 27-0. In the 53rd minute, the Siena #12 got off a cheeky chip and chase kick in close and over the Brown defensive line, which took a favorable bounce in the try zone and he got a hand on it to touch it down for the score. The Siena #10 added a conversion to break the shutout and bring the score to 27-7 with about 25 minutes remaining. Upon receiving the restart kick, the Saints conceded another penalty, allowing the Bears to get in position for another a lineout, this time from 10M out. Everyone watching knew what was coming and the Siena pack was powerless to stop it. Another rolling lineout maul over the try line, this time on a well-executed diverted drive, and Joe Al-Hasson '25 got the honors. The remaining 20+ minutes were chaotic and exciting with lots of kicking and possession changes, and Siena all-but abandoning their own set pieces surrendering to Brown's set piece dominance in favor of quick tap penalties, but all of the scoring from both teams had already been done. The final score; Brown 32 – Siena 7.

Siena, having qualified for the quarterfinal round of the NCR national tournament will now travel to South Euclid, OH to face #2 ranked Notre Dame College during the weekend of November 18th.

The Bears will enjoy a bye week with no match scheduled for this coming weekend and are set to next take the field on Saturday, November 18th when they host one of the NCR quarterfinal round matches against the winner of NCR national tournament play-in match #2, taking place this weekend on November 11th in Culpeper, VA featuring previously ranked #6 Kutztown University against #12 Belmont Abbey College. That match will be streamed by Next Level Rugby and available live and for rewatch on the Next Level Rugby YouTube page. A win in the quarterfinal would advance Brown to the semifinal round, scheduled for December 2nd, which will again be hosted at Penn State Berks in Reading, Pennsylvania. Below is a look at the current NCR D1 playoff picture for the 10 remaining teams.

Saturday, November 11th or Sunday, November 12th

Play-In Match #1: Principia College vs. Iona College

Location: Wheeling, WV (Columbus or Pittsburgh alternates)

Play-In Match #2: Kutztown University vs. Belmont Abbey College

Location: Culpeper, VA

Saturday, Nov. 18th or Sunday, Nov. 19th

Quarterfinal #1: Siena College @ Notre Dame College

Location: South Euclid, OH

Quarterfinal #2: *Play-In #1 Winner* @ University of Indiana

Location: Bloomington, IN

Quarterfinal #3: *Play-In #2 Winner* @ Brown University

Location: Providence, RI

Quarterfinal #4: St. Bonaventure University @ Wheeling University

Location: Wheeling, WV

Brown Squad:

1. Omar Al-Jendari '24
2. Joe Al-Hasso '25
3. Asa Rosenmeier '27
4. Matt Mitchell '24
5. Oliver Corbett '24 – Oliver Bieling '25 @ 57min
6. Kaspar Pitblado '26 – Rowe Stodolnic '27 @ 4min
7. Henrique Gabriel '26 – Antonio Esteves '25 @ 57min

8. Antonio Esteves '24 – Oliver Corbett '24 @ 57min
9. Dylan Lewis '24 – Keigo Hachisuka '24 @ 46min
10. JT Dyer '25
11. Theo Romero '27
12. Junior Gafa '24
13. Tito Edjua '27
14. Santiago Cortabarría '25
15. Raphael Lansonneur '25 – Will Sinfield G'24 @ 72min

Referee: Matt Lake