

Brown Men's Rugby

Weekly Match Report

Saturday April 15th, 2023
Saratoga Collegiate Cup 7s tournament
Gavin Park
Saratoga, NY

This weekend, a mixed squad of 7s B-side and developmental players traveled to Saratoga, NY to compete in the Saratoga Collegiate Cup 7s tournament hosted by the Saratoga Jockeys rugby club at Gavin Park. It was a clear sunny day and temps were in the upper-70's.

Roster: Tobias Achleitner '26, Omar Al-Jendari '24, Antonio Cortabarría '25, Jack Elliott '25, Keigo Hachisuka '24, James Horkan '25, Vinh Legros '26, Garrett Mann '26, Craig Michalowski '26, Hugo Mullen '26, Josh Ofili '23,

Brown fielded one side for this tournament. Other teams in the pool included Binghamton University, SUNY Oswego, and SUNY Plattsburgh.

Brown's first match on the day was against Binghamton. The Bears found themselves down a player early after conceding a yellow card penalty 30 seconds into the match but were able to regain and retain possession without allowing any points until the card expired. Shortly after getting back to even strength Elliott was able to break through the defense and start the scoring. A couple minutes later and the Bears would be shown the yellow again as the ref took exception to a Brown defender attempting to disrupt a Binghamton touch-down for a try at the end of the first half, with the score now 5-5. The second half continued to be tightly contested, with Michalowski finishing a tough-earned team try and Binghamton answering with one of their own, but a late Binghamton score from a Brown turnover put them ahead 15-10 and the Bears were unable to strike back on their last possession of the match.

An athletic SUNY Oswego side was up next and Brown put on their best showing of the day. The Brown defense was ferocious in this one keeping Oswego under constant pressure and forcing many turnovers in the first half. The attack was slower to develop until Mann came through 5 minutes into the match with a remarkable individual effort breaking tackles and out working the defense on a long try score giving the Bears a 5-0 lead at halftime. The second half of this one was the best rugby Brown would play on the day, characterized by excellent ball retention, smart unselfish decision making, and smothering defense. A demoralized and exhausted Oswego defense would allow Brown to score 3 tries in the second half for a final of 22-0. Mann would add another score for 2 tries in this one, with tries also coming from Al-Jendari and Achleitner, and Michalowski converting one kick.

The 3rd match would, unfortunately, turn out to be Brown's final match of the day in Saratoga, against SUNY Plattsburgh, who went undefeated in pool play. The Bears started out hot with Achleitner scoring at 25 seconds into the match. Two minutes later, Hachisuka would add a solo try from a well-executed

penalty play to give Brown a 10-0 lead. A controversial yellow card at the 5 minute mark put the Bears down a man but it would do Plattsburgh no good as Ofili was able to break a run around the edge for a long distance try despite having a player in the sin bin. With a Michalowski conversion, at halftime Brown was positioned with a 17-0 lead but Plattsburgh would answer with a score in the first minute of the second half to make the score 17-5. The next 5 minutes were a defensive stalemate as both teams struggled to contain the other, fatigue set in, and the quality of play deteriorated. With a minute left, Plattsburgh ended the scoring drought to bring the score to 17-12. The last play of the game was a Plattsburgh attacking scrum in Brown territory. The Brown forwards dominated the scrum and were able to disrupt the launch of the Cardinals' set play, but the Plattsburgh scrumhalf did well to recover the messy ball, regain an attacking position, and get the ball out to their backs. The Brown backs were unable to shut down the play and tied the game with a try. The conversion kick put Plattsburgh over the top 19-17 with the time expired, eliminating Brown from the playoff round.

In total, over 3 matches, Brown scored 49 points and conceded only 34.

Next week, in the penultimate competition of the spring season, Brown will be competing in the Ivy League 7s tournament hosted by Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. During the last weekend of the season, the Bears top 7s squad will travel to Boyd, Maryland to compete in the Collegiate Rugby Championship national 7s tournament.