
UMass Men's Rugby 2024 Season Recap



It is with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on an unforgettable year for the UMass Rugby Club. From thrilling victories to incredible experiences, this year showcased the true heart and spirit of our team and community. Here are some highlights:

To the Friends, Parents, Former Players, and Current Team Members of UMass Rugby:

Spring 2024 Season:

- Over spring break, the team traveled to Bath, UK, where we competed against the University of Bath and the University of Bristol. This trip also included a memorable walking tour after a full day of travel, and the opportunity to catch the Bristol Bears take on the Northampton Saints, providing an awesome way to see the game played the highest level.
- Our recruiting class exceeded expectations, adding tremendous talent and depth to the team. We also had several developmental 15s matches that helped refine our skills.
- As The club turned its focus to the 7s series, UMRFC won the Liberty Conference 7s Championship

for the second year in a row, and gained a spot at the CRCs.

- The spring season concluded with the team capturing the Shield Championship at the NCR 7s Collegiate Rugby Championship, further solidifying our commitment to excellence.



**UMass Bath & Bristol
2024 England Trip**



Spring 2024

Summer
Determination

Fall 2024

Gratitude

Acknowledgements

Senior Class

Spring 2024
Summer Determination
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A Summer of Determination:

After a close loss to Virginia Tech in the 2023 National 15s quarterfinals and falling short in the Liberty Conference Championship to Boston College, the team entered the summer motivated and ready to prepare for an even stronger 2024 fall season.



UMRFC Hall of Fame

Over the Summer the Alumni with guidance of John Milkiewicz rededicated the UMRFC Hall of Fame and had the first inductions since 2010.



Fall 2024 Season

- Preseason camp began in late August, with solid matches against Brown, UVM, and URI sharpening the team for the challenges ahead.
- The regular season opened with a win over Northeastern, and from there, the boys never looked back, going undefeated in the regular season for the second consecutive year.
- UMass finished the regular season by claiming the Liberty Conference 15s Championship with a hard-fought victory over Boston College.
- Entering the National Tournament as the 5th seed, the team hosted LSU in the quarterfinals, securing a decisive win. In the semifinals, the team faced the reigning champions, the University of Kentucky. Despite a valiant effort, the team came up short, ending the season ranked 3rd in the nation by NCR. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and talent of our players.

Gratitude and Acknowledgments: This remarkable year would not have been possible without the unwavering support of so many individuals and groups. As the saying goes, "It takes a village," and our village is second to none.

- Friends of UMass Rugby (FOUMR): Your financial support carried us through the challenges of the 2023 season, enabling us to compete at both 7s and 15s Nationals. Thank you for believing in us.
- Thanks to all the parents and friends who supported this year and a special thanks to the Manjikians and Moriartys for revitalizing the tailgate tradition. Celebrating post-match with family and friends means the world to the team. The atmosphere at the LSU game, with the largest crowd we've seen at a home game, was unforgettable.
- UMass Staff and Partners:
- Ernie May, our club sport director, for your support and guidance.
- Mike and Ed from Athletics, for ensuring our field is always the prettiest in the conference.
- Myles Donato from the Collegian, for your excellent coverage of our journey.
- Hampshire Athletic Club, for always providing us with a practice facility when the weather refuses to cooperate.



Senior Class: To the seniors who have dedicated four years to this program, your legacy is extraordinary. From starting 1-6 to ending as Liberty Conference 7s and 15s champions and ranked 3rd in the nation, your leadership and resilience have set a new standard for UMass Rugby. Remember, you're always welcome to pursue a master's here at UMass!

As we look ahead to 2025, we are filled with excitement for what lies on the horizon. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. Your support and passion fuel our success.

Happy New Year, and here's to an even brighter future for UMass Rugby!
