

## BROWN MEN'S RUGBY ALUMNI GAME AND REUNION WEEKEND 2025

As families and loved ones convened on College Hill to honor the class of 2025, the Brown Men's Rugby community gathered at the Berylson Family Fields for our club's annual commencement celebration. This year we honored 20 graduates. With an unseasonable and slow-moving nor'easter on its way out of the region, weather conditions varied throughout the event. The high temperature reached the upper 50s, the sun came and went in a mostly cloudy sky, and light sprinkles of rain accompanied sudden gusts of wind. More than 250 players, alumni, and supporters attended the festivities, and as is tradition, the event kicked off with the alumni match. The alumni player's roster boasted graduates from 1995 through 2024, and everyone listed below participated in the festivities, to varying degrees at their discretion.

Scott Adams '90	John Michael Graham '94	Bruce Osterweil '75
Omar Al-Jendari '23	Keigo Hachisuka '24	Vivek Pandit '20
Rob Angell '78	Same Hodges '04	Steven Parry '05
Dan Archer '23	Rock Hoffman '20	Jabari Phipps '05
Chase Bekkerus '22	Jullian Hooten '23	Howard Pollack '75
Dan Betensky '23	Samuel Jana '23	Emory Polley '15
Reed Blair '15	Doug John '70	Amleto Pucci '71
Reid Brackin '95	Jae Kim '20	William Rogers '80
Sam Caspersen '95	Jon Kim '22	Vikesh Singh '95
Ateesh Chanda '04	Jack Kirkpatrick '23	Peter Smith '22
Devyn Collado-Nicol '20	John Landers '17	Jonathan Speed '84
Oliver Corbett '23	Hudson Lee '22	Gary Tashjian '75
Nipon Das '95	Chris Lemley '90	Lucas Tay '23
Sam Das '00	Shaun Lumkong '21	Charlie Terry '73
Chris Dauer '85	Kwame McCain '15	J. Mike Tracy '79
Matt Dowling '19	Kirk McKinney '72	Jeff Turi '85
Jake Ehrenkranz '23	Matthew Mitchell '23	Landon Turley '12
John Floyd '80	Christopher Morin '75	Rall Walsh '10
Matt Freeman '95	Len Nelson '81	Kris Whalen '95
Soti George '22	Filius Nicholaou '22	Moises Zamora '00
Jon Gheradini '98	Nkanyiso Nzimande '20	
Charley Glerum '75	Mark Ogden '84	

In match play, the alumni team struck first and fastest during the opening minutes, when prop Omar Al-Jendari '24 barreled toward the goal line and reached out to touch the ball down for the match's first score. Minutes later, fellow front rower Dan Archer '23 brought the ball across the goal line again at the back of a maul, giving the alumni a 2-score lead. Finally ready to take off their dancing shoes from Campus Dance the night before, the undergrads scored a flurry of 3 tries in less than 8 minutes to bring the match to its first break after 20 minutes.

### FIRST HALF SCORING SUMMARY

3' - try by Omar Al-Jendari '24 - Alumni 5 - 0 Undergrads  
8' - try by Dan Archer '23 - Alumni 10 - 0 Undergrads  
12'30 - try by Joe Al-Hasso '25 - Alumni 10 - 5 Undergrads  
17' - try by David Scott G'25 - Alumni 10 - 10 Undergrads  
20' - try by Raphael Lansonneur '25 - Alumni 10 - 15 Undergrads

Wisdom would have it that the alums needed a quick score to halt the undergrad's onslaught. Rising to the occasion, Emory Polley '15 carved up the baby Bears' defence in the opening minute of resumed play to bring the score back to even. The level of physicality and competitiveness in the match continued to rise and scoring opportunities often come from awarded penalties, which is what happened when the undergrads took a quick tap penalty and found speedster Kenyon Graham '25 out in space against a scrambling alumni defence, and he was able to put the undergrads ahead again. In loose play, the alums were dangerous, strong on their feet, and often in a great position to support the ball carrier. They knew how to keep the ball moving and former captain Jae Kim '20 capped off one such sequence to knot the score again. But, minutes later, the undergrads would capitalize off another alumni penalty when scrumhalf Dylan Maloney '25 took in a quick tap from the 5-meter line for another go-ahead try from the undergrads. With time expiring, the alums were able to string together yet another of their miracle phases of champagne rugby where the ball always seemed to find the right pair of sure hands and this time it was Peter Smith '22 who'd hit paydirt, bringing the score to a draw for the 4<sup>th</sup> time after 40 minutes played.

### SECOND HALF SCORING SUMMARY

21' - try Emory Polley '15 - Alumni 15 - 15 Undergrads  
27' - try Kenyon Graham '25 - Alumni 15 - 20 Undergrads  
32' - try Jae Kim '20 - Alumni 20 - 20 Undergrads  
34'30 - try Dylan Maloney '25 - Alumni 20 - 25 Undergrads  
40' - try Peter Smith '22 - Alumni 25 - 25 Undergrads

A hydration break and a final sudden death period was quickly agreed to by both sides. In contrast to the explosive scoring pace of the match's first two periods, with the sides combining for more than a point per minute, the final period was a defensive stalemate as each team strived to maintain possession, by whatever means necessary. It was an all-hands-on-deck winner-takes-all mentality from both sides, as evidenced by the referee counting 35 total players on the field at one point; 19 for the alums and 16 for the undergrads. After more than 14 scoreless minutes, the undergrads executed a well-trained return play to change the point of attack following a lineout and co-captain Antonio Esteves would be the last player to touch the ball in the match as he dove, while defenders homed in to attempt to knock him out of bounds, and touched the ball down in the corner for the game-winning try.

### EXTRA TIME SCORING SUMMARY

54'30 - try Antonio Esteves '25 - Alumni 25 - 30 Undergrads

Following the match, everyone had a chance to socialize, sharing a meal and refreshments in a tent by the field, while many of the “cubs” kicked and passed rugby balls around, emulating their favorite players. Coach Laflamme then addressed the assemblage, recapping the tribulations and triumphs of the Class of 2025. The first class to enter Brown as freshmen as the world returned to (a new) normal coming out of the COVID global pandemic, this class enjoyed 4 full years of rugby for the first time since the class of 2019. It might be said that this class is the most accomplished on the field in the history of the club, yet. Over those 4 years here’s a list of some of their accomplishments as a team:

4x Ivy League XV’s Champions (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

3x Ivy League 7’s Champions (2021, 2022, 2nd in 2023, 2024)

3x College Rugby Classic National 7s Tournament qualifier, with their best performance finishing 5th this year (only lost to back-to-back champs Wheeling out of WV)

In the National Collegiate Rugby XVs national rankings...

2021 – 5th in D1

2022 – D1 National Champions (first in club history)

2023 – 3rd in D1

2024 – D1 National Champions (second in club history)

Over 4 years, their XV’s win/loss record was 46-3, and their 7’s record was 77-12. For an overall record of 123-15, a better than 89% winning percentage.

The first team scored a total of 3,658 points while giving up only 801.

And they *never lost a match at home*.

Several seniors were then awarded special recognition:

#### **Linton Avery “Jay” Fluck III Award: Kenyon Graham**

A new annual award was established this year in honor of Jay to recognize the Brown player, selected by the coaches, to have had the most outstanding performance in the annual Ivy League 7’s tournament.

#### **Class of 1991 Award: James Horkan & Raphael Lansonneur**

The class of 1991 established this award to promote the success of Brown Rugby for player integrity and teamwork. Each current club member votes for 2 recipients of the award, one from the first XV and one from the second XV, taking into consideration the qualities of dedication, contribution to leadership, and good humor.

### **Martin Henry “Tinny” Dawson Memorial Trophy: Antonio Esteves**

This award is presented to the senior who has contributed to the Brown Rugby Club through his intensity and enthusiasm on the field and his love of the game. This award was created in the spring of 1995 by family and friends to honor and celebrate the life of Martin Henry “Tinny” Dawson Class of 1994. While Tinny’s love of athletics and competition fueled his success on the rugby field, it was his selflessness and humor that touched so many.

### **Coaches Award: Joseph Al-Hasso**

Awarded annually to the player, through his desire, effort, and team play, who contributes the most to the rugby program, to the game of rugby, and exemplifies the true spirit of the game.

Finally, along with their white University Letter sweaters and 2024 NCR National Championship rings, the 20 graduates each received an affectionately personalized award from the club and coaches:

Joseph Al-Hasso	Kenyon Graham
Oliver Bieling	James Horkan
Blaine Byszio, <i>Master's</i>	Raphael Lansonneur
Antonio Cortabarria	Dylan Maloney
Santiago Cortabarria	Juan Carlos Matos
Jack Elliott	Aaron Mertzel
Antonio Esteves	Maximillian O'Donahue
Justin “JT” Dyer	Carlos Ponce de Leon Mendez
Isaac Frost, <i>Master's</i>	David Scott, <i>Master's</i>
Jacob Goldberg	Man Hei Christopher Wai

Special appreciation is offered to the Brown rugby parents’ group who were essential to the event’s success. Parents Gavin and Amy Mann (Garett, ‘26), as ever, were critical to welcoming everyone and ensuring all were well fed and refreshed.