



Coaches Corner

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Norsemen Successful at Philly Cup Collegiate Tournament

The weekend of March 28/29, 2009 saw The University of Scranton Men's Rugby Team travel to Philadelphia to participate in the 12th annual Philly Cup Collegiate Rugby Tournament.

The participating colleges were:

Bloomsburg University
Millersville University
University of Pennsylvania
Villanova University
Catholic University
University of Delaware
Shippensburg University

LaSalle University
Penn State University
Lafayette
Lock Haven University
West Chester University
Susquehanna University
The University of Scranton

The tournament was hosted by Schuylkill River Rugby Football Club, a division 1 men's club. The matches took place on a 4 field complex at the South Philadelphia Stadium Complex Area.

In accordance with USA Rugby as well as the local Rugby Union, NO ALCOHOL was permitted anywhere on the tournament grounds.

Our team traveled to Philadelphia after practice on Friday evening and were well fed and hosted at Philadelphia area homes of team members.

THANK YOU SCRANTON FAMILIES.

Saturday's match results included a win in our first match 12-0 vs. LaSalle University. Our second match was a win for Penn State 24-12; this game featured a first time match experience for several Scranton players; the Scranton second team gained experience and had fun against a tougher and more accomplished opponent. The final match of the day saw Scranton's first side dominate Catholic University "B" from Washington DC 32-0.

Our players dispersed to the various Scranton host family homes. Reliable reports indicate great quantities of home cooked food were consumed, and the "wild rugby guys" were asleep by sunset!!

Many parents, family members, and Norsemen Rugby Alumni attended the tournament, supported our team, and enjoyed Philly Cheese steaks from the onsite grilling stations. A special thanks to all our supporters for the large supply of water, Gatorade, and energy food.

Sunday morning saw a refreshed Scranton squad at the field at 8am; ready for a match at 9am vs. Lock Haven, which unfortunately was forfeited by our opponents due to an insufficient roster because of Saturday's injuries. The team repaired to a Philadelphia landmark, The Melrose Diner, and had a hearty team breakfast; not exactly health food, but WOW was it good!

Our final game was a rematch against Penn State, who managed one score and one penalty kick for a hard fought 8-0 win over Scranton; who were knocking on the Nittany Lion goal line as the final whistle sounded.

This tournament was a resounding success for The University of Scranton Men's Rugby program. The Norsemen combined winning rugby with significant playing time for our newer players, fostering team unity and an unselfish distribution of player participation. We also experienced the camaraderie of a 14 college competition.

The tournament also saw the debut of new and updated team uniforms, blending the University Royal / White, while honoring the traditional Scranton Norsemen theme.

Players, parents, alumni came together and gave a great representation of The University of Scranton to South Philadelphia. Tournament officials requested our participation in 2010.

Please click on 2009 Philly Cup Photo link below for more.