

January 2004

Volume 2, Issue 1

# The Gain Line

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*Miami University Men's Rugby Football Club Alumni Association*

## From the Alumni President- Mike Coco

*Dear Parents, Alumni & Friends:*

First, I would like to welcome the parents of the current players to the newsletter for the Miami University Men's Rugby Football Club Alumni Association (MU RFC AA). The MU RFC AA is a not-for-profit corporation with 501(c) 3 charitable status. We are charged with providing leadership, organizational support and financial support to the Miami Rugby Football Club, which was established in 1968. Membership is open to all those interested in ensuring the on-going opportunity for the undergraduate men at Miami University to learn the sport of rugby football, grow through competition and experience a camaraderie that will last a lifetime. Through this

newsletter and other

Second, congratulations to Coach Kevin Kittridge and the entire club for a fantastic fall season! Miami finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Midwest Rugby Football Union. Kevin, a Chemistry Professor with Miami U., has done a fantastic job with the program over the last 18 months and is continuing in a great direction. Keep up the great work

Next, thank you to all those who attended the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Match in Oxford on September 6<sup>th</sup>. This year's match was followed by a ceremonial BBQ where we awarded two scholarships to Shawn Ashcraft and Tom Kelly. *Man of the Match* awards for outstanding play during the Alumni

matches were given to Andrew Larrimer, Jake Goetz and Tom Kelly for the undergraduates and Matt Ellebrock ('96) for the Old Boys.

Last, at our Annual General Meeting, Craig Scheiderer ('97) was re-elected as our Secretary and we welcomed Toby Edison ('91) as our Vice President. Thank also to all those alumnae who have volunteered to assist with all the Fundraising, Investment and Audit Committees as well as the Board of Directors.

I look forward to Miami's spring season and our next Alumni match on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Sincerely,  
Mike Coco, 1997

[mjcoco@hotmail.com](mailto:mjcoco@hotmail.com)

## Miami RFC Spring 2004 Schedule

January 13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>: Florida Tour  
March 27<sup>th</sup>: Home vs. Traverse (MI) Bay Blues RFC  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Away vs. U of Minnesota (challenge mach)  
April 10<sup>th</sup>: Away vs. U of Michigan  
April 17<sup>th</sup>: Home vs. U. of Cincinnati  
April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>: Ohio Classic in Columbus, OH



-See Ya!

## History Gathering: Pictures, News Clippings, Posters

Our Historian, Steve Gustin, '74, is starting a collection of pictures, articles and other memorabilia covering the last 35 years of rugby at Miami. If you have pictures or other items, please scan them and send them to [jbns@charter.net](mailto:jbns@charter.net) or you can send a hard copy to:

Steve Gustin  
890 Windsor Trail  
Roswell, GA 30076-1301.

If you have questions, please contact Steve at (770) 993-4129. Thanks!



## Cradle of Coaches

*"Even though we didn't leave the field victorious it was still some of the best rugby that I have been apart of at Miami"*  
Current Miami President  
BJ Brick

The legendary aura of the Miami Cradle of Coaches extends beyond the gridiron onto the pitch. The following are a short list of rugby coaches, and their teams:

Woody Fox '71 Claremont Colleges, CA.

Al Weber Arizona Selects  
Bob Lyon Metro State, CO

Toby Edison '92, Air Force Academy, 2003 National champs

Dennis Steigerwald '93, Singapore American High School

Mark Hirselj '95 The Citadel

Josh Bergin '02, Nate Arnold '02 Lakota High School, Cincinnati

### Miami Alum who coached Miami:

Doug Edwards

Bill Griffes

Joe Woycke

Jared Moore

Sean Edwards

Hopefully we can get a few more local alums to continue the coaching tradition.



J.R. Hassett torments Miami's young scrum half



Pete taking it to a WVU Defender

## Mid-West First Round Playoffs Match Reports

### Miami Routes West Virginia 53-0; Michigan

1-2 Nov. Miami RFC Hosted the first round of the Division II Playoffs

Saturday's game saw the Redskins defeating West Virginia University by a score 53-0. The team played hard, tough forward rugby. In the first half, Miami scored off the opening WVU kick off, and never looked back. Sorry I don't remember the names of all the try scorers, there were too many to remember. The score at half time was 27-0. The second half was similar to the first, with good strong back line play and hard

hitting forward rucking. Miami showed true toughness when early in the second half, down a man MU, the forwards toughened up, stole ball in the ruck and kicked for territorial gain. We stole their lineout, rushed strong with our backs and were stopped short of goal. Final score 53-0

On Sunday A strong UM side came out, and brought tough rucking and good field play to give UM an early try and 7-0 score. That was the last time Michigan found our try zone. Miami decided to start playing rugby, ran a

series of crashes that led to a break by the centers and a try. We scored again within a few minutes by #2 Ross (who had two on the day). Miami again scored on an open field break by the back line, and went into half with a 19-7 lead.

Second half possession went back and forth, with every scoring threat by UM being countered by good Miami defense. UM changed tactics and trying to move the ball out to the wing but we shut down by Miami's deep three. Miami took the game with a well fought final score 38-7, and a shot at the Midwest Title. Kevin Kittridge

## Miami # 3 in the Midwest

8-9 November 2003  
Columbus, OH

Miami played a very hard semi-final match resulting in a loss to eventual Midwest Division II Champions, University of Pittsburgh. According to Alumni reports, Miami was down 27-6 at half time, but came back to finish the match 27-21. Stopping Pitt's offense and adding 15 points to the board showed that they had come back hard and earned the respect of their opponents, fans, alumni and other collegiate coaches who were watching the

match. From the reports that came in, it sounded as though Miami only needed 5-10 more minutes to pull the whole thing off. I can say that I am very proud of the team and proud to be a Miami rugby alumnus.

Miami went on to win the consolation match on Sunday, defeating U of Wisconsin - Lacrosse 34-22, to take 3rd place in the Midwest.

The squad spent the weekend together and had their hotel rooms and a team dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse paid for by alumni. Thank you

to those of you who were able to support the team financially and at the pitch. The team also had a chance to meet together at the hotel on Sunday morning to set some goals for the future (I think we have a pack of sharks that just got their first whiff of blood). We look forward to the spring season and next fall's league season.

Mike Coco '97

[mjcoco@hotmail.com](mailto:mjcoco@hotmail.com)

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*"Alumni provided coaching clinics, goal post pads, attended the playoffs, and even helped coach the team to a #3 finish in the Midwest, Thanks for everything."*

Coach Kevin



**Miami after the Michigan Victory**

## Coaches Corner, Kevin Kittridge

*Dear Alumni:*

It is good to share with the alumni the news about our season. I would like to express my thanks for all of the continued alumni support. This past fall the Alumni Association paid for Craig Scheiderer and his Indianapolis coaches, started off the season with a tremendous two day coaching clinic. As always the alumni put on a first class Old Boys weekend, the young bucks gifted a win for the alumni and Griff put on a great feast. More importantly the Alums paid for a set of first class goal pads that is a major improvement over the previous years where duct

tape was involved. At the playoffs we hosted, numerous alumni came out on a beautiful fall weekend to cheer us on to victory. The following weekend, Dr. Mark Wiet, '97, and again Craig took over coaching for me due to a family commitment. We came close to qualifying for the DII Nationals. This season we had strong play from our seniors, and in the spring I hope we carry this momentum to go undefeated. Next fall, we will have fresher legs with 10 seniors graduating; we should field another strong side hopefully capable of reaching the National playoffs. I hope all alumni will speak well of their experiences at Miami, word of mouth is the best salesperson we have. Two alumni are planning to start

developing and coaching a Cincinnati area high school team, and I would like to host or co-host (perhaps with the Wolfhounds and/or UC) a high school rugby tournament. This can only lead to greater exposure and hopefully attract players to MU. As always, like with Doug, anyone that sends a fat kid to play in the front row will get a dinner and drink (I may even have Marina cook authentic Italian). I hope local alumni will continue to attend games and cheer us on. They are always welcome to come out and please keep in touch with MU and the AA.

If there are any alumni interested in helping coaching, I encourage them to contact me directly at [kittrekw@muohio.edu](mailto:kittrekw@muohio.edu) or call 513.705.6379.

Kevin

[kittrekw@muohio.edu](mailto:kittrekw@muohio.edu)

To join the MU RFC Alumni Association email list, send an email to: [murugby-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:murugby-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/murugby/>

Also, the club is on the Web at:

<http://www.orgs.muohio.edu/murugby/>

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(231) 935-1738**

## Support the Miami Rugby Association

The Miami RFC Alumni Association is working hard to build a lasting, player oriented rugby program at Miami. National collegiate rugby powerhouses such as Cal, OSU, Army, Navy, and Stanford are solely funded and administered by alumni money and time. The strong university support these programs receive is a direct result of the positive

direction set by the alumni association.

Great programs are built around the quality of the players. Well run programs attract a great team, and coaches, keeping them involved not only for the full four years of college, but throughout their lifetime. Most importantly well run programs attract parents who

donate time and money to furthering the success of the program.

The coaching, equipping, traveling, and administering of a rugby team is not cheap or easy. If you have the money donate generously, many already have. If you have the time, contact anyone on the Alumni Association Board: we have a task.

*Toby Edison, '92*

[tobyedison@yahoo.com](mailto:tobyedison@yahoo.com)

## From the Club President - BJ Brick

The team started the past fall season with high expectations. We were coming off a big win in the spring over OSU B's, we only graduated two players the year before and the first 4 weeks of the season, the expected success seemed to be coming to fruition. We had a very positive team camp experience, played a great game against the Miami alumni, shellacked the University of Alabama 93-0 and beat our biggest rival, UC 20-8. Everything had started perfect and we were confident in the upcoming match against the very skilled Bowling Green.

As good as the first four weeks were the next three were just as bad. We lost the match against BG and followed that up with two more vs. Purdue and

Pittsburgh. The three consecutive losses were low points. To the credit of the team we turned them into fuel for the rest of the season.

Our next two matches against Kent and Marshall we won 46-18 and 45-23. These wins not only helped bolster our still fragile confidence but propelled us into the playoffs.

The first round of the Division 2 playoffs found us facing West Virginia in the preliminaries and Michigan in the finals. After the long weekend we were not only victorious but had outscored our opponents by almost 80 points.

The following weekend,

at the mid-west championship, we again faced Pitt, one of our three losses. Even though we didn't leave the field victorious it was still some of the best rugby that I have been apart of at Miami. They were up nearly three tries very early in the first half but we kept fighting. The final was 21- 27. The next day we beat Wisconsin-Lacrosse 39-22 placing us #3 in the Midwest.

I consider this season to be a success. Not only did it give us a measuring stick for our potential it instilled in all of us an underlying confidence. This confidence has proved we are strong enough to rebound from losses, personal injury, team disunity, and overwhelming odds. And from here I can only see Miami Rugby getting stronger. I look forward to this upcoming spring.

*BJ Brick, '05* [Bricker41@aol.com](mailto:Bricker41@aol.com)

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