Men’s 2017 Season Preview

While the Fall 15s conference might have come to a close last semester, the Sevens season is only just beginning. The men’s rugby players who will be participating in the Sevens matches will be traveling to Las Vegas, Nevada for the Las Vegas Invitational Sevens and will be competing there on both March 2 and 3. They will continue to have games both home and away for the duration of the Sevens tournaments this spring. Senior captain Luis Carpio is anticipating an exciting next few months. “Coach Tui Osborne has provided us with a great game plan and we have great individual skills, which will hopefully give us a successful outcome at the tournament,” said Carpio. After giving the competition a run for their money in the fall, the team is just as excited to work their hardest within the next couple of months.

Women’s 2017 Season Preview

The women’s rugby team is anticipating an exciting Spring semester with four Sevens tournaments in March and April. A home round robin will open the slate before
SBU Men’s Rugby Players Attend Training Camps

This past December, freshman Jaret Williamson and sophomore Eamonn Matthews were chosen to participate in the AIG Men’s Junior All-American Evaluation Camp. The pair traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to play alongside fifty-eight other rugby players from across the country. Players under twenty-years old are selected for their outstanding efforts and rugby skills.

“All I can say is I am blessed and grateful for this opportunity and I am looking forward to showing the coaches what I can do and to give St. Bonaventure University some more recognition,” said scrum half Matthews.

Williamson later went on to qualify for the AIG Men’s Collegiate All-Americans Identification and Verification Camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California. The four day camp took place from Jan. 13 to Jan. 16, and Williamson is humbled by the opportunity.

“When I first received the news that I had been selected, I was a little surprised, but still very happy,” said Williamson. “Coming out of the camp, I feel that I played well over the course of the four days,” Williamson said. “On the last day, we played a game against the Collegiate All-Americans. I’m proud to say that I had a lot of nice one-on-one tackles and a great clearing kick during the game.”

Sophomore Christian Artuso was also selected to attend a camp based on his rugby record. The fly half also flew out to the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California to partake in the All-American Camp to represent the D1A national rugby players. Artuso was previously named the D1A Player of the Week back in Oct. 2016.

“I was beyond ecstatic when I learned that I was going to be selected for the All-American camp and it just didn’t seem like it was a real moment,” Artuso said. “I guess that now I have learned more about USA rugby and they have learned from

Women’s Team Prepares for 1st Sevens Season

This spring, it will be the first time that the women’s rugby team will participate in a Sevens-only season rather than focusing on 15s. In addition to adding a handful of new players, team has been working hard toward this particular season.

Newly-elected club president Carlie Jacque, a junior scrum half, is excited to introduce new players to the team and to finish the season on a high note.

“The spring season is a great time for new players to try out the sport of rugby and learn the game before we get into our fall season, which is more competitive,” Jacque said. “My favorite aspect about playing rugby is that we have really built a family with this team. I know that my teammates have my back 100% of the time, and it has taught me so much since I joined as a freshman.”

Sophomore Rachel Newton is just as enthusiastic about going into the first Sevens season with her teammates.

“In most of the tournaments we play this spring, we are going to be up against some schools that play at higher levels than us,” said Newton. “While it’s going to be an adjustment, I’m confident that we have the right mentality and skills to take on these teams with less difficulty than you would expect. With the help of our coaches, we are picking up quickly and should be in good shape for this spring.”

Coach Clarence Picard added, “the team is picking up Sevens quickly and we are ready to test ourselves.”
Community Service

Freshman wing Chaz Schwenk and freshman hooker North Westall took the initiative upon themselves by going to serve a meal at the local soup kitchen, The Warming House.

The Warming House, located in Olean, NY, is known as one of the oldest college-run soup kitchens throughout the United States.

“I thought it was really rewarding and humbling giving back to the community,” said Schwenk. “It made me realize just how good I have it, too.”

Westall also mentioned how rewarding the opportunity to help those who are less fortunate was to him.

“It was an awesome experience,” Westall said. “Just being a part of a place like that is incredible, especially when it involves being able to help the people around you.”

Bonnie's Host Presidents Day Camp

On Presidents Day the men’s and women’s teams hosted the inaugural Presidents Day Camp on campus, with more than 40 high school athletes in attendance. With experience ranging from new players to the girls high school All American team captain, the student-athletes worked on their rugby skills and learned about the SBU experience. A special highlight was a Skype call with Eagles AJ MacGinty and Catie Benson.
Men & Women Schedule

Men

March 2 & 3 at Las Vegas Invitational Sevens — Las Vegas, NV
March 18 at Notre Dame College Sevens — South Euclid, OH
April 8 at St. Bonaventure Sevens
April 15 vs. Can-Am Sevens — Ft. Niagara, NY
April 22 at Kutztown Sevens — Kutztown, PA
April 22 at Alumni Weekend — SBU
April 29 at Buffalo Sevens — Buffalo, NY

Women

March 18 Sevens Round Robin vs UB & Buff State — SBU
April 1 at Upstate NY Conference Sevens — Rochester, NY
April 8 at Foodbank Sevens — Plattsburgh, NY
April 15 at Can Am 7’s — Ft. Niagara, NY
April 22 at Alumni Weekend — SBU

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