



## **2019 Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship**

November 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

Montreal, QC

### **T-Birds win big over Badgers to open Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship**

The two-time defending champion UBC Thunderbirds scored early and often en route to a convincing 56-10 victory over the Brock Badgers in their opening match of the Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship Wednesday afternoon at Concordia Stadium in Montreal, Que.

With the win, the T-Birds advanced to Friday's semifinals where they'll face the host Concordia Stingers for an 11:30 a.m. PT kickoff. For full story click [HERE](#).

For full championship schedule, scoring summary, and live streaming, click [HERE](#).

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### **Thunderbird Totems vs Ridge Meadow Bruins – Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

Bruins hosted this game at their backup field at Garibaldi Secondary while their home field and new clubhouse was under construction. It was a wet day with a steady minor drizzle all game at about 11C – cool, wet but not cold.

We received the kick-off and marched down the field with determination putting together some great phases with multiple passes and penetrating gainline runs by our big men. But we seemed to spill the ball as we got inside their 22 and they would take it back at us. It was a great back-and-forth battle as each team looked to push through. Finally our #10 Conor Rea broke through with a 10 m run after a number of minutes battling it forward. Jake Bourne slotted the first convert to make it 7-0. Winger Sol Leader-Cole had a great run just a few minutes later when our backs put together a set of passes to rival our more experienced teams. Bourne converts again to bring the score to 14-0.

We kick-off the second half but it doesn't make the 10 m. Scrum down and we put immense pressure on them...they squirt the ball out and within a few minutes centre Pablo Aleman blazes through to score. Bourne misses a drop kick convert – score now 19-0.

The Bruins kept at it with big men runs in tight but our guys were tackling demons and were relentless in the ruck. We lost of a bit of form in the middle part of the second half hence the drought on the scoreboard. But they finally got it together with hook Jacob Bossi stepping a couple of their big guys and, with a guy on his back, touched it down with 10 minutes to play. Bourne made his drop kick this time to make it 26-0. Bruins had a last ditch effort in the dying minutes but spilled the ball at mid-field and our boys took over for the win. 26 to 0 for the Totems. To view the full game, click [HERE](#).

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### **3 Game Homestand vs. Capilano – Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

Wow... What happened here? Our guys won 3 games in a row putting up over 180 points against which has been usually a very formidable opponent, the Capilano Rugby Club of North Vancouver. Maybe we caught them on a bad day and we had a good one... but, I have to say, our boys played some really great rugby. Watch the games on our YouTube channel [HERE](#).

The Totems started it off with a 53-10 win. We picked up a couple of early tries while Caps picked up one as well. Then the track meet began and the boys went on to score 7 unanswered tries - one a penalty try, followed by three converted and three tries left unconverted. Caps scored a late try to finish off the game. First year player, Conor Rea took over #9 from Jacob Bourne who left after the first half to sub up for the upcoming Braves game. Bourne was perfect off the boot with 2 for 2 conversions and nailed the only penalty kick of the game. Tom Eastwell (Australia) and former UBC footballer Kees den Ouden each picked up two tries. Tim Goerner scored a great try and had what coach Nick Econome called “the

sweet Sonny Bill Williams off-load”, which Sol Leader-Cole took in to score. Joel Cheney ran the last try in for the Totems.

The Braves were up next and oh boy did they come to play – they took off and won 51 to 7. By the first half, our players generated a 34 to 0 lead. Outside Centre Ryan Leskiew had a stellar first half with three tries, including one spectacular interception where he picked it off as Caps tried to spin the ball out wide. He snatched the ball out of the air and took off like a rocket to score under the posts. Caps opened up the second half with a quick converted try for their only try of the match but the Braves answered back almost immediately with two tries – one converted and one missed by Jacob Bourne. Matt Percillier scored his second try at about the 56<sup>th</sup> minute which turned out to be the last try of the game. The other try scorers were Dane Hopkins, John Tolton, Forest Scarwener, Izzak Kelly with Matt Percillier kicking two converts as well.

While our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XV's had good performances, the Thunderbirds were dominating in their game, beating the previously unbeaten Capilano Premier team 80 to 33. The Caps were coming in off a great win, beating Burnaby Lake the previous weekend at home.

Fraser Hurst scored the first of his two tries at the 6<sup>th</sup> minute in with Frank Carson touching down another 3 minutes later and then 3 minutes after that, speedy outside centre John Jubenvil intercepted a pass to take it home, making the score 17 to 0 in the first 13 minutes of play. Tighthead Bryce Worden pushed one in at 23 minutes and Caps scored 6 minutes later. The Birds put down 4 more tries at 29:20, 30:58, 34:58 and 37:04 to bring the first half to a close at 37-7. Lock Liam Doll had the last two of those tries as the half closed out.

Caps put on a valiant effort to put up another 26 points (three converted tries and one unconverted) while UBC scored another 5 tries with 2 left unconverted. To the credit of both teams, they kept their cool and no incidents of any note took place. Capilano's are a tough club and we look forward to stepping onto the field with them again.

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### **At the LomaDome – Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

It was fabulous weather for our away game at the beautiful Connaught Park, home of the Meralomas. To view full games, click [HERE](#).

The Totems were up first with only 17 players vs the 30 plus of the Meraloma 3rds. We had a strong first 40 minutes, going into the second half up 10-7, and

stayed in the game the whole way, but ultimately lost 29-15. With the unlimited substitutions allowed at this level, Meralomas had a complete 15-man change at half time. The game changed and they ran in two tries in the first 12 minutes of the second half and three more before Tim Goerner went for a great run to get our third try of the game. We are so proud of our guys staying in tough and some valuable lessons were learned... especially not to run one-offs and pick and go's into guys who are much bigger than you but can't run as fast!

The Braves started off with a quick try by Landon Clironomos at 3 minutes, but we lost a bit of the lead when Meralomas kicked a penalty to make it 5-3. Meralomas scored at 24:00 yet 4 minutes later Josh Downs went for a scoot and the half finished 10 to 8 for the Braves.

The second half started tough but at 54:00 the dam broke and the Braves scored 8 tries in a row (as reported by our sideline filming team):

- 54' Nick Froese ran the length of field and tipped to Dane Hopkins for a try.
- 56' Callum Botchar try – battled in from the 5-metre line.
- 58' Alistair Bullman ran the length of the field and tipped to Tom Abercrombie who punched it in. Conversion made.
- 61' Nick Froese try. Conversion made.
- 65' Kick by Tom Abercrombie; chased by Dane who outran Lomas to score a try. Conversion made.
- 70' Jacob Bourne try. Conversion made.
- 72' Josh Downs interception and try. Conversion made.
- 80' Landon Clironomos try. Conversion made.

This game ended in an official 76-8 score. (Our film team was overwhelmed keeping score and filming so we may not have all the scoring listed – watch the full game by clicking [HERE](#)). Not sure what to say... while we out-played their team on the day, we still have lots to work on.

The Thunderbirds finished off the day with a solid 43-6 win over a very strong mauling Meraloma side. #8 Nick Allen scored at 15 minutes with #11 Evan Norris scoring just 4 minutes later. We went into the half up 19 to 5, bulike the Braves, the opposing team held the dam to just about 10 or so minutes into the half and then we went for a run of five tries over the next 30 minutes scoring three in just the last 11 minutes. Our scrummagers are confident and spent the week leading up to the game working on keeping low and holding and specific maul defense. Lomas scored once off a maul just before the half but were thwarted anytime after

that as our big men adapted and overcame the challenge when they tried the same tactic a few more times in the second half.

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## Upcoming Fixtures

November 20 to 24<sup>th</sup> – The Thunderbirds 1<sup>st</sup> XV is off to Montreal (Concordia University) for the Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship.

Saturday, November 23<sup>th</sup> – Totems have a make-up game vs Squamish Axemen in Squamish; game time 12:45pm. Braves host Western Washington in an exhibition game; game time 2:30 pm at the UBC Gerald McGavin Rugby Centre.

Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – Final home game of 2019 vs Vancouver Rowing Club; Parent's and Alumni to help with potluck hosting plus coleslaw & beef bun buffet for the players. We will be honouring the legacy of Dave Brown, past Manager, UBC Rugby.

For full Thunderbirds schedule and results click [HERE](#).

For full schedule of BC Rugby fixtures and results click [HERE](#).

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## Dave Brown Thunderbird Rugby Award

We are thrilled to announce that we have exceeded our fundraising goal of \$125,000 to establish the Dave Brown Thunderbird Rugby Award. With UBC's commitment to match the funds raised, you have helped us create a **total endowment valued at \$250,000!** These funds will go directly to UBC Men's and Women's rugby student-athletes. **Thank you** for helping us honour Dave's legacy and provide continued support to student-athletes in the men's and women's rugby programs. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please click [HERE](#).

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## Help us stay connected!

When your former teammates move, change email addresses or phone numbers sometimes they forget to update their contact information with us. Please help make sure they are invited by forwarding this email on.

If you received this email from a friend and not UBC Athletics, please [update your information](#) so that we can make sure you are invited to all upcoming reunions and events.