

# WFURFC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2006

### Fall Schedule:

- 9/16/06: Wake vs. App. St. (AWAY)
- 9/23/06: Wake A vs. William & Mary; Wake B vs. Guilford (HOME)
- 9/30/06: **ALUMNI WEEKEND**- Wake vs. Furman (HOME)
- 10/7/06: **FAMILY WEEKEND**- Wake v. UNC (HOME)
- 10/21/06: Wake vs. UNC-W (HOME)
- 10/28-29/06: North Carolina Rugby Union Tournament (AWAY)

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## WFURFC SUFFERS DISAPPOINTING PLAYOFF LOSS

Wake Forest lost to Elon 18-13 in overtime in a thrilling match in the USA Rugby South Division 3 playoffs. The match began with Elon dominating the territorial battle, compliments of 7 Wake Forest penalties in the first 10 minutes. Elon's kicker capitalized on all of the Wake miscues, repeatedly pinning Wake deep in its own end with impressive kicks for touch off of the Wake penalties. Elon was knocking at the Wake doorstep for a good 5 minutes, but Wake's forwards put forth a tremendous defensive effort, holding up the ball in the try zone on 3 separate occasions. Elon's pressure finally paid divi-



dends as their forwards were able to bull their way into the try zone. The try was converted and Elon led 7-0. Wake continued its habit of committing penalties throughout the rest of the half, often following up a good run of play with a penalty that negated all of the hard work. Then, with seven minutes remaining in the half, senior scrumhalf Achilleas Patounas was issued an extremely questionable yellow card for making an overly aggressive tackle (it is notable that this occurred shortly after an Elon player was not given a card for stomping on a Wake player's head in a ruck). Despite being down a

man, Wake finished the half strong, and sophomore flyhalf Tyler Eure slotted a penalty goal in the waning moments to make the score 7-3 at the break.

The second half was dominated by Wake Forest, but Elon's backline defense held firm against Wake's repeated attacks on the wings. Finally, with 15 minutes remaining in the contest, Wake broke through for a try by freshman outside center Javin Hutchinson, set up by some exceptional play out wide by junior wing David Buckingham and senior fullback Evan Woods.

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## UNIVERSITY BUILDING RUGBY-ONLY FACILITY

In recognition of the recent success of the Wake rugby team, the University has agreed to build a rugby-only facility at Waterfall Field in Reynolda Village, the team's current practice site. The project involves the removal of at least 7 large trees, the leveling of the playing surface, and the construction of new goalposts. This will allow the



team to have a full-sized pitch on which to train and will provide an alternate playing field for occasions when the main match pitch at Poteat Field is closed due to field conditions. Work on the facility will begin in late May and the pitch should be ready by the start of the fall season.



**Wake wins a lineout against Elon**

## ELON STUNS WAKE IN PLAYOFFS, CONT.

Eure's conversion was true and Wake took the lead at 10-7. Elon's forwards, although visibly fatigued, continued to march the ball methodically down the field and another Wake penalty allowed Elon to tie the score at 10 apiece.

With time running out, the match looked headed for overtime. But another Wake penalty allowed Elon to take a 13-10 lead. Wake mounted a frantic attack in the closing moments and were awarded a penalty from 35 meters out. Flyhalf Eure calmly slotted the

pressure-filled kick to tie the match at 13 with only seconds remaining. Off the ensuing restart, Wake was awarded another penalty, this time from 40 meters away. Eure's attempt at goal had the distance but was just wide and the match headed into extra time.

In the overtime period Elon's forwards seemed to catch their second wind, and they pounded the ball down the field. Wake put forth an incredible defensive effort, but finally Elon was able to touch

down in the corner to take a 18-13 lead with 90 seconds left on the clock. Wake threw everything it had at Elon in the final seconds of the match, but were unable to get the game-tying try that they needed.

Wake closes out its spring season with a record of 5-2, its only other loss coming to Kutztown University, a Division I team currently ranked 20th in the nation.

## ALUMNI INVITED TO HOMECOMING MATCH AND FESTIVITIES

Homecoming weekend is **Sept. 30** and the WFURFC encourages all alumni to attend its match against Furman, the 2004 and 2005 Division III national champions. Last year we had enough alumni attend homecoming to put together a match between the Wake B-side and the Wake alumni. Hopefully this year we can get enough alumni in attendance to do this again.

We hope to play the matches at our new rugby-only facility at Waterfall Field in Reynolda Village and we will have a cookout for all alumni and fans during and following the matches.

Please make every effort to come to this weekend and celebrate the past, present and future of the Wake Forest rugby club. Sign up for the alumni listserv (see page 3) for further details regarding

this weekend and please contact head coach Patrick Kane (kanepm4@law.wfu.edu or 336.671.4600) with any questions.

Here's to you,  
Here's to me,  
Here's to the WFURFC!

**The WFURFC  
Hopes to see  
Everyone in  
Winston-Salem  
on Sept. 30 for  
Alumni Weekend**

## TEN WAKE PLAYERS SELECTED TO NC ALL-STAR TEAM

An impressive 10 Wake Forest players were selected to the 25 man North Carolina College All-Star team which traveled to Gainesville, FL in November to compete in the South College All-Star Championships. The team lost its first match to the South Carolina team 19-5 but rebounded in its second match to defeat the Deep South team 28-19.

Two Wake players, Freshmen Matt Gottbrecht and Javin Hutchinson, were selected by the coaches of the South College All-Star team to attend the team's tryout camp at the end of May. Additionally, sophomore Tyler Eure attended the camp as a walk-on. Hutchinson was ultimately selected for the South team which played in the National College All-Star Champi-

onship in Boulder, CO in June.

Wake Forest head coach Patrick Kane, who was an assistant coach of the 2005 NC College All-Star team, has been offered the head coaching position for the 2006 team. Kane will likely accept the position, but is awaiting final confirmation on some of his law school commitments for the fall.



**2005 NC College All-Star Team**

## DONATE TO WAKE RUGBY

The Wake Rugby Alumni stepped up to the plate and donated almost \$1500 to the club over the course of the last year. These donations were extremely helpful in defraying equipment and travel costs and the club greatly appreciates all of the generous support.

For those who would like to donate this year, simply send a check made out to **Wake Forest Men's Rugby** to

Wake Forest University  
PO Box 7455  
Winston-Salem, NC 27109

All donations are **tax deductible** and the University will send you a receipt for your donation.

The WFURFC extends its thanks to the following alumni who donated to the club:

- Steven C. Ireland '83
- Paul J. Ekster '95, JD '99
- James Atherton '80, MS '82
- Clift Jernigan, Jr. '76
- Tom Welliver '87
- John Boswell '86
- Scott Adams JD '97
- Charles Reeves '83
- A.G. Monaco '77
- J. Russ Van Buren '86

- Scott Klenzak '91
- Doug Brady '81
- Mark Zahn '77, JD '80
- Bryan Beach '99, MS '00

If anyone's name has been left off this list, we apologize.

## WAKE ALUMNI PLAYING HIGH-LEVEL MENS CLUB RUGBY

The 2006 Rugby Super League and Division I Men's Club Playoffs saw two Wake alumni in action. In the Super League playoffs, former Wake tight end James Lik will be suiting up at lock for Old Blue. Lik, who took up rugby after graduating from Wake in 2000, has quickly become one of the country's premier players. He has already been capped three times with the US Eagles and remains in the player pool. Unfortunately, he

was unable to commit to the national team for this summer's Churchill Cup due to work commitments.

Meanwhile, former club captain and president Andrew Gentles, '05, is playing for the Division I club Atlanta Renegades who advanced to the national Division I quarterfinals. Gentles began the season playing for the 'Gades B-side, but quickly worked his way into the first XV as a lock

and flanker. Gentles continues the tradition of Wake rugby alums on the Atlanta team. Former Wake star half-back Bryan Beach, '99, excelled for the Renegades for the past few years and was part of a national select side that toured South Africa in 2001. Beach is currently taking a break from rugby to concentrate on fatherhood.

## KEEP IN TOUCH - JOIN THE WAKE RUGBY ALUMNI EMAIL GROUP

The WFURFC has set up an email group for club alumni to keep in touch with one another and to keep abreast of the happenings within the club. To subscribe to this list, simply send an email to **listserv@wfu.edu** with "subscribe rugbyalumni" written in the **body** of the email (leave the subject line blank).

Once you are subscribed to

this group, you can send an email to everyone else in the group by sending the email to **rugbyalumni@wfu.edu**. You will also receive all emails sent to this address.

If you have any difficulty subscribing to this list, please contact Jordan Weiss, the club vice-president. His email address is **weisja4@wfu.edu**.



**Wake prepares to scrum against UNC-Greensboro. Wake won the game 57-10.**

**Ex-Wake football player James Lik has appeared three times for the US National Team and is a hopeful for the Eagles for the 2007 Rugby World Cup in France.**



**Class of 2006; Nelson Brunsting, Achilleas Patounas, Eric Jewett, Evan Woods, Justin Edwards**

## Wake Forest University Rugby Football Club

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**Wake Forest Rugby:  
A Commitment to Excellence**

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HTTP://  
GROUPS.WFU.EDU/  
RUGBY/

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## WAKE FOREST RUGBY: A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The Wake Forest University Rugby Football Club provides Wake Forest students with the opportunity to play highly competitive intercollegiate athletics while pursuing an education at one of the nation's elite academic institutions. The team is committed to furthering the reputation of Wake Forest University through the achievement of success, both on the rugby field and off, and the team prides itself on fostering camaraderie and respect among team members.

### Club Officers 2006-2007

President: Greg Wagner  
Vice President: Jordan Weiss  
Match Secretary: Adam Blincoe  
Treasurer: Dinesh Kirpalani  
Alumni Secretary: David Buckingham  
Head Coach: Patrick Kane  
Assistant Coach: Scott Sexton

### 2006-2007 PREVIEW

The Wake Forest rugby team looks to be extremely competitive in the 2006-2007 season. While 5 seniors will be difficult to replace, more than 20 of the returning players have A-side experience and at least three incoming freshmen have significant high school rugby experience.

The forwards will be led by lock Greg Wagner, who captained the team this past spring. Other key returners are props Hien Ngyuen and Matt Gottbrecht and hooker Warren Pierce. Locks Adam Blincoe and Colin Golding also return. The loose forwards will fea-

ture Andrew Jessiman and Dino Kirpalani, while incoming freshmen Tom Plofchan will likely join the A-side at flanker or #8. John Keough will be a significant addition to the forwards in the spring when he returns from studying abroad in China.

The backs will be led by flyhalf Tyler Eure and outside center Javin Hutchinson. They will be joined by returning starters Jordan Weiss at inside center and Critter Commins and David Buckingham on the wings. The scrumhalf position will be manned by either Jeff Beck or

Drew Legge and the full-back position is up for grabs. The backs will also hopefully be buoyed by the return of center Mike Wills in the spring, who suffered a torn ACL and is undergoing surgery this summer.

The team has put together a difficult fall season which will prepare them for a run at the South Championship in spring 2007. The depth of the club will be showcased at the NCRU tournament in late October, where Wake Forest expects to enter two full sides.