

[Dukes' Turf]

# Rugby takes Virginia title

Total team effort earns state championship

By JOHN CARR ('82)

As a former Madison rugby player from the '70s — and now a proud supporter — I watched the Madison rugby team perform amazingly in a victory over Virginia Military Institute in the Division II Virginia Rugby Championship on Nov. 8.

Once again, Madison rugby is on top in Virginia and is ranked No. 3 in the



Members of the Madison rugby team celebrate their 2009 Virginia Division II Championship with their coach Holmes Brown ('97).

Mid-Atlantic Rugby Football Union. This rank earns the team home playoff matches this spring. I am truly proud of coach Holmes Brown ('97) and his players. In a total team effort, they moved from fourth place to first in just two days.

JMU and VMI were ranked fourth and third, respectively, going into the champion-


ship tournament, and both defeated top teams to advance. JMU defeated No. 1 seed Mary Washington, and VMI defeated No. 2 seed Radford.

With four minutes left in the championship match, VMI led JMU 21 to 20. JMU moved through the VMI defense in dramatic fashion and in the final minutes won 25–21. It feels good to say, "We're back," Madison rugby, champions again.

As I watched this match with my current Virginia Car-

dinal rugby teammates (who are parents of two of the JMU players), we were reminded of the battles we had as young men on the rugby pitch. We were inspired by watching one of the most competitive state finals in years. Two underdog opponents put in total team efforts.

Now it's on to the Mid-Atlantic Rugby Football Union playoffs — an even bigger stage — where the next level of skill will be imperative. Good luck Dukes.

James Madison University Recreation offers many great facilities and programs for students, club athletes and the community. Everyone involved in UREC can be proud of Madison Rugby. 

\* Learn more about UREC, its services for students and community, and JMU club sports at [www.jmu.edu/recreation/index.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/recreation/index.shtml).

**About the Author:** John Carr ('82) is founder and chairman/CEO of Brain Surgery Worldwide Inc. A member of the JMU College of Business Executive Advisory Council, he was one of the first rugby players at Madison in 1975. He continues to play rugby with the Virginia Cardinals Masters Touring Team.

## 2009–10 JMU BASKETBALL

### W O M E N ' S

DEC. 13	VS. SIENA
DEC. 18	AT DUKE
DEC. 21	VS. LONGWOOD JMU Invitational Dec. 29-30
DEC. 29	VS. LAFAYETTE
DEC. 30	(Invitational Consolation Games)
JAN. 3	AT DREXEL *
JAN. 7	VS. GEORGIA STATE *
JAN. 10	VS. GEORGE MASON *
JAN. 14	AT TOWSON *
JAN. 17	VS. OLD DOMINION *
JAN. 21	AT NORTHEASTERN *
JAN. 24	AT GEORGIA STATE *
JAN. 28	VS. HOFSTRA *
JAN. 31	VS. TOWSON *
FEB. 4	AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH *
FEB. 4	VS. DREXEL *
FEB. 11	AT WILLIAM AND MARY *
FEB. 14	AT NORTH CAROLINA–WILMINGTON *
FEB. 18	VS. DELAWARE *
FEB. 21	AT OLD DOMINION *
FEB. 25	VS. VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH *
FEB. 28	VS. WILLIAM AND MARY *
MARCH 3	AT GEORGE MASON *

(CAA Tournament March 11-14 at JMU)

### M E N ' S

DEC. 12	AT EASTER MICHIGAN
DEC. 17	AT GARDNER-WEBB
DEC. 19	VS. RADFORD
DEC. 23	VS. FORDHAM
DEC. 29	AT STANFORD
JAN. 2	AT NORTHEASTERN
JAN. 4	VS. DELAWARE *
JAN. 6	AT OLD DOMINION *
JAN. 9	VS. TOWSON *
JAN. 14	AT WILLIAM AND MARY *
JAN. 16	VS. GEORGE MASON *
JAN. 20	AT DREXEL *
JAN. 23	AT NORTH CAROLINA–WILMINGTON *
JAN. 27	VS. WILLIAM AND MARY *
JAN. 30	AT GEORGE MASON *
FEB. 3	VS. HOFSTRA *
FEB. 6	AT TOWSON *
FEB. 10	VS. OLD DOMINION *
FEB. 13	VS. VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH *
FEB. 16	AT GEORGE STATE *
FEB. 22	VS. LONGWOOD
FEB. 24	AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH *
FEB. 27	VS. DREXEL *

Check [JMUSports.com](http://JMUSports.com) for the most up-to-date game times, Duke Club information and TV times. \*CAA GAMES