

## TUCK RUGBY CLUB



### Tuck competes in Duke's 29th Annual MBA Rugby World Championships

April 19th 2009

The MBA Rugby World Championships is the seminal event in the MBA rugby calendar, and this year the tournament brought together twenty-five teams from the US, Canada, Ireland, the UK and France.

This year also marked the return of the Tuck Rugby Club to the tournament after a five-year hiatus. The team consisted of thirteen first years, three second years, one Dartmouth biology grad student (Dae Gon Ha) and one MBA student from MIT Sloan (Ted Chan). Participation in the tournament was made possible by the generous support of Nigel Leeming, owner of Murphy's on the Green, and the Tuck Student Activity Fund.

Tuck's first match was against the Thunderbird School of Global Management. Notwithstanding Thunderbird's preeminence in MBA rugby, Tuck ran out comfortable winners 26 to 7, with two tries scored by Greg Barbiaux T'10, one by Neill Hunt T'09 and one by George Prate T'10. Kyle Khasigian T'10 added three conversions.

Tuck's second match was against the Kellogg School of Management, ranked 8<sup>th</sup> going into

the tournament. In a brutal contest Tuck took a narrow lead when a deft Khasigian pass allowed Barbiaux to cross the goal line from five yards out – a score Khasigian subsequently converted. Unfortunately a defensive miscommunication allowed Kellogg to score and go ahead with just five minutes left. Their final-whistle celebrations revealed that Kellogg knew how lucky they were to come away with an 11 to 7 victory.

After pool play Tuck was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> going into the Sweet 16 by virtue of their tenacious performance against Kellogg. In the next round Tuck drew eventual runners-up Richard Ivey School of Business (Canada), which benefited from having undergrads in the team. Ivey went ahead early and never relinquished its lead, although Tuck fought hard throughout. An Ivey score at the death meant that the scoreline (22 to 3) did not reflect the contest.

In consolation play the next day, Tuck faced the Darden School of Business. At this point several injuries to the small Tuck squad necessitated reinforcement, and Tuck was fortunate to receive three players from the Harvard Business School and the Haas School of Business. Tuck played the larger and more numerous Darden boys hard all game before being rewarded with a magical passing play down the right side, granting Tuck a well-deserved 13 to 5 victory.

With Tuck's tournament over, several players went on to solidify the bonds formed with other schools. Pete Simms T'10, Kevin Williams T'10 and Ted Chan (MIT Sloan) went on to play for Darden, while Hunt showed Tuck's appreciation to Haas by volunteering his services there.

Sadly the team was not able to repeat the heroics of 1987 and 1988, when Tuck won back-to-back championships. The school nonetheless "punched above its weight," and won plaudits from its opponents for its tenacious, physical play. With the club now firmly reestablished and just three members graduating this year, the future for Tuck rugby is bright indeed.

— The Tuck Rugby Club —

