



# CAL MARITIME

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TOP-RANKED CAL MARITIME HOSTS PACIFIC COAST RUGBY PLAYOFFS THIS WEEKEND**

(Vallejo, CA – March 30, 2010)... Cal Maritime, the top-ranked team in the Pacific Coast Rugby Football Union’s Northern California Division, plays host Friday and Saturday to the Pacific Coast playoffs. Cal Maritime, ranked #6 nationally in Division II club rugby by eRugby News, just missed the Final Four in last year’s national championships. Santa Clara University, Snow College of Ephriam, UT, and Western Oregon University round out the weekend regional event.

Competition begins Friday April 2 at 1 p.m. at Bodnar Field on the Academy’s Vallejo campus with Cal Maritime against Western Oregon. Snow faces Santa Clara, the #2 team in the Northern California rankings at 3 p.m. The consolation round takes place at 1 p.m. Saturday, and the tournament championship at 3 that afternoon.

Cal Maritime coach Edward Roberts, whose squad finished the season 10 and 3 overall and 7-1 in league play, said it is always hard to scope out just how tournaments like these will shape up. “Our first game against Western Oregon is a rematch of last year when we met in the opening round up in Washington and came out victorious on our way to participation in the nationals in Florida. We know Santa Clara. We played them a couple of weeks ago and came out with a 33-16 win, but they are always a difficult team to play.

“Snow (about 120 miles south of Salt Lake City) is the sleeper of the tournament. They beat last year’s entry from that section, Utah Valley, to get here and that was an upset. Utah and Northern California have concentrations of strong rugby squads, so it will be interesting to see how they do here.”

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Roberts' Cal Maritime success record is a testimony to his coaching skills. First, the school, which focuses on training students for careers in maritime trade and transportation, engineering, business and logistics, has only 850 students. Academy cadets, on average, carry significantly heavier academic course loads than many students at other schools, due largely to the heavy math, science and engineering curricula of many majors. That demands efficient time management, especially for those students who participate in campus athletics.

What is equally impressive, however, is that the bulk of Cal Maritime's players had not played rugby for the first time when they arrived on campus. "We have maybe 3 or 4 experienced players join us each year, but the bulk are walk-ons. Some have played football, which is not available here, but most are taking part for the first time."

Last year, Cal Maritime made it to the Round of 8 in Sanford, FL, beating out rivals with enrollments as much as 20 times its size during the season. They nearly made it to the Final Four, but a thrilling loss to Georgetown on a late score ended their dreams of getting to the championship round at Stanford University in Palo Alto. The two sites will again play host for the final rounds this year and Edwards and his team are focused on going all the way.

"I've told my players, 'This is where we find out how good we are. Now it gets a lot tougher. The competition is stronger and there are no easy games.'"

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