



CAL MARITIME

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CAL MARITIME'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL RUGBY COACH ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE

(Vallejo, CA – August 25, 2010)...Edward Roberts, head coach of Cal Maritime's highly successful varsity rugby team, is stepping down from the role after seven years in charge due to conflicting work commitments.

"It's been a difficult decision," Roberts explained. "The athletic department has tried every way possible to maintain the current relationship and I wish I could do so, but unfortunately the distance between my day job and Cal Maritime makes it impossible."

Marv Christopher, Cal Maritime Athletic Director, confirmed the decision. "Rugby is the most successful sport on campus. We're disappointed to see Edward leave, but we understand the difficult personal decision he has made. One of the most obvious measures of his skills as a coach and leader was how many of his Cal Maritime players had never competed in rugby before coming to our campus."

Under Roberts' leadership, the Cal Maritime team played 93 first team games and won 72% of those against Northern California Division Two opposition. The team has created a fortress on its home turf at Bodnar Field where it has been undefeated against Division Two opposition since 2007. In both 2009 and 2010, the Keelhaulers won the Pacific Coast Championship and also the Northern California Division 2 Championship. They went on to the round of 8 at the national championships last year and the round of 16 in 2010.

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During Roberts' tenure, the team reached the conference play-offs in four of seven seasons, defeating such Division 1 schools as UC Davis, University of Nevada/Reno and Stanford University. In 2005, the team also embarked on the first overseas tour to Wales.

Roberts started his coaching career at Cal Maritime as assistant coach to Paddy Shrimpton in 2002 before taking over the head coaching position two years later. Over the next seven years, many assistant coaches including Greg McAllister, Maximo Nougues, Neil Grant and current assistant Steve Hiatt all helped improve the rugby program. "All of them left their mark in developing rugby at Cal Maritime, and without them, coaching this team would have been impossible," said Roberts.

"The excellent support from the college makes my leaving so difficult. Marv Christopher, the athletic director and Jeff Ward, from the training department, have been first class. I leave Cal Maritime with a heavy heart but feel honored to have worked with so many excellent student athletes and hope that rugby continues to flourish on Bodnar Field."

About Cal Maritime Rugby

Rugby was founded at Cal Maritime in 1998 by Paddy Shrimpton and Peter McGroarty. With 850 students on campus, Cal Maritime is one of the smallest schools playing rugby in the United States. In both 2009 and 2010, the team was ranked number one nationally by rugbymag.com.

A photo video from the team's infamous "mud bowl" battle against Nevada/Reno last February can be found on the campus website by going to www.csum.edu/News/Videoindex08.htm

The California Maritime Academy, Vallejo, CA, a campus of The California State University, is one of only seven degree-granting maritime academies in the United States, and the only one on the West Coast. Cal Maritime offers four-year degrees in international business and global logistics, facilities engineering technology, global studies and maritime affairs, marine engineering technology, marine transportation, and mechanical engineering, as well as professional development and extended learning programs and courses. For more information about Cal Maritime, visit www.csum.edu.

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PHOTO: Cal Maritime Rugby Coach Edward Roberts (L) with his 2010 Pacific Coast Rugby Union championship team. Roberts announced he is leaving his post due to conflicting work commitments.

