

# BUFFALO RUGBY RUCKER/MAULER

## **From the President:**

By: John Baldwin

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Fellow Ruggers,

I would like to thank you all for electing me as your president for the 2002 season. I am honored to serve and I hope that I can continue building on the tradition of excellence that presidents before me have established. We have much to accomplish this year, and the new executive board wasted no time in getting to work on the 2002 campaign. We are intent on raising the bar for the entire club this season, on and off the field. We have established a fund raising goal of \$20,000.00 for the year, which will require an effort by every player and alumni in order to accomplish.

The banquet and Winterfest tournament are set, and should give us a good kick-off to the year. Part of that effort includes a Branding Campaign to make people in the community more aware of The Club and rugby in general. This will include speaking to area high schools and colleges, as we work on establishing the area's first under 19 side. It will also include donating time, and in some instances money, to area charitable organizations. I feel that the good will derived from these efforts will be a crucial component of our marketing efforts. We urge the alumni, especially those that have not been around in a while, to get involved. You are part of a great winning tradition that has showcased some of the best amateur athletics that WNY has to offer. People in the community need to know who we are and what we are all about. That will be a main focus of my tenure as President.

I would like to congratulate Bob Chester on being named Coaching Coordinator for the upcoming season. As we all know, Bob brings a wealth of leadership and rugby knowledge to the club. He also brings some fresh ideas about coaching technique, position and fitness. I know that everyone is behind Bob as we start our quest for the 2002 National Championship.

I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy holiday, and I look forward to seeing you all at the banquet.

Get in the gym!

Thanks,

John

## **Captain's Corner:**

By: Paul Vallone

While we finished second in the conference this Fall and made our road to the National Championship that much tougher, I am more optimistic about our chances this Spring than ever before. This is for several reasons: First, I think we learned from our slow start this fall that we can't look past anyone and we need to be ready to play every week. Second, we turned the fall around with four straight wins and ended the season on a strong note. And third, if any team can go on the road and win, it's us. We travel well and have won on the road at least once every year in the playoffs. We can't look past Lexington, and we won't, but what more motivation do we need than the chance to end the hated Condors' season in their own back yard on April 14.

However, to get through a tough first round draw and past the Sweet Sixteen, it will take more hard work and dedication than ever before. It starts now. If you're not already well into your off season training, you're too late. I know from talking to players that more guys are in the gym than in the past, and this is what we need. We also need to train harder once training starts. With our new coach, Bob Chester, we will be making some changes and building on the strong base we already have. Everyone needs to be ready to work hard, be flexible and train hard at training and on off days.

We have a demanding preseason schedule for one reason: to get ready for the playoffs. We need to use these games to mentally and physically prepare for the playoffs. You never know when we'll have this chance again. We are close, but it will take everyone's hard work to reach our goal of winning the 2002 Division II National Championship. Let's get it done!

## **Spring Training Schedule:**

Thurs. January 17 - Basketball at Mosey's Gym 7:00

Thurs. January 24 - Basketball at Mosey's Gym 7:00

Thurs. January 31 - Basketball at Mosey's Gym 7:00

Tues. February 5 - Regular Training Begins (Tues. and Thur.)  
at either the horse barn or Mosey's  
-- details will follow by E-Mail

### **Spring Schedule:**

March 23 Scioto Valley Away  
March 30 Albany Home  
April 6 Rochester Aardvarks Home  
April 13, 14 Midwest First Round Chicago  
vs. Lexington (Sat.)  
vs. Chicago Condors ? (Sun.)  
April 20 Pittsburgh Harlequins & Pittsburgh  
Grand Rapids Gazelles  
April 27, 28 Midwest Final Four Chicago  
May 2 (Thurs.) Possible Canadian Team  
May 4 College Alumni- no games  
May 11 National Sweet 16  
May 18 Detroit (tentative) Away  
May 23 (Thurs.) Possible Canadian Team  
May 25 Memorial Day -no games  
June 1, 2 Div. II. Finals Pittsburgh

### **Banquet:**

The Banquet will be held at the Pearl Street on February 9, 2002. There will be an open bar from 6:00 pm to 9:00pm, with dinner served at 7:00. This year, the club will be installing **Tom Surwill** and **Tom Finn** on the **Wall of Fame**. Once again, the honorees will be hosted (roasted) by Gerry Wojcik. So far, we have the

following items available for auction:

1. 4 club level tickets w/ parking to a Sabres game- courtesy of Ciminelli Development
2. A 6 bedrooms A-frame in Ellicottville for a ski weekend-courtesy of Zaepfel Development
3. A BMW M3 convertible (or similar) for a week - courtesy of Dan Downing @ Towne/Autochoice
4. Golf and lunch at EACC.
5. Executive Suite at Dunn Tire Park for a Bisons game.
6. Golf and lunch for four at Park Country Club.

These are good anchor items, but we would like many more. With new uniforms, more foreign players and all of the travel coming up this spring, we need to raise as much money at the banquet as possible. Please contact John Baldwin at 855-3700 with any donations.

### **Winterfest 7's:**

The club will be hosting the Winterfest 7's tournament on February 16, 2002. We need volunteers to work and play at the event, which is a major part of the entire Buffalo Winterfest Carnival weekend. Details are as follows:

**DATE:** February 16, 2002

**TIME:** 9:00am Captains Meeting

9:30am Matches

**LOCATION:** Delaware Park, Buffalo NY

(Same fields near Buffalo Zoo)

**ENTRANCE FEE:** \$125 (\$75 for a second side)

\$100 if paid before Feb 9, 2002

Make checks payable to the Buffalo Rugby Club

Send checks to:

Alex Nadiak

