



2020-2021 Year In Review

Given that COVID-19 spelled an early end for everyone's season in spring of 2020, we knew that the Fall would be tough given the stringent requirements imposed on having youth sports



during a pandemic. Thankfully, due to the hard work of administrators and coaches, the HS Boys and Middle School teams were able to successfully complete a fall 7's season while also hosting their annual Halloween 7's and the Tennessee Rugby Association 7's State Championship at the Tennessee Rugby Park. These tournaments saw 12+ High School and Middle School rugby teams from Georgia and TN come to the rugby park during a time when few rugby teams were even having practices across the country. The spring season was just as successful, with the Middle School and High School Boys team participating in their 15's season with games in Georgia, Middle TN, and Knoxville. The SMAC Rookie Rugby Program (nicknamed the Cubs) hosted their first 8 week program since Spring of 2019 and saw 50+ participants in the K-6th grade age bracket. All of the teams (High

School, Middle School, Rookie Rugby) capped off their spring seasons with a celebration at the Tennessee Rugby park where the High School team had a friendly with a team right after the Rookie Rugby and Middle School teams wrapped up their final spring events. Some major highlights of the year include:



- Academy Middle School (Barbarians)

seeing participation double from 19/20 to 20/21

- Rookie Rugby (Cubs) having their first season since 2020 cancellation and having 50+ participants
- Marquette Hayes of the HS Boys team (Vikings) signing with Belmont Abbey College Rugby
- 2 Middle School Girls (Shamyjae Moore and Sarah Jones) being selected to participate in the U14 National Championship with the Panther Rugby Academy
- Effectively surviving the pandemic and providing for 20+ players financially for their participation

As a new season is upon us, we are asking again for you to consider donating to the team. The COVID Pandemic has shown how important a proper community is to foster a youth's growth and character development. Without generous donations like the ones you provide, the rugby academy would not be able to provide for all the players throughout the season.

Thank you all for giving back to the sport!

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