Queen’s to host Canadian University Men’s Rugby 15s Championship

KINGSTON, Ont. (November 5, 2019) - Queen's University, Rugby Canada and the Canadian Rugby Foundation are pleased to announce that the 2020 Canadian University Men’s Rugby Championship (CUMRC) will be held November 25-29 at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario.

The championship will come weeks after Queen’s wraps up hosting the 2020 USPORTS women’s rugby championship bringing Queen’s and Kingston into the spotlight for Rugby in the nation next November.

“We are excited to be hosting the Canadian University Men’s Rugby Championship on the heels of our women’s USPORTS national championship next November,” said Leslie Dal Cin, Executive Director, Queen’s University Athletics & Recreation. “Kingston and Queen’s will be the home of rugby in Canada next November and they will be tremendous events supported by our Queen’s and Kingston communities. We look forward to working with Rugby Canada and the Canadian Rugby Foundation as the championship will enter its fourth year and first at Queen’s.”

“It’s always fantastic when you host a national competition and I was very pleased when it was confirmed that we would be hosting next year, I know there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes to make this happen,” commented Queen’s head coach Dave Butcher. “The fact that Queen’s will host the women’s rugby U SPORTS championship in 2020 as well means that the Queen’s rugby profile will be massive and all eyes will be on our university over those two competitions. Personally, I know that our team is really looking forward to playing the best teams in Canada on home turf. It’s a big job hosting these types of events but I know that Queen’s does an excellent job hosting and will make this a real event to remember.”

The championship will feature teams from Western Canada, Quebec, the Maritimes and Ontario and use the standard eight-team format with each team playing on Day 1. Winners advance to the championship side of the draw, while the losing teams are relegated to a consolation round.

“Rugby Canada is delighted the Canadian university men’s championship will be heading to Queen’s in 2020,” said Gareth Rees, Director, Commercial and Program Relations, Rugby Canada. “This proud rugby university will be a great host for the nation’s top student-athletes. University rugby is a crucial and growing component for national team development and recognition across the country.”

This will mark the second time the prestigious event takes place in Ontario. The inaugural championship was hosted by the University of Guelph in 2017. In 2018 the event was staged by the University of Victoria and this year’s event takes place at Concordia November 20-24.

“As a Queen’s alumnus myself, I am extremely pleased, and proud that my alma mater will host our 4th Championship,” commented Jeff Chan, Chairman and Co-founder, Canadian University
Men’s Rugby Championship. “I could hardly have imagined how well the CUMRC has progressed since its inception, and I look forward to working with the Queen’s Organizing Committee, and building on the foundation begun at the University of Guelph, followed by the University of Victoria, and on November 20-24, 2019, Concordia University.”

Quarter-final games will take place on Nov. 25, followed by consolation semis on the 26th and championship semis on the 27th. Nov. 28 will feature the consolation finals while the medal matches will conclude the championship on Nov. 29.

"The Canadian Rugby Foundation is extremely pleased to see the 4th annual Championship being awarded to Queen's University," said Mike Holmes, Chairman, Canadian Rugby Foundation. “Queen’s have been well deserved contenders for the Championship in the last two years and are a bastion of University Rugby in the East in addition of course to being a globally acclaimed leader in education."

In 2018 the championship in Victoria featured the Queen’s Gaels themselves challenging the UBC Thunderbirds in a thrilling match for the championship title. 2020 ticket information, volunteer opportunities and more event details will be shared when they become available.

“Kingston is thrilled to be the host city for the 2020 Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship in partnership with Queen’s University,” commented Megan Knott, Executive Director, Tourism Kingston. “That Kingston will also host the U SPORTS Women’s Rugby Championship just weeks earlier is a testament to the city’s strength as a top sport host city.”

The Queen’s Gaels men’s rugby team will once again be hosting the OUA championship this Sunday as they welcome the Guelph Gryphons to Nixon Field for a 1 pm kick-off. The Gaels will then be off to the National Championship at Concordia looking for their first Canadian title.

“The Toronto Arrows RFC (of Major League Rugby) is pleased to see that the 4th annual Canadian University Men’s Rugby Championship has been awarded to Queen’s University for 2020,” said Bill Webb, Co-Founder, President & General Partner, Toronto Arrows RFC. “The Queen’s rugby program has distinguished itself over the years with a number of its players going on to play for both the Canadian National Senior Men’s Team and the Toronto Arrows professional team within MLR. University rugby continues to be a growing and integral part of the Canadian rugby pathway and the Arrows are proud to have so many Canadian university rugby alumni on their roster.”