



FANTASTIC WEEKEND FOR DURHAM

BUCS FIXTURES

INTER-COLLEGE SPORT

SPORT IN ACTION ZAMBIA

WEDNESDAY DRAMA

PLAQUE WALL MEMORIES

READER FEEDBACK

Durham Continues to Shine at Weekends

On Saturday women's volleyball took on the game's super-power in England: Polonia, and a 15-11 score in favour of Durham, in the deciding set, resulted in massive celebrations at Maiden Castle. The team were back on Sunday when I watched them completely outplay Wessex in a 3-0 win. Both of these excellent results were achieved without two injured key players. However, as our coaching team reminded me: "actually Peter, it is not about what we do now; it's what we do in March that will define our season."

Durham women's **hockey** continued their excellent run with a huge 6-0 win but the seconds lost a very close encounter 4-3. Our men secured a hard earned 3-3 draw but, as with our women, the men's seconds lost out 3-1.

Men's **football** did enough with another 1-0 win whilst our **rugby** Palatinate side won a crucial encounter against second in the table Gateshead, 34-33.

Durham women's **football** had a fantastic result against London Lions in the Championship, winning 3-2 to go joint top of the league, level on points with Birmingham and in front of Sunderland and Newcastle United. It was an end-to-end game with our goalkeeper, former student Tatiana Saunders, pulling off a penalty save five minutes from the end of normal time.

Women's **basketball** had another excellent win, beating Essex



83-73 in the women's British Super League.

BUCS Fixtures Yield Good Results

Huge congratulations to **Talia Staines**, who finished fifth in the 1500m freestyle at the BUCS Short Course Swimming Championships, in a field packed with Olympians!

Baseball made its return, and a very strong Palatinate team beat Sheffield 36-1 in BUCS!

Women's **futsal** saw Durham beating Derby 15-4, Northumbria 5-4 before drawing 1-1 against Edinburgh.

Our women's **cricketers** won two games this weekend but surprisingly lost to Leeds University. Thankfully, the latter result did not stop them topping the league and qualifying for the next stage. Our women's II won two and lost two, ensuring that they finished third behind Durham I and Edinburgh I - great depth from the Palatinates.

Our **American Football** team lost out 54-14 in a repeat of last year's BUCS final, to a yet again very strong UWE. In the final last year we conceded a similar number of points but failed to score ourselves.

Focus on College Sport

If **football** is our largest college sport, we also have a huge number of teams taking part in college **netball**. Five leagues comprising of 63 teams make up the playing base and, at the time of writing, Hatfield A top the Premier League. Added to this we also have 15 mixed netball teams, making a total 78 college teams across the university.

A sport you are less likely to be familiar with is our highly active **cheerleading** programme. Large numbers can make up individual teams and we have twenty in total, covering girls and co-ed level two full squads, girls and co-ed stunt squads and poms.

Wednesday Round-Up

Every Important for First Teams

As Christmas approaches all our first team games appear to carry real importance. Thankfully the majority centre on whether we will win leagues or finish high enough to secure favourable draws in the knock-out rounds, with only the occasional battle at the wrong end of the table. In the main this was another Wednesday in which the Palatinates pulled off some great results at this level.

Pride of place must go to men's **rugby**. After a difficult start to the year, Durham has moved into the top four in the national league for the first time. Trailing early on once again, this was a battle from start to finish in freezing cold conditions. Played on the all-weather pitch at Maiden Castle, it was a brutal, fast flowing encounter; particularly in the last twenty minutes of the first half, Durham looked irresistible, ensuring a lead at the interval. The points were shared in the second half with Durham running out 31-22 winners against Cardiff Met.

There were huge games for our **basketball** first teams. The men played second in the table Nottingham Trent and, whilst the scores were close throughout, Durham secured an excellent 72-67 victory, moving them up to third in the table. Our women commented before their match:

"We have a small team ... a team where everyone contributes, and a win today will be massive in helping us consolidate our position in the table."

They were slightly more convincing than our men as they overcame a stubborn Newcastle 90-74 to stay second. This league title looks to be resting on our home game against Loughborough - we lost by a single point in the away fixture.



Men's **water polo** sit at the top of their league and did their position no harm in beating Birmingham 26-3.

I went to watch the men's **tennis** as we took on second in the table Nottingham, having lost 6-0 in the away fixture. It is difficult to put the standard of tennis into any meaningful context. The fact that our number one took the first set off their number one, ranked in the top three hundred in the world, perhaps best explains it. One all after the doubles, Durham won at three and four in the singles to secure a 3-3 draw - perhaps evidencing that on their day they are a match for anyone.

Women's tennis firsts stated that they were:

"excited to travel up to St. Andrews, and to continue to work towards our season's goals of getting promoted back to the national league."

They certainly took another step in the right direction as they came away with a 6-0 win.

Men's **volleyball** took on Newcastle. Having lost 3-0 away they turned this into a hugely memorable night in front of a full house. Two sets to one down, the Palatinates fought back to secure both the fourth and fifth deciding set, securing a 3-2 victory and moving them into third equal position along with Newcastle, with a game in hand. Having won 3-0 away at Newcastle, our women sorely missed two key players in this one as they lost the closest of games 25-23, 25-23, 25-22. They now trail Newcastle by three but have a game in hand.

Women's **football** are in a relegation battle with games running out. They will feel bitterly disappointed with this latest result as they trailed 1-0 for much of the game to St Andrews despite having by far the better chances. An attempt to turn the game round in the final fifteen saw us exposed at the back, conceding two late goals. Our men also lost for a second time to Northumbria, this time in the BUCS trophy, going down 3-2, having led at half time 2-1.

Outside the top leagues men's and women's **squash** have every chance of getting back to the top level with the men beating Leeds Beckett 4-1 and the women overcoming Sheffield 4-0.

Women's **badminton** secured another 8-0 win and our men's

rugby league had an excellent 33-22 victory.

More of a Mixed Day For Our Seconds

Trophy Games: **Tennis** women's II beat Glasgow I 4-2 but our men's seconds tennis went out 4-2 away against Leeds Beckett II. Women's **lacrosse** II was far too powerful for Leeds Beckett I, winning 20-2.

Netball I and II both lost out to Newcastle I and Northumbria I respectively whilst our men's **water polo** II lost out 18-5 to Newcastle I. Finally, in the trophy, Leeds men's I beat our men's **volleyball** II 3-1.

Conference Cup

Women's **basketball** II beat Northumbria II 43-32 whilst men's **basketball** II secured their victory with the last play of the game, beating Manchester Met 1 66-63. Women's **football** II also beat Manchester Met firsts 4-1 whilst our women's **badminton** II made it three out of three against the same university, winning 8-0 again against their firsts. Durham men's **badminton** was not as fortunate, losing 6-2 to Leeds I and men's **football** II lost 4-1 Northumbria IV.

Finally, for this week, our mixed **show jumping** team beat Bishop Burton and Bradford in the championship. Durham mixed II beat Lancaster II and lost to Northumbria II in the trophy.



Memories From Our Plaque Wall



Laszlo Jakab came to Durham in 1995 and has coached both fencers from the community and our students ever since. He is still coaching many years past his retirement date. If you ever get the opportunity to step into our fencing facility, his success as a coach screams out to you from every wall. Framed on the walls are details of BUCS individual medals, BUCS semi-finals, BUCS championship finals and BUCS championship winners. Alongside these are details of all the fencers who have been to the Commonwealths, the Europeans, the Worlds, the Olympics, the Paralympics and the veterans' world championships. Simply amazing!

The plaque to Laszlo reads:

"Laszlo made us, trained us, moulded us, into fencers and winners."

Everyone is replaceable - but there is one thing for absolute certain - there will never be another Laszlo Jakab. One of life's absolute gentlemen, who has my greatest respect.

Thank you for your observations on our last report which included:

"Your women's hockey have opened up an impressive lead at the top of Div 1 North!! See they just scraped past Wakefield 6-0."

"This is a brilliant, comprehensive update. Thanks!"

If you have any feedback, positive or otherwise, alumni news or suggestions for future additions to our plaque wall, please **get in touch**.

"Across the whole programme we won 12 conference cup games and lost 15 and won 3 trophy games and lost 5. We were not helped by the number of away draws in both cups."

SPORT IN ACTION, ZAMBIA



A quote from one of our returning students from Zambia last year:

"I am grateful for the hospitality of the Zambian people in welcoming me into their community. Witnessing the transformative power of sport first-hand was immensely rewarding and I will always cherish the friendships made."

Fountain of Hope (Part 1)

The Fountain of Hope is the largest orphanage in the capital city of Lusaka and, from my first ever visit in 2004, Durham has been involved in helping these young people, as has the Wallace Group of Universities since 2006.

The Zambian team at Fountain would tell you that these are street children. The team at Fountain visit compounds across Lusaka at night and try to persuade children living rough on the streets to come back to the safety of Fountain. In reality many, but by no means all, who arrive at Fountain are orphans. A considerable number go on to live at the orphanage for many years.

In the early years, Fountain had a wonderful headmaster but very sadly he was killed in a tragic road accident. On his death lots of the donations stopped coming into the Centre. As a result they were unable to feed the children and so many left. One of the saddest sights ever for our team was of a young girl walking slowly across the compound to the health clinic, only to find it closed. It had clearly taken all her strength to get there and, on reading the notice, she collapsed.

Out of that experience the seven universities - the Perfect Day Charity and two individuals - agreed to pay for the food programme in full. We cover the costs, every day of the year, for 275 breakfasts, 275 lunches and a mere 175 teas for the residents! One hundred students each day come in off the streets for breakfast and lunch.

Separately, Durham ensured that the clinic was re-opened and to this day, donations from Durham students keep the clinic supplied with medicines. Team Durham students have also raised the money to cover two months of food every year since 2010. A huge thank you to all of them!

You will gather from the resident number quoted above that the orphanage is once again full!

Next week: Fountain of Hope (Part 2) - Our wider support.

