

# SH COMPETITIVE SPORTS NEWSLETTER

By: Emma Herbrandson



Photos courtesy of SHSU Campus Recreation

In this month's issue... we reflect on the highlights of Fall 2024 and gear up for an exciting start to 2025, we want to celebrate the incredible energy and participation we saw at Campus Recreation. Last semester was packed with action, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments.

Intramurals crowned champions in Volleyball, Football, and Soccer. Beyond these traditional sports, students turned up in full force for cornhole, pickleball, dodgeball, and many other crowd favorite single day events. Whether on the court or field, the Bearkats brought their A-game to every match. Our E-Sports community also had a busy semester. From the high-speed chaos of Mario Kart to the strategic battles of College Football 25, Black Ops 6, and Mortal Kombat. Meanwhile, club sports were in full swing. Rugby, Soccer, Quadball, and Tennis were just a few of the campus club sports showcasing their skills and dedication. We saw some incredible performances, including standout victories from Quadball and Men's Rugby. Stay tuned as we continue to highlight the achievements of our student-athletes and share upcoming opportunities to get involved. Here's to another semester of fun, fitness, and friendly competition—let's make 2025 a year to remember!

## IN THIS ISSUE...



Intramural basketball is in full swing, bringing energy and excitement to campus! Bearkats are battling it out on the court to see who will claim the coveted title of IM Basketball Champion. Think you've got what it takes to compete? More leagues are available this year—sign up now on Fusion Play and join the action!

[READ MORE PAGE 1](#)



Looking to get more involved on campus and make your time in school even more meaningful? Channel your competitive drive and join a club sports team! Build camaraderie, challenge yourself, and create unforgettable memories while becoming part of an incredible community.

[READ MORE PAGE 2](#)



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# INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS



Photos courtesy of SHSU Campus Recreation

## Officially The Best: Intramural Standout Referees

Last fall, the officials of Intramural Sports went above and beyond, dedicating their time and effort to ensure that the 2024 season was a success for all involved. These dedicated officials played a crucial role in providing a high-quality experience for the students.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the officials who consistently showed up throughout the semester. Special recognition is due to those officials who went above and beyond by officiating three or more championship games during the semester. Congratulations to Kaleb Donahoe, Muna Mogeoku, Mahaley Smith, Tavian White, Okwukwechi Bekee, and Dylan Hernandez for their dedication and tireless efforts. Your consistent presence and hard work allowed for a seamless experience, and your contributions truly did not go unnoticed. Thank you to all the officials for making the Intramural Sports season a success. Your time, energy, and passion for the games are deeply valued, and we look forward to another season with your continued support!



## Want Join in on the Action? Download Fusion Play Today!

Intramurals offers exciting and competitive sports for the entire student body. Whether you want to join a basketball team, showcase your volleyball skills, or jump into an action-packed game of softball, Intramurals has something for you. Sign up and explore even more sports on Fusion Play —available now on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store!



## UPCOMING INTRAMURAL AND ESPORTS EVENTS:

### Intramural Sports:

- 2/6: Wiffleball
- 2/10: Kickball
- 2/20: Pickleball
- 2/24: IM Knowckout

### E-Sports:

- 2/5: Madden 25
- 2/7: Dead by Daylight
- 2/12: 2k25
- 2/14: Rocket League
- 2/15: LAN
- 2/19: Mario Kart
- 2 /21: Overwatch 2
- 2/26: Sparking Zero
- 2/28: Rainbow 6





Photo Credits Valentina Vazquez | @valvazquez.photography

## Men's Rugby Celebrates Being Back-To-Back-To-Back Lone Star Bowl Champions

This December, in a dominant blowout victory against the Kansas Jayhawks, Kats Rugby earned, for the third consecutive year, the title of Lone Star Bowl Champions. The Bearkats wasted no time establishing their dominance, putting points on the board before the clock had even reached a minute, thanks to a try by Drake Torno.



The second half mirrored the first in intensity and determination, as the Bearkats refused to let Kansas gain any momentum. Their defensive line held strong, denying the Jayhawks even a single point. By the final whistle, the Bearkats had racked up a staggering total of ten tries, sealing a 64-0 victory.

The Bearkats' scoring efforts were led by Larry Vojacek, who contributed three tries. Drake Torno, Lucas Stagg, and Tremel Christian each added two tries, and a try by Lane O'Brien. Devon Smith showcased his consistency with six successful conversions, and another conversion added by Ignacio Zumelzu.

Larry Vojacek, game captain, reflected on the game and shared his aspirations for the future...

"Having the opportunity to be back for the third time and to bring our seniors 3-0 in career bowl wins was super special to me, I'm hungry for more," he said. Vojacek also emphasized the team's collective drive for continued success, adding, "I think I speak for the team when I say we aren't satisfied with bowl wins, we want a national championship. I think this could be the year, if we keep playing for the man to the left and right of us."

The Bearkats' season isn't over yet. This February, the team will compete in three additional matches as they prepare for the conference championship. The championship will pit them against top teams from across the state in their quest for the title of Lone Star Champions. The Bearkats will host the state championship on February 22nd and 23rd, offering fans an opportunity to support them on their journey toward the national championship semi-finals.



With their eyes set on a national title, the Bearkats have proven they aren't satisfied yet. Their performance in the Lone Star Bowl showcased their strong capabilities on the field and affirmed their position as a competitive rugby team in the region.

## THIS MONTH'S CLUB SPORTS EVENTS AT HOME

### February 1st

Men's Rugby VS BYU  
Rec Field 3 1:00pm

### February 8th

Women's Soccer Vs Rice  
Pritchett 1:00pm

### February 9th

Men's Lacrosse Vs Stone Hill College  
Pritchett 11:00am

### February 16th

Men's Soccer Vs LA Tech  
Pritchett 11:00am

### February 22nd

Men's Rugby Conference Championship  
Rec Field 1 9:00am  
Men's Lacrosse Vs Tulane  
Pritchett 1:00pm

### February 23rd

Men's Soccer vs Louisiana Lafayette  
Pritchett 11:00am



Image courtesy of SHSU Campus Recreation





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# Words of Wisdom from Campus Recreation Staff

**John Merryman**  
*Associate Director-Programs:*

"Always remember John's keys to success: communicate, communicate, communicate—and most importantly, communicate."

**Chris Mahlen**  
*Director of Campus Recreation:*

"What really matters for me and this department is how we treat people. Not necessarily the skill that everybody has that's important but how we treat each and every person."

**Johnny Keefer**  
*Senior Assistant Director-Operations:*

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make the water fish."

**Connor Rice**  
*Assistant Director- Intramural and E-Sports:*

"Every opportunity is a door in front of you- know when to open it and when to close it."

**Emma Herbrandson**  
*Intramural Program Assistant:*

"The devil doesn't always need an advocate. He is *-the devil.*"



Photo Credit Valentina Vazquez | @valvazquez.photography

## Why Club Sports?

Sam Houston Campus Recreation offers students an opportunity to stay active, build community, and form lifelong friendships through the club sports program. Whether you're looking to develop your athletic skills, try something new, or engage in a competitive atmosphere, club sports has a place for you. With a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere on campus and over 20 club sports to choose from, there's something for everyone. Don't see a sport you're passionate about? You can always start a new one! Visit the Campus Recreation website for more information about current club sports and how to start your own.