

Sixty Two Percent Win Ratio for Team Durham

Week five of our BUCS campaign gave us a chance to review where we sit for the forthcoming year. Our successes of the last two weeks suggest all is well, as the last BUCS table available places us third, behind Loughborough and Nottingham and just in front of Exeter. Our success over the last fifteen plus years has been based on holding as many first teams as possible in the top league for their sport whilst maintaining depth across the programmes. These early results suggest we are doing the latter very well.

Nottingham now appear to have the most teams in the top leagues for each sport and, whilst Loughborough do not have quite the same approach, they are extremely strong in about 75% of the top leagues.

Going forward, Durham's challenge will be to hang on to the teams that play at the top level. Women's tennis and men's football were relegated last year but excellent starts to the season suggest they might bounce straight back.

Overall, results so far suggest that we could well go into 2025/26 with the same number of teams in top divisions as we started with this year. We will see!

Men & Women Double Up On Results in Top Sports

We don't play Oxford and Cambridge very often these days as they rarely appear in the top leagues nationally, but our **hockey** teams will have been delighted to encounter them on Wednesday. Two much needed victories came our way as the men had a fantastic 6-1 away win at Oxford whilst the women secured a hard earned 2-0 win in Cambridge.

Men's and women's **lacrosse** will have been delighted with their results against Loughborough. Both totally dominating their games, our women won 12-2 and our men 14-1.

Following their one point loss to Loughborough last week, our **basketball** women took on Nottingham. Having squandered a substantial early lead, they dominated the final minutes to end with a 68-62 win. Our men, also having lost a close encounter with the old enemy last week in an excellent away performance, came up against easier opposition this week,

in the shape of Manchester Met. In reality they struggled to rise to last week's standard but did manage to hold on at the death, winning 64-62.

Water polo faced two huge games but again came away with a couple of excellent results. The women, slightly understrength due to illness, won 17-10 away at Edinburgh whilst our men stormed to a 17-9 victory over Nottingham.

Badminton men won 5-3 against Liverpool in a close encounter and the women recorded another 8-0 win. Durham women's **squash** won 3-1 at Liverpool and the men won 5-0 away against Manchester seconds.

Exciting Wins Elsewhere

Women's **tennis** continued to dominate their league, with a 6-0 win over Manchester, whilst an under-strength men's first team will have been happy to come away from Leeds Beckett with 4-4 draw.

Volleyball, at home to Nottingham, finished with very different outcomes. Our women, with mixed results in the national league, lost the first set before bouncing back to win brilliantly, 3-1. In contrast, our men lost the first two sets before hitting back by winning the third, eventually losing 3-1.

Women's **fencing** secured a crushing 135-82 win over Newcastle but our men found the going much tougher. Having lost the national final to Nottingham by one hit last year, they had no answer to them at home this week, losing heavily 134-82.

Men's **golf**, back in the top league of university golf, will have been pleased with their 4-4 draw with Liverpool.

A very disappointing day for **soccer**, our men surprisingly going down 2-0 away at Northumbria whilst our women, in a much-improved performance, lost at home to Nottingham by a single goal, conceding a penalty late in the first half.

Women's **rugby**, also in a much-improved performance, lost 39-5 in Cardiff, the score far from reflecting the game. Men's rugby II lost out to Loughborough II 38-28, again not really a true reflection of the game.

Finally, our men's **table tennis** lost heavily, 15-2 to Sheffield Hallam.

Excellent Results Down the Programme

Women's **lacrosse** seconds can always be relied on to shake up opposition first teams and this week was no exception as they ran out 12-6 winners over Manchester. **Volleyball** women's two's beat York firsts 3-0 and men's volleyball seconds won against Manchester firsts 3-1. **Hockey**, having a very good day at the top of the programme, saw their women's seconds win 2-1 against Glasgow firsts. They were inevitably joined by our very strong women's **water polo** seconds, who also won easily, 18-7 against Liverpool firsts. Finally, women's seconds **tennis** beat Liverpool first team 6-0. Men's **basketball** III beat Bradford firsts 60-57

Netball

Durham III 48 Manchester Met I 33
Durham VI 49 Sheffield III 32

Men's **tennis** V dispatched Keels firsts 6-0.
Men's **squash** IV beat Manchester Met firsts 2-1

Wins Elsewhere

Women

Badminton II and III, tennis III, IV and V, hockey III, V and VI, football II, netball III and VI. fencing III, table tennis III

Men

Badminton II, basketball II, football II, hockey V, rugby III, squash II, squash V, volleyball II and III.

Losses

Women

Netball II and V, fencing II, football III, lacrosse III, tennis V

Men

Ultimate II, golf II, golf III and golf IV, fencing II, football III, badminton III, squash III, Table tennis II, hockey II, III, and IV.

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