

SPX RUGBY 2021

DIGITAL PROGRAM



GAME 1 VS. LAMAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021 | AWEVA STADIUM

MATTOH DAY



ST. PIUS X
PANTHERS



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LAMAR OVERALL RECORD: 0-0-0

2/6	ST. PIUS X	2PM	3/11	AT ST. PIUS X	7PM
2/19	AT ST. THOMAS	7PM	3/29	ST. THOMAS	2PM
2/27	STRAKE	2PM	4/9	AT STRAKE	7PM
3/6	AT WEST HOUSTON	1PM	4/17	WEST HOUSTON	2PM

HEAD COACH LARRY MONKS

SPX OVERALL RECORD: 0-0-0

2/6	AT LAMAR	2PM	3/13	AT NOLA JESUIT	1PM
2/12	ST. THOMAS	7PM	3/15	AT BROTHER MARTIN	4PM
2/20	AT WEST HOUSTON	1PM	3/26	WEST HOUSTON*	7PM
3/5	AT STRAKE	7PM	4/15	STRAKE**	7PM
3/11	LAMAR	7PM	4/23	AT ST. THOMAS	7PM

*ALUMNI NIGHT

**SENIOR NIGHT

PANTHER LINE-UP

NO.	NAME	YR
1	Alex Gutierrez	11
2	Juan Reyes	12
3	Seth Pena	11
4	Brodie Scott	11
5	Jack Birbeck	12
6	Tristan Acuna	10
7	Max Bright	11
8	Michael Fite	11
9	Logan Landry	10
10	Burke Battenfield	11
11	Andrew Lewis	9
12	Hayden Llorens	11
13	Nathan Gonzales	12
14	Travis Avant	10
15	Grant Stringfellow	11
16	Donovan Armstead	10
17	Mirko Dawson	11
18	Jackson Joiner	10
19	Zach Amelang	9

ST. PIUS X COACHES & STAFF

HEAD COACH: DAVID SELBY

ASSISTANT COACH: DAVID-JOHN SELBY

TEAM LOGISTICS: LOWELL LOCKE

HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER: JEREMY KALLUS

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: JEFF FELLER

SPORTS INFORMATION: KHADIJAH RAY

HEAD OF SCHOOL: CARMEN GARRETT ARMISTEAD

PRINCIPAL: RACHEL WARE



When the members of the SPX Rugby team take the field, they will be wearing numbers on their backs that denote their position on the field. Their opponents will do the same. Numbers 1-8 make up the forwards, 9-15 comprise the backs, and 16-23 designate the reserves.



1 & 3 PROPS

Along with the hooker, the loose-head and tight-head props make up what is known as the front row, which refers to their position in the scrum. To be successful, both props must be extremely strong in the neck, shoulders, upper body and legs, and they should relish head-to-head competition. While stopping their side of the scrum from moving backward, the props also support the hooker's body weight, allowing him to see and strike the ball when it is put into the scrum.

In the lineout, props should be able to support or lift the jumper to prevent the opposition from winning the ball. Away from set pieces, props help to secure the ball when a player has been tackled, so it helps if they can combine their power with a degree of mobility. You'll also often see them used as battering rams in attack, receiving short passes after a ruck or maul and hitting the opposition defense at pace in an attempt to occupy the defenders and make space for their own backs.

2 HOOKER

Lining up in the scrum between the two props, the hooker is one of the forwards' key decision-makers. He will coordinate the timing at the scrum and is also responsible for winning possession in the scrummage by hooking the ball back through the props' legs. To allow the hooker to do this effectively, the props support much of the hooker's weight, leaving him free to concentrate on hooking the ball back, rather than pushing against the opposition forwards. For this reason, the hooker is often the smallest member of a front-row trio. At the lineout, he is responsible for throwing the ball in and must be able to accurately hit the lineout jumper who is expecting the ball. In open play, the hooker plays a similar role to the props, securing possession at rucks and mauls, or taking short 'crash' passes.

TOOT RUGBY



4 & 5 LOCK/SECOND ROW

The second row forwards (also known as locks) are the engine room of the scrum and the target men in the lineout, meaning that they need to be tall, powerful players with excellent scrummaging technique and pinpoint timing. If they bind to each other and the props too loosely in the scrum, their pack will lose power, and if they are not accurate and dynamic with their lineout jumping, it offers the opposition forwards a chance to steal possession. In open play the second row's duties have evolved from being support players at rucks and mauls to ball carriers. If a marauding second row is comfortable with the ball in hand, their bulk and power make them very difficult to stop.

6 & 7 FLANKER/WING FORWARD

Openside and blindside flankers are often considered to be the players with the fewest set responsibilities, but as such, must be excellent all-rounders with inexhaustible energy. Speed, strength, fitness, tackling and handling skills are all vital.

Flankers are more often than not at the center of the action – winning balls at the ruck and maul, collecting short passes from tackled players and making their own big tackles in open play. While they can rarely be blamed for a loss, they can certainly be the key to victory. The openside flanker plays on the far side of the scrum from the touchline and is often smaller in size than their blindside partner, making them more mobile around the pitch. The blindside flanker tends to have a bigger, more physical role around the pitch, and also acts as a target jumper in the lineout.

8 NUMBER EIGHT

Support play, tackling and ball-carrying are the number 8's areas of expertise, making his duties similar to the two flankers. Together, the trio forms a unit called the back row. Binding on right at the back of the scrum, the number 8 is also the only player from the forwards who is allowed to pick the ball up from the base of the scrum. It is a move that is often used to gain vital yards when a team is scrummaging close to the opposition try line. For it to be truly effective, the number 8 must be an explosive, dynamic runner.

9 SCRUM-HALF

Acting as the link between the forwards and the backs, the scrum-half is a key player when it comes to building attacks. Playing just behind the forwards, a good scrum-half will control exactly when the ball is fed out to the backs from the rear of a scrum, ruck or maul. A scrum-half needs good vision, speed and awareness, quick hands and lightning reactions. They tend to be one of the smaller players on the pitch and so rely on protection from their own forwards. An indecisive or poorly protected scrum-half makes easy meat for a rampaging opposition flanker.

10 FLY-HALF

Fly-half: the heartbeat of the side and arguably the most influential player on the pitch. Almost every attack will go through the fly-half, who also has the responsibility of deciding when to pass the ball out to the centres and when to kick for position.

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The fly-half must orchestrate the team's back line, deciding what rehearsed moves to put into action and reacting to gaps in defense. He is also the main target for the defending team's open-side flanker and so must be strong in the tackle.

The fly-half has to be able to relieve territorial pressure by kicking down the field into touch, and is often the team's designated place kicker for conversions, penalties and drop goal attempts. In defense, he will marshal the backs to ensure each opposition player is covered, and a strong, tackling fly-half can snuff out opposition attacks before they start.

11 & 14 WINGS

Playing out wide on the side of the pitch, the winger is a team's finisher in attack. A winger is also often the last line of defense when they do not have the ball and as such, pace is their major resource.

12 & 13 CENTRES

The inside centre- who stands closest to the fly-half when the backs line up - and the outside centre tend to be strong, dynamic runners with a good eye for exposing gaps in the opposition defense. In attack, they tend to run very direct lines.

The centres take on their opposite number in an attempt to either break the defensive line or draw in enough opposition defenders to create space and try-scoring opportunities for their teammates. As such, they need to be strong and powerful, and when attack turns into defense, they must also be accomplished at tackling. The inside centre is often the more creative in a centre pairing and should be able to pass and kick nearly as well as the fly half. In either defense or attack, the inside centre tends to be all action-dishing out the tackles and then drawing the opposition defense. Meanwhile, the outside centre tends to be the faster of the two and the ability to offload the ball quickly to the wingers is also vital.

15 FULLBACK

Lining up behind the entire back line, the full back is the closest thing that rugby has to a sweeper in defense. But they also receive deep kicks from the opposition, so they must be comfortable catching high balls and launching attacks from the resulting possession. As such, the full back must have enough tactical awareness to recognize when to counter-kick, and when to run with the ball, often from deep within his half.

16-23 RESERVES

These players comprise the reserve bench for the team. They are a mix of forwards and backs as determined by the coach should injury or fatigue come into play.

One final note: Once the whistle blows to start and end a match, the players on the field must organize the offense and defense on their own as the game plays out until halftime. Only then may their coach step onto the field to give his input and then return to the sideline.

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SPX Rugby is grateful for its sports medicine student assistants, on-campus trainer, and doctor.

Thank you to all who support the program!



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