

CRC Qualifier Starts

Written by Alex Goff
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Thirty-two teams are in Las Vegas for the Las Vegas Invitational CRC Qualifier.



The college 7s teams are bidding for the final spot in the USA 7s LLC Collegiate Rugby Championship tournament which will be held June 2-3 in Chester, Pa. and broadcast on NBC.

Several of the games have been very competitive. Utah, which won the CRC proper in 2010, had trouble coming out of the gate at 8am, beating Southern Illinois 28-12.

"We did not play well, and if we play at that level against Davenport we'll be in trouble," said Utah Coach Blake Burdette. "We've got an experienced team, but we need to play together more."

Davenport defeated Regis in their opening match.

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The big upset might have been Stanford coming back from a 7-0 deficit to beat a physical Cal Poly squad.

The key, said Marcus Henderson, was speed and teamwork, and they worked the ball well to win 19-14.

Kutztown, Missouri, Miami and Central Washington all won with big scores. San Diego State and UCLA also blew out their opponents.

"We're hear to win it," said UCLA's Sam Sirell.

"We've done a lot of work since we played in the fall. Our defense could use some work, but it was a good start."