Surprises and almost surprises characterized Pool B in the USA 7s Collegiate Rugby Championship.

Dartmouth overcame a deficit and plenty of fan doubt to shock defending champs Utah 17-12 in the first game, and that game seemed to inspire almost every match to be a tight one.

Notre Dame showed all kinds of fight in their games, combining skill and a desire to tough it out despite the odds. They shut out Boston College, then almost came back against Dartmouth (down 17-0 they led 19-17 before giving up the winning try), and then surged to mount a too-late comeback against Utah (down 21-0 they eventually fell 21-17).

Notre Dame and Dartmouth were very similar, in that they combined some careful skill and physicality, and the Irish produced against Utah perhaps the try of the tournament, involving a poach, a kick across field, and then three more passes for the try.

But no one wanted to forget Utah. They lost their opener, but didn't let it dampen their enthusiasm, and with Don Pati and Tonata Lauti providing the sizzle and Zach Taylor and Scott Metcalf providing the steak, they slammed BC and, as mentioned, held off Notre Dame.

It wasn't always pretty, but it was enough. And for Dartmouth, the good moments were supremely good. Head Coach Alex Magleby said he just wanted more.

"We felt we put in a better performance against BC," said Nick Downer. "BC is a good team and we started to play better, a more team game. "

Pool B

W

L

T

Pf

Pa

Pd

Pts

Dartmouth

3

0

0

77

31

46

9

Utah

2

1

0

50

39

11

7

Notre Dame

1

2

0

67

45

22

5

Boston College

0

3

0

5

84

-79

3