

PRESS RELEASE

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BASE do the double...

Borders College students kicked their university rivals into touch after winning both the men's and women's cups at the Scottish Universities and Colleges National tournament in Edinburgh this week.

The college took three teams from the BASE sports programme to the Scottish Rugby Unions, Universities and College cup finals in Broughton in Edinburgh, and won both the major competitions – the Premier Cup and the Women's Student Cup.

The men's team, ably captained by Lee Miller, sailed through the rounds to beat Edinburgh University, Edinburgh Accies and Telford College. Even meeting the Scottish National University side in the final couldn't put them off course, smashing their rivals and lifting the trophy for the second year in a row.

Richie Gray, the team's coach, said: "It was an outstanding effort by Borders College to beat the national university team in the final - the players put together some of the best seven a side rugby I have seen for a while not only in the way the team played but there was some outstanding individual performances as well"

The game is seen as a warm-up for the Scottish Universities' side ahead of the British Universities and Colleges Home Nations Tournament, also being held in Edinburgh, next month.

It was the BASE women's team debut at the tournament, but fresh from her Scotland performance, Nicola Halfpenny captained the ladies to a decisive win over rivals Stirling University who had two sides in the tournament and The Royal Dick Vet to take the trophy.

Lynsey Anderson, the women's coach, said: "We are delighted to win the national women's Student Cup on the first time of asking.

"It just shows you can never underestimate the sporting talent at Borders College. We have students from all over the region who have shown what they can achieve, given the right opportunity."

But perhaps the most exciting game of the day came when the BASE fresher's team decided to hedge their bets and enter the senior Scottish Student's Men Cup – and played their hearts out to make it all the way to the final.

Richie Gray said the result showed effective the BASE course is in inspiring young players.

“It was a great win for both teams. The BASE concept shows just what can be done when players train, study and work on their physical conditioning together all year. It was an outstanding result for these young players, some of whom are just 16 years old”

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