



OXFORD SAINTS SCHEDULE 2024



Portsmouth Dreadnoughts
@
Oxford Saints
28th April 2024 2.00 KO

Rushmoor Knights



@
Oxford Saints
12th May 2024 2.00 KO

Wembley Stallions



@
Oxford Saints
2nd June 2024 2.00 KO

Oxford Saints



@
Portsmouth Dreadnoughts
9th June 2024 2.00 KO

Oxford Saints



@
Rushmoor Knights
16th June 2024 2.00 KO

London Hornets



@
Oxford Saints
16th June 2024 2.00 KO

Oxford Saints



@
London Hornets
30th June 2024 200 KO

Oxford Saints



@
Wembley Stallions
21st July 2024 2.00 KO



OXFORD SAINTS

American Football Club



Vs



Portsmouth Dreadnoughts

28th April 2024 2.00pm KO



#SAINTSSTRONG

Welcome to Tilsley Park Home of the Oxford Saints

A Word from our Chairman Sam Stancombe

Welcome to the Saints' 2024 season opener against Portsmouth. We've had a great off season bringing in a good mixture of experienced players and newcomers to the sport.

We're now seeing players coming through from the youth setup which is fantastic for the future of the club.

I'd also like to welcome our game ball sponsor Burnout BBQ.

The guys went out to Summertown to give their food a try and let's just say we're very excited to be working with them going forward!

We're looking forward to starting the season with a win against the Dreadnoughts and I hope you'll be able to join us at Tilsley Park for it.



Checking you Helmet works Late 1800

A young man with dark curly hair is sitting on stone steps, wearing a dark blue Oxford Saints training kit. He is holding a brown football. The background shows a building with a decorative metal railing.


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TO SHOP**

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TRAINING AND
LIFESTYLE SAINTS
MERCH AVAILABLE**

WWW.INTRCXPT.CO.UK/OXFORD-SAINTS

Coach's Corner

Head Coach Greg Kennedy

Hello and welcome 2024 Saints supporters, players, family, and friends.

The 2024 Saints have been hard at work.

getting better since the first week of

January and it is now time to put all that hard work and training to the test.

Our motto is Saints Strong in 2024, and we are. We have a squad of over 50 players and are still attracting players to our rank's week by week. We have recruited experienced veterans and brand-new rookies who had never been involved in the sport at all.

The team is focused and committed to competing on every snap, every game. They are an outstanding group of young, and some old, men who have been a pleasure to coach throughout the preseason. T

he coaching staff has grown as well in size and experience, all of them committed to creating a TEAM ethos and community that is focused on getting our players to be able to perform to their highest ability. It has been my great privilege and honour to work with all these outstanding individuals as we strive to form a TEAM that is Saints Strong in 2024.

Please come support the huge effort these people have made to take the club to yet a higher level again from last year. We believe in ourselves. We believe in our ability. And we believe in our strength together, so come be a part of our 2024 journey. Welcome Portsmouth Dreadnoughts, it is nice to see you back in Division 1 and able to resume our great rivalry.

Saints Nation it is Sunday, and Sunday is for football, so make some noise and let your 2024 Saints know you are there!!!! It is time to get SAINTS STRONG!!!!"



Oxford Saints Captains 2024



Martin Fitzpatrick
Team Captain



Hamish Jarvie
Saints Captain



Dan Britten
Offensive Captain



Rob Coates
Defensive Captain



Player Profile - Martin Fitzpatrick: A Titan Among

Fitzpatrick is not your stereotypical American Football player.

Standing at 5'7" and weighing 201lbs, he doesn't fit many people's preconceptions of the hulking footballer.

Yet, he's built a successful career the football field spanning almost two decades and multiple undefeated seasons, a testament to the old saying that in football, there's a position for everyone.

Fitzpatrick was born into a family with a long history of American Football fandom, with both parents heavily involved in running the Manchester Allstars back in the 1980s. Growing up, the football field was his playground, and he spent many weekends surrounded by football players. But at 18 years old, even with his heart set on the game, Fitzpatrick's 5'7", 147lb frame felt incompatible to a sport where you can regularly hear pundits lamenting a 6 foot, 220lb player's "lack of size".

In 2005, the tragic loss of his brother in a car accident became a pivotal moment for Fitzpatrick. It was a stark reminder of life's unpredictability and the importance of pursuing your passion, without letting fear of failure get in the way. He contacted his local club, the Manchester Titans, and began his journey into American Football.



Despite his initial reservations, Fitzpatrick soon discovered that American Football was a melting pot of athletes from all walks of life, each bringing their unique skills and sizes to the table. His first practice session was a revelation, highlighting the sport's inclusivity and diversity. Whilst he was undoubtedly one of the smallest players on the squad, years of running athletics meant that he was also one of the fastest. It wasn't just about being the biggest or the strongest, there were ways to have an impact by being the fastest or most agile. But most importantly, it was about mindset and a commitment to learning.

His debut year with the Titans was marked by a humorous yet unforgettable rookie mistake. On his first competitive play, he incurred a penalty due to an unfastened chinstrap. "I'll never forget that play" recalls Fitzpatrick, "I was so nervous. Here I was, finally on the field, and it was a pass play designed to get me behind the safeties on a deep route. I was so busy trying to remember what I needed to do, that I didn't hear the ref telling me to buckle my strap until the flag landed at my feet." It was a gaffe that has Division 2 championship win in 2010.

since kept him meticulous about his gear "I've never had an equipment violation since" he remarks, with a chuckle. His time with the Titans culminated in two years which would fundamentally shape his beliefs about what it takes to be successful in Britball. After making the switch from Wide Receiver to Cornerback, Fitzpatrick would win the coveted Titan of the Year award after two back-to-back undefeated seasons and a

Fitzpatrick's thoughts on the award are typically indicative of the importance he places on the environment "Manchester was, and still is, a special club. You can see that in the repeated success they've had. My development over those seasons was more a reflection of the supportive environment that the Titans fostered, than it was about any natural ability I might have had."

"My most important takeaway from my time at the Titans was the importance of building the community and infrastructure that supports, encourages, and helps players to realize their full potential – whatever that might be".

In 2010, life steered Fitzpatrick south, where he found a new home with the Oxford Saints. When asked about why he chose to come to the Saints over other nearby clubs Fitzpatrick cites the culture of the club as the deciding factor. "I moved south right after the Titans had won the division 2 final. There was lots of opportunity to join nearby clubs and I visited many of them, but as soon as I arrived at the Saints, I knew this was where I'd play."

"It's hard to explain, but there's a particular vibe about this club. There's very little individual ego and everyone knows how to enjoy the game. That isn't to say people don't take it seriously, every player and coach here wants to win, and they're all committed to that goal. But we do it together, it's never about individual game time, stats or accolades."



Under the guidance of coaches Nick Wykes and Andrew (Snake) Day, Fitzpatrick embraced another step on his football journey, stepping into the role of Strong Safety. "Outside of my immediate family, it's hard to identify two men who have had more of an impact on my life than Nick and Snake. I'll always be grateful for the guidance, patience and belief that they showed in me over the years. There's a misconception that coaches only impact people's lives when they coach children, but it's simply not true. I was almost 30 when I met Nick and Snake, and they've had an unmistakable impact on my life, on my self-image and on my abilities as a player".

After 14 years with the Saints, Fitzpatrick has seen the club's culture of nurturing and inclusivity help develop some of the country's finest footballers. He fondly recalls past greats like Stephen Bentley, James Walters, and Tony Glover, who's dedication and skill left an indelible mark on the club. "One of the best things about playing for such a long time is that you get to play with a lot of great players. Better still, you get to see them develop from rookies into powerhouses, and in some small way, you get to contribute to that journey".

When asked if he sees that same potential in the current crop of players, it's clear that Fitzpatrick is excited about the potential in the current squad. "Absolutely! We've already seen Tommy Willson making waves playing semi-professional football in Europe, and I fully expect to see him continue that journey into the CFL and hopefully the NFL one day. He's still involved with the club, and just having him around makes everyone else better. Oli Mohr-Knox is another great athlete to keep an eye on, he's showing every sign of following in Tommy's footsteps".

Fitzpatrick's belief in American football's inclusivity is unwavering; he insists there's a position for everyone. His passion lies in fostering an environment where everyone can find their place and get involved, a sentiment he knows is shared by Head Coach Greg Kennedy and Chairman Sam Stancombe.



Fitzpatrick's advice to budding footballers is simple: "Don't wait. If you wait for the perfect time, or for you to feel like you're ready, you'll never do it. Just come on down. It doesn't matter how big, or small, fast or strong you are. The best way to get yourself ready for football, is to train for football. And you'll have a whole team of people around you who want to help you succeed. That's much easier than trying to do it on your own."

Looking back Fitzpatrick's only regret is not starting sooner. He hopes that his story will give people the confidence to dive in and get involved, so that they can experience the thrill of being out on the field themselves.

The British American Football Association



BAFA is responsible for all regulatory, competition, performance and development aspects of the game.

The responsibilities and activities of BAFA include the following:

The organisation and promotion of all amateur domestic national competitions across both contact and non-contact versions of the game.

The organisation and promotion of the national teams in international competition.

The promotion of the game to people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities and the provision of opportunities for their engagement and development.

The regulation of the game on and off the field of play through oversight of its rules.

The representation of the British game to national and international partners, be they sporting organisations, federations, or commercial interests.

BAFA is a member of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF).

BAFA is a company limited by guarantee.

Management and Operations:

The British American Football Association has a Board of Directors and a staffing structure comprised of Managers and Officers who support the delivery of the sport across a series of directorates.

www.britishamericanfootball.org

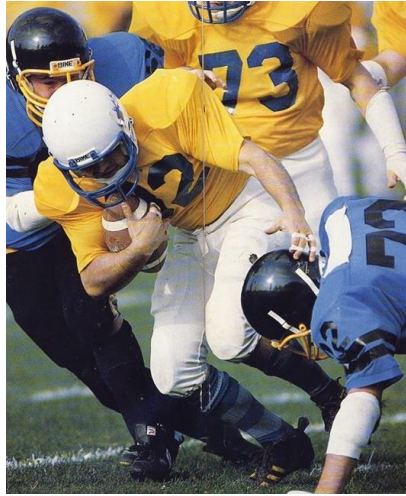
www.facebook.com/BritishAmericanFootballAssociation/

twitter.com/BAFAOfficial

A Pictorial History of the Oxford Eagles Bulldogs Saints

1984 Merit League the Eagles Played the Stock Exchange Stags our First Game

With Founder Member Steve Abbott



1985 the AFL League Kicks off we Played Taunton Wyverns, Heathrow Jets, Thames Valley Chargers, Southampton Seahawks and London Ravens



BASIC RULES OF THE GAME

To a newcomer, American football can look overly complex. However, the fundamentals of the game are very easy to understand and follow. Here is our guide to the basic rules of the game, including the flow of play and the methods of scoring.

It should equip you with enough information to enable you to enjoy watching or even playing American football, while you learn the more in depth nuances of the game.

The game

Normal play consists of two teams of 11 players on field (one on offence the other on defence) competing during four 15 minute quarters.

There are usually three 'time-outs' per half for each team, with a 12 minutes half-time interval.

The purpose of the game is to move the ball into the opposition's 'end zone', either by running with the ball until tackled, or by passing the ball to a teammate downfield, towards the end zone.

Although there are only 11 players from each side on the field at any one time, a team is actually made up of 45 players. The key player on each side is the quarterback who attempts to dictate play.

Downs

Downs are the part of the game which often needlessly confuses newcomers. They are actually fairly straightforward. In a nutshell, the rule is as follows:

The team in possession of the ball (offence) needs to move the ball forward by at least 10 yards while they are on offence. This is why the pitch has clearly marked yardage lines on it.

They have four chances, or downs, to gain those 10 yards and if they advance the ball that far, the count resets and the team earns another set of four downs to try go a further 10 yards.

If the offensive team fails to move these 10 yards within four downs, possession is then given up and the defensive side gets their turn to play offense. Teams will usually kick for a field goal or downfield to the defending team on the fourth down to try and salvage some points before they lose possession.

Scoring in American football

The ultimate aim in American football is similar to pretty much every other sport out there – to score more points than the opposition. Scoring is worked out in the game as follows:

Touchdown (6 Points)

A touchdown is scored when a team crosses the opposition's goal line with the ball, or catches or collects the ball in the end zone.

Field Goal (3 Points)

A team will usually attempt these on the fourth down - if the kicker is close enough to the end zone to kick the ball through between the upright posts.

Extra Point (1 Or 2 Points)

An extra point is earned by kicking the ball through the uprights after a touchdown (it's similar to a conversion in rugby). Two points are earned by taking the ball into the end zone again, but since it is more difficult, most teams opt to take the 1pt.

Safety (2 Points)

The defensive team can gain 2 pts if they tackle a member of the offensive team with the ball in their own end zone.

We hope this guide has armed you with the necessary tools to get to grips with the game. As with any other sport, football has numerous other elements and rules in addition to the ones outlined here, but by understanding the flow of the game and the scoring, you should be able to at least enjoy and understand it as you fill in the gaps.

Some of the Signals from the Officials



Touchdown or Field Goal



Delay of Game



First Down



Ball Dead



Illegal Use of Hands and Arms



Ineligible Receiver Down Field on Pass



Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted



Illegally Passing or Handing Ball Forward



Ball Ready for Play



Illegal Motion or Shift



Defensive Holding



Delay of Game



Forward Pass or Kick Catching Interference



Incomplete Forward Pass, Penalty Declined, No Play, or No Score



Ineligible Receiver Down Field on Pass



Forward Pass or Kick Catching Interference



Illegal Procedure



Clipping



Intentional Grounding



Offside



Start the Clock or No More Time-Outs



Roughing the Kicker



Unsportsmanlike Conduct



Personal Foul



Time-Out



Roughness and Piling On



Safety

Ipswich cardinals @ Oxford Saints Pre-Season Game



WR Oli Mohr-Knox Scores on a 21 yard Catch



RB Martin Fitzpatrick cuts of a Block for a First Down



Saints Defence Stop a cardinal's Runner



WR William Patrick Breaks away from an Ipswich Tackler



LB Matt Kersey and CB Clayton Bones Tackle a cardinal's Player



Ben Drabble Kicks off



CB Clayton Bones Returns a Interception



QB Jame Sharples throws Deep



RB Alessio Maggio gets to the Outside



LB Matt Kersey gets a Fumble Recovery



It is with great excitement we can announce a recent club sponsor by the name of @burnoutbbqatering 🤗🤗🤗

Our pre-game shirts and our game balls will now have the Burnout BBQ logo on them. 🍒

Get down to their restaurant; 263 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX27HN •OR• keep an eye on our socials for when their incredible food van will be at some future home games. (Currently they hope to attend our game V Wembley Stallions on June 2nd.

They specialise in American BBQ meats, burgers, hotdogs, chicken, shakes etc!! See attached a copy of the Vans menu. Thank you again to the team at @burnoutbbqatering for their support. 🙏🍔

Since 2018




Burnout Buns



SMOKED BRISKET BUN £10	BRISKET & PORK SMOKEHOUSE BUN £15	BRISKET & HALLOUMI £15
TEXAN PORK BUN £10	BRISKET & CHILLI CHEESE BUN £15	BIG HALLOUMI BUN £10

BBQ Box Meals

Served With Seasoned Fries, Salad, Slaw & Garnish

Choose: £15

BRISKET / RIBS / TEXAN PULLED PORK / HALLOUMI

	<h2 style="font-family: cursive;">LOADED FRIES</h2>	
BBQ BRISKET FRIES £12	TEXAN PULLED PORK FRIES £12	CHILLI CHEESE FRIES £12
CHEESEY FRIES £6	JACKFUIT CHILLI FRIES £12	SEASONED FRIES £5

	<h2 style="font-family: cursive;">RIBS & WINGS</h2>	
MAPLE SMOKED BBQ STICKY RIBS £10	CHARGRILLED CHICKEN WINGS BBQ / BUFFALO £8	



Hot Dogs



AMERICAN HOT DOG £8	CHILLI CHEESE DOG £12
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Inside the Mind of a Defensive Coordinator: Crafting a Game Plan

As the defensive coordinator for the Oxford Saints, preparing for a fixture is more than just a routine task—it's a strategic endeavour aimed at outsmarting the opposition. Every game presents a unique challenge, and our approach involves meticulous planning and analysis to ensure our team is well-prepared.

One of the first steps in preparing for a game is studying the opposition. We carefully review game film to analyse their offensive schemes, player tendencies, and key playmakers. By understanding their strengths and weaknesses, we can develop a game plan to exploit vulnerabilities and limit their effectiveness.

When reviewing film, we focus on several key aspects:

1. **Formations and Tendencies:** We closely examine the formations the opposing offense uses most frequently and the plays they typically run from each formation. This helps us anticipate their play-calling and adjust our defensive alignment accordingly.
2. **Player Personnel:** Identifying the opposition's key playmakers is essential. We analyse the tendencies of their star players, such as a quarterback's favourite targets or a running back's preferred rushing lanes. This allows us to tailor our defensive strategies to neutralise their strengths.
3. **Down and Distance Situations:** Understanding how the offense operates in various down and distance situations is crucial. We pay close attention to their tendencies on first, second, and third downs, as well as in the red zone. This knowledge helps us anticipate play-calling and make strategic adjustments to counter their moves.
4. **Game Situations:** We analyse how the opposing offense performs in different game situations, such as when they're leading, trailing, or in a close game. This insight allows us to adapt our defensive approach based on the flow of the game and maintain a competitive edge.

Once we have a thorough understanding of the opposition, we begin crafting our game plan. This involves devising strategies to disrupt their rhythm, pressure the quarterback, and force turnovers. Our goal is to dictate the pace of the game and control the line of scrimmage.

During practice sessions, we emphasize executing our game plan with precision. Players rehearse specific defensive schemes and assignments to ensure everyone is on the same page come game day. We also simulate various scenarios and adjustments to prepare for unexpected situations.

On game day, the execution of the game plan is paramount. We communicate with players on the sidelines, making real-time adjustments based on what we're seeing on the field. Flexibility is key, as we must be ready to adapt our strategy to counter any adjustments made by the opposition.

In the end, success as a defensive coordinator hinges on thorough preparation, keen analysis, and effective communication. By studying the opposition, crafting a game plan tailored to exploit weaknesses, and executing with precision, we give our team the best chance to come out on top. With each fixture, we aim to showcase the strength and resilience of the Oxford Saints defence.



British American Football Referees' Association

The officials for 99% of American Football games played in Britain are all members of BAFRA, the British American Football Referees' Association.

BAFRA was founded in 1984 to provide officials for the then fledgling sport. In the early days the majority of its members were US military personnel stationed in the UK but now the membership is almost entirely British.

The Association's aims are five-fold:

1. To improve the standard of officiating by training and examination, and by any other means
2. To enable all American football games in Britain to have neutral officials
3. To promote and uphold the status of officials both collectively and individually
4. To co-operate and to cultivate good relations with all bodies concerned with American football, for the betterment of the game
5. To take such action or make such representation as an Association, or in conjunction with others as may be considered desirable, in the interests of American football in Britain in general or for the benefit of officials and officiating in particular
- 6.

BAFRA covers several hundred games at all levels, including Senior (over 18), College, Junior and Youth games. Through the International Federation of American Football (IFAF), BAFRA also provides officials for tournaments on the continent.

www.bafra.info

www.facebook.com/BAFRAOfficial

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www.instagram.com/bafra_official/



Oxford Eagles, Bulldogs, Saints Hall of Fame 2024 Inductees 40th Anniversary



Ali Galbraith WR/QB/DB



Duncan Teall DL/ OL



James Walter TE/RB



Jason Lowe RB



Jonny Dover DB/RB/K



Paul Harbour DL/OL



Paul Whiting DL/ OL



Stephen Bentley RB/ LB/DL



Sam Armstrong TE

OXFORD SAINTS ROSTER 2024



2
James Sharples
Quarterback



81
Dan Britten
Wide Receiver
Offensive Captain



Josh Peck
Wide Receiver



76
James Barber
Offensive Lineman



13
Joe Bennett
Quarterback / P/ K



8
Oli Mohr-Knox
Wide Receiver



11
Yan Magiolo
Wide Receiver



74
Chris Cox
Offensive Lineman



5
Alexander Sinclair
Quarterback



7
Reese Chesser
Wide Receiver



88
Sam Stancombe
Tight End



77
Barnaby Hindley
Offensive Lineman



0
Victor Ofoe
Running Back



82
William Patrick
Wide Receiver



87
Charlton Mason
Tight End



#63
Thomas Grant
Offensive Lineman



36
Martin Fitzpatrick
Running Back
Team Captain



40
Mike Bird
Wide Receiver



86
Dan Wolks
Tight End



Nik Koster
Offensive Lineman



Alessio Maggio
Running Back



85
Toby Lett
Wide Receiver



59
Hamish Jarvie
Offensive Lineman
Saints Captain



60
Adam Chapman
Offensive Lineman



26
Grant Huckin
Running Back



24
Alex Chetwood
Wide Receiver



66
Connor Folds
Offensive Lineman



67
Luke Whittaker
Offensive Lineman

OXFORD SAINTS ROSTER 2024



62
Christopher Davis
Offensive Lineman



Leo Richardson
Offensive Lineman



98
Joe Barrow
Defensive Lineman



16
Harry Mattock
Defensive Back



5
Matthew Kersey
Linebacker



64
Tom Beaucamp
Defensive Lineman



69
Jonathan Gilder
Defensive Lineman



28
Ben Drabble
Defensive Back



55
Michael McDonald
Linebacker



70
Ben Jones
Defensive Lineman



3
Ian Hiscock
Defensive Back



25
Simon Privett
Defensive Back



32
Emile Rowe
Linebacker



15
Max Crawford
Defensive Lineman



4
Rob Coates
Defensive Back
Defensive Captain



Justin Cramb
Defensive Back



Oli Knowlden
Linebacker



95
Dan Williams
Defensive Lineman



1
Martin Rains
Defensive Back



Dylan Gelbier
Defensive Back



14
Alex Egan
Linebacker



45
Luke Mallaghan
Defensive Lineman



19
Clayton Bones
Defensive Back



22
Travis Cameron
Defensive Back



57
Alexandru Costin
Linebacker



92
Dylan Metcalfe
Defensive Lineman



30
Glenn Trafford -
Smith
Defensive Back



6
Ali Hugo
Defensive Back

OXFORD SAINTS COACHING STAFF 2024



Greg Kennedy
Head Coach



Ian Hiscock
Assistant Head Coach



Josh Rowan
Offensive Coordinator



Ben Harris
Defensive Coordinator



Oli Huke
Special Teams Coordinator



Ryan Greene
Offensive Line Coach



Martin Fitzpatrick
Running Back Coach



Dan Britten
Wide Receiver Coach



Matthew Kersey
Linebacker Coach



Rob Coates
Defensive Back Coach



Dan Williams
Defensive Line Coach



Hamish Jarvie
Asst Offensive Line Coach



Aban Arunthavarajah
Asst Offensive Coach

2024 British American Football National Leagues Standings

Premiership South



Premiership North



SFC 1 Central



NFC 1 Scotland



SFC 1 East



NFC 1 North



SFC 1 West



NFC 1 Midlands



SFC 2 East



NFC 2 East



SFC 2 West



NFC 2 West

