



# RED DEER TITANS

## 2010 Season Report

### *Senior Men*

The 2010 Red Deer Titans Senior Men's rugby season started in good spirit and high expectations. With an Australian coach, Mike Bishop, on the books, along with a handful of international players joining the roster for both the Firsts and Thirds, there was a certain excitement and anticipation around the club. With the coach arriving a few weeks into the start of the season, it was going to be a tough start. However, the boys dug deep, recording narrow losses to some of the best clubs in Alberta. Bishop came and things started to improve. Training sessions were intense, with a new twist and a different style of play which certainly showed on the pitch. However, due to family reasons the coach had to depart back to the Promised Land (Australia) and was unable to return for the remainder of the season.

Unfortunately, that's about when the wheels started to fall off. Due to work commitments and other reasons, a full squad of 22 or even 18 were not available for both teams for much of the season, forcing much younger and less experienced players to play top grade rugby. The boys thrived on the underdog tag and played out of their skin, learning as they went from the Senior Members of both Firsts and Thirds. With First grade picking up comprehensive wins over the Saints, Saracens, Lep-Tigers, as well as close matches with the Irish and grand finalist Canucks, the season was a far improvement from that of 2009. The First Division men ended up finishing seventh in the regular season.

As for the Third Division Team, finishing the home and away season in the top 4 is a great result from a disjointed season. Although they were able to go past the first round of knock out semi-finals, they punched above their weight all season with a mixture of a great bunch of young players along with the more experienced.

There is no doubt that if the coach had stayed for the duration of the season, and the teams had a full roster for the entire season, that the trophy cabinet back in the club house may be supporting a few more pieces of hardware.

It wasn't all serious throughout the season though, with the Titans Senior Men participating in both the Calgary Sevens and Banff Tens rugby tournaments. These tournaments were not only great results for the club, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Calgary and runner up in Banff, they were great club building events as well, with the young players coming out and experiencing what rugby has to offer, both on and off the pitch. Although the men didn't take out the titles, for the club it was priceless.

So bring on 2011! With the success of the youth program of 2010, along with the current batch of young and old players at the club, the future is bright. With the addition of a new coach, a new bunch of Australians and new party themes, the upcoming 2011 will surely be one not to miss!