



Gavin Hickie enters his seventh season as Director of Navy Rugby and head coach of the Navy men's team in the fall of 2023.

Hickie guided the Mids to a national championship and an 18-0 record in their first season as a varsity program. Navy outscored its opponents, 760-208, and posted an average margin of victory of 30.6 points. The Mids won eight games against opponents ranked in the top 20 of the College Rugby Association of America (CRAA) power rankings and outscored their ranked foes, 274-128.

Navy opened the 2022-23 campaign during the fall and posted an undefeated 11-0 record to claim its first Rugby East Conference Championship. Highlighting Navy's fall season were wins over academy rivals Air Force and Army. The Mids dominated No. 19 ranked Air Force, 71-0, to claim the Lt. Col. Shea Memorial Rugby Cup for the seventh-straight season. Navy defeated No. 1 ranked Army, 27-14, later in the season for its first win over the Black Knights since 2019.

The Mids earned the top seed in the CRAA Division I-A Playoffs and defeated Army, 30-6, in the quarterfinals. Navy surrendered just two penalty kicks in the match, which marked the first time Army had been held without a try against a U.S. school in its nine-year varsity history. The Mids took down Lindenwood, 12-10, in the semifinals to set up a rematch against national powerhouse California in the title match. Navy overcame an early deficit and won the contest, 28-22, to earn its first national championship in program history.

Hired in the summer of 2017, Hickie guided the Mids to an overall record of 40-13 over the program's five seasons on the club level. Navy posted at least 10 wins three times under Hickie, including a 12-4 mark during the 2018-19 season.

Two Midshipmen have won the Rudy Scholz Award under Hickie, which is presented annually by the Washington Athletic Club to the top men's college rugby player in the country. Connor McNerney became the first Mid to win the award in 2018. Most recently, Lewis Gray earned the accolade in 2023. Navy is one of only two programs to have multiple winners since the award was introduced in 2016.

The Dublin, Ireland, native graduated from the University College Dublin in 2003. He played professional rugby for Leinster and helped the club win the inaugural Celtic League in 2001. Hickie also played for the London Irish RFC, the Worcester Warriors and the Leicester Tigers. He helped Leicester win the 2007 Guinness Premiership.

Hickie began his coaching career in 2007 as the forwards coach for Leicester Academy. He then served as an assistant coach for the Belmont Shore Rugby Football Club in Southern California and the head coach at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, Calif. Hickie moved to the college level when he was named the head coach at Dartmouth in 2012.