

MARDI GRAS! GALVESTON



The children's portion of the St. Mary's Hospital Mardi Gras Run gets off to a flying start during last year's event.

Mardi Gras events call out a variety of athletes

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The fun and games at Mardi Gras are not limited to the parades and balls. Some of the games will be of an athletic nature, including a two-day rugby tournament, a series of footraces and a golf tourney.

The 10th annual University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston Mardi Gras Rugby Tournament is scheduled Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 11,

or away from the goal. If the referee stops play for some reason (usually to prevent injuries), the ball is thrown by a member of the team with last possession into a circle of forwards from both teams, called a scrum. The smallest player on each team attempts to kick the ball to a teammate, who then kicks it out of the circle and into play.

The division champions receive trophies with a Mardi Gras theme. The teams also will receive a clam as a perpetual trophy. If the team wins again next year, it keeps the clam; otherwise, the clam is passed along to next year's king of the heap.

Admission to the games is free, and refreshments will be available. Proceeds from the tournament and the Masked Rugby Ball on Saturday evening will benefit the Galveston Boys' Club and the Galveston Handicapped and Retarded Association.

The outdoor rugby party is scheduled 8 p.m.-2 a.m. at 1913 Strand, the parking lot of the Farmer's Copper Co.