



April 22, 2008

*The Youth Development Network Digest is a weekly electronic newsletter sent to members of USA Rugby's Youth and High School Network. All digests are posted to the Youth and High School **YDN** section of the USA Rugby website. All members of the YDN are welcome to share this information through local communication channels. New content helps maintain the status of this project. Please help by contributing your local reports on jobs well done in the name of youth and high school rugby to USA Rugby's Youth and High School Game Development Officer **Katie Wurst**.*

Texas High School Rugby Welcomes Lynn Evans

BOULDER, COLO – Texas Youth Rugby Association will host Lynn Evans for coach and player development sessions in two major cities. Evans intends to share his expertise in game sense and decision making with athletes and coaches alike.

Evans has visited Washington, D.C., Albuquerque, NM and Denver/Boulder, CO and plans to continue on to Nashville, TN, Northern California and Portland, OR prior to departing the USA. Evans is known by many for his developments in physical education and coach development. He coached Oxford University to a famous win over Australia and currently works as an RFU coach consultant.

Evans will be involved in a number of sessions based Dallas and Houston ranging from class room discussion to working with individual teams.

- **Friday, April 25th – Dallas, TX:** Dallas RFC will host a player clinic focusing on athletes at the collegiate, U-19 & U-17 level with an emphasis on developing players using a game sense approach. The clinic will take place at Lake Highlands Park (1000 N. Buckner Boulevard Dallas, TX 75218) from 6-8 PM and is free of charge.
- **April 26-27th – Houston, TX:** Texas Youth Rugby Association High School Championship
- **Monday April 28th – Houston, TX:** Coach seminar from 7-9 PM at St. Thomas High School (4500 Memorial Drive Houston, TX 77007 - <http://sths.org/about/directions.html>)
- **Tuesday April 29th – Dallas, TX:** Coach seminar from 6-8:30 PM at the Dallas Jesuit College

Preparatory School Lecture Hall (12345 Inwood Road Dallas, Texas 75244-8094)

Coach seminar cost is \$30 to attend and checks can be made payable to "USA Rugby." Participants will receive continuing education units for USA Rugby coach certification currency.

For more information on Lynn Evans development opportunities please visit the USA Rugby website http://www.usarugby.org/goto/Special_Events or contact Katie Wurst at kwurst@usarugby.org.

From the Bronx to Durban

Rob Cabrera, Jorge Cabrera, Matt Cortes, and Arnold Chavis have been selected to attend the prestigious Natal Sharks international rugby program in Durban, South Africa from July 6 to 28. They were selected for the South African program for their commitment to both developing their own rugby skills and for their maturity and leadership amongst their team mates. The four are seniors at Sports Professional High School in the Bronx and are the only Americans to join promising young athletes from South Africa, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany and Japan at the summer clinic.

These young men have only been playing rugby for 2 years. They are charter members of the of the New York Rugby Club's evolving Under 19 squad and were also involved in the Play Rugby USA® (www.playrugbyusa.com) weekend rugby program last year which was coached by Justin Goonan who is currently interning with the Sharks Academy. In addition to being role models as players, all four coach rugby in New York Rugby club's blossoming U-12 program. Rob, Jorge, and Arnold are certified Level I referees and are pioneers in the Rugby Referees Society of New York U19 referee development program.

The four were introduced to the sport by former US women's representatives, Annie Collier and Lisa Lake, who saw rugby as an opportunity to teach valuable life lessons to the young men through a disciplined after school sports program that included regular interaction with the adult members of the New York Rugby Club. In addition to basic rugby and athletic skill development, the program emphasizes team work, respect, commitment, discipline and responsibility, and partners young players with adult mentors to assist with college applications and job preparation.

Mark Griffin, Founder of Play Rugby, Inc. stated "New York RFC's U19 program aligns directly with our youth development philosophy and demonstrates the real impact rugby can have on player's lives. That is largely why we helped them on their way with a donation towards their initial deposit. Justin very much enjoyed coaching the new players of the NYRFC U19 program last year and found them to exhibit all the positive values one would associate with rugby. However, full credit for the boys' development must go directly to them and their coaches Lisa Lake and Annie Collier who have provided coaching, support and mentoring week in and week out, with clearly visible success."

Matteo, Rob, Arnold, and Jorge firmly assert that rugby has changed their lives by providing them with a sense of belonging and purpose, improving both athletic performance and their grades. All four young men will become the first members of their family to attend college on their return from South Africa.

The Natal Sharks program (www.sharksacademy.co.za) is highly respected in international rugby circles. Training classes are provided by full-time coaches and current professional players at the Kings Park Stadium facilities in Durban. Several members of the current reigning world rugby champion South

Africa 'Springboks' have come through the program, and other graduates are now in professional rugby contracts in the Super 14, the Japanese Top League and the European Heineken Cup. During weekends the participants will attend live Currie Cup rugby matches, and travel to local attractions such as Ushaka Aquarium and the Valley of 1000 Hills.

How can you help?

1) Attend the kickoff event on April 23 at Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave. Harrison, NY 10528. Time: 7PM Cost: \$125 per person including multi-course dinner with options. Open bar for domestic beer and wine.

2) Make an online donation: <http://www.newyorkrugby.com/content/view/600/363/>

If you have any questions or would like any more information about the Sharks Academy or the four young men, please contact:

Fundraising Coordinator:

Cameron Sinclair - 646-508-3704 - cam003@hotmail.com

Coaches:

Annie Collier - 914-282-9709 - annie.collier@gmail.com

Lisa Lake – 914-282-9714 - nyrcu19@gmail.com

Play Rugby, Inc: Mark Griffin – 212-851-8858 - mark.griffin@playrugbyusa.com



Upcoming Youth & High School Events

Looking for a way to promote your tournament or local event? [Click here](#) to post information to be listed in the YDN digest and the USA Rugby calendar. Share updates on what is happening in your area today!

Ohio Classic - April 26-27th, 2008 - Columbus, OH - Chris Hopps - chris@rugbyohio.com

Rugby Oregon Girls State Championship - April 26, 2008 - Jenn Heinrich - jenn@youthrugby.com

Big Apple Classic - April 26, 2008 - Cameron Sinclair - camoo3@hotmail.com - www.newyorkrugby.com

Rugby Oregon Boys State Championship - May 3, 2008 - Jenn Heinrich - jenn@youthrugby.com

Pittsburgh Harlequins May Madness High School Tournament - May 3-4, 2008 - Founders Field - Pittsburgh, PA - Matt Rosemeyer - matt@pittsburghharlequins.org - www.pittsburghharlequins.org

4th Annual Pacific Coast Invitational Tournament - Presented by Pac Coast RFU - May 10-11th, 2008 - Steuber Rugby Stadium Ray Schwartz - vanillagorillaray@sbcglobal.net

Carolina Youth Rugby State Championship - May 10, 2008 - Paul Maxwell - carolinayouthrugby@yahoo.com

Southern California Youth Championships - May 10-11, 2008 - Damon Garcia Sports Complex - San Luis Obispo, CA - Gary Nichols - slyouthrugby@aol.com

East Penn Rugby Union Girls High School Championships - May 11, 2008 - Joe Campbell - joecampbell2@verizon.net - www.epru.org

East Penn Rugby Union Boys High School Championships - May 11, 2008 - Greg Karabin - gqkarabin@verizon.net - www.epru.org

Great Plains Youth Rugby Association's 2nd Annual Championship Tournament - May 17, 2008 - Aaron Hollinger - a_hollinger@hotmail.com - www.gpyra.net

Midwest High School Girls Championships - May 17-18th - Bob Cronquist - frpref@live.com - www.midwestyouthrugby.com

Youth Jersey Cup - May 17, 2008 - Denville, NJ - Tom Feury - tomfeury@optonline.net - www.morrisrugby.org

Ohio Boys State Championship - May 23-24th, 2008 - Cleveland, OH - Chris Hopps - chris@rugbyohio.com

Illinois State High School Championships - May 26, 2008 - David Hall - davidhall@tillyard-usa.com

Carmel Rugby Youth Camp - June 6-8, 2008 Carmel, IN - Harry Laws - HFL2@aol.com

Virginia High School State Championships - June 7, 2008 - Frederic Bardot - fbardot@aol.com

Fourth Annual LAU All-Star Rugby Challenge Cup - Presented by Potomac Rugby Foundation - June 21-22nd, 2008 - Founders Field - Pittsburgh, PA - Kurt Mockenhaupt - rugbyfoundation@msn.com

Great Lakes High School 7s - July 13, 2008 - Chicago Blaze RFC - Lemont, IL - Nolan Day - twoday@sbcglobal.net - www.chicagoblazerugby.com

East Stroudsburg Player Development Camp - July 10-13, 2008 - Kevin Castner - castner@live.com - www.esurugby.com/rugby_camp.htm

American Flag Rugby Festival - July 26, 2008 - Morris RFC - Tom Feury - tomfeury@optonline.net - www.morrisrugby.org

Virginia Youth Tournament - August 2-3rd, 2008 - Frederic Bardot - fbardot@aol.com

The Youth and High School Development Network (YDN) provides a media outlet dedicated to the youth and high school rugby community. The network helps create connections across a broad geographic area. Information provided by members of the network are made available to the public and communicated through USA Rugby media outlets. The network inspires youth & high school programs to seek out and share tools, volunteers and best practice that form lasting bonds amongst members of the rugby community.