



# RUGBY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

## BCRFC Commits to Dartmouth Classic



**Hanover, New Hampshire-** The BCRFC has recently accepted an invitation to participate in the annual Dartmouth Classic preseason tournament. The prestigious two-day invitational tournament takes place Labor Day Weekend, September 5-6, at the beautiful Dartmouth pitch in Hanover, New Hampshire. The Eagles will encounter top North American competition in preparation for the fall season, taking the pitch against Dartmouth College, as well as two perennial Canadian powerhouses: Queens University of Ontario and McGill University of Montreal. All three programs have storied histories, particularly McGill's, which can boast of being the oldest rugby club in North America. Boston College will take the place of NERFU rival West Point, another regular contender for top collegiate rugby program in the Northeast. The BCRFC is excited for the opportunity to compete in an internationally recognized tournament against top programs and is proud to continue its ascent in the North American rugby ranks.

## Junior Alex Hunt Travels to Kenya with USA U20's to Share his Love for Rugby While Competing on World Stage



**Kenya, Africa-** After impressing in a selection camp over winter break, and making the final round of cuts in March, sophomore Alex Hunt was selected to the USA U-20 squad. He traveled with the squad and earned his cap in the Junior World Rugby Trophy this April in Nairobi, Kenya. The team trained for one week in Phoenix, Arizona before traveling to Kenya for the three-week competition. The grassroots rugby movement in Kenya is outpacing soccer as the fastest growing sport in Kenya, and the recent success of the Kenyan National 7's team provided an electric playing environment. The U20's were greatly supported with logistics and local knowledge by Chaz Gore, father of BC Rugby's Jon '09 and Malcolm '11. After extensive training sessions to prepare and acclimatize, the USA U-20's advanced through pool play on the back of victories over the Cayman Islands and Namibia. Although the U-20's dropped a match to home-team Kenya, they advanced to the final, where they were narrowly defeated by a strong Romania side.



In addition to all of their time on the pitch, the U20 Eagles spent time playing with and instructing young players from the Kibera slums in Nairobi. Although the young players lacked formal coaching and resources, their enthusiasm and passion for the game was a testament to the success the IRB has had in spreading the game across the globe. After a coaching session with the KCB Club, the U20s enjoyed watching the young, mostly barefoot, locals defeat a well-funded international school. Despite the heartbreaking loss to Romania in the Championship match, the trip to Kenya was an outstanding experience, and Alex now looks forward to joining his teammates and bringing his international rugby experience back to BC in the fall.

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## Mountjoy Soars as a Double-Eagle

**Boulder, CO-** Head Coach Eugene Mountjoy has been appointed the USA Rugby Select XV's forwards coach. The job was awarded to Mountjoy following interviews with USA Rugby CEO Nigel Melville and USA Rugby Head Coach Eddie O'Sullivan. Fortunately, Mountjoy's status as a full-time rugby coach will allow him to balance time between the BCRFC, Boston Rugby Super League, and his new duties with the USA Eagles. The USA Select XV is a

developmental squad of prospective Eagles and assembles a few times throughout year. Mountjoy is grateful for his appointment, "I am very excited about the position and the recognition by USA Rugby and I am very thankful for the support from Boston College Rugby and their alumni. I hope and believe that this opportunity will help with exposure and recruiting for BC Rugby."

Ask any current BC rugger, and he will tell you that he is not surprised at Coach Mountjoy's appointment. "The man lives for rugby. I have never come across a coach more dedicated to his sport or his team than Gene. What is more impressive is how much he cares about his players, or as he often calls us, his friends. Players constantly run into Gene in the BC cafeterias during breakfast or lunch, finding him eager to have a chat about the last week's match, our families, or life in the classroom," comments senior winger Stew Harris. Mountjoy's enthusiasm and coaching skills can only improve as he goes on to represent BCRFC proudly on the national stage.



## BC Eagles Selected for NRU All Stars

**Glendale, CO-** This year, five Boston College rugby players were asked to tryout for the Northeast Rugby Union's College All-Star team. Patrick "Boomer" Twardak CSOM '09, Karl

Danso GS '10, Jon Gore CSOM '09, Conor Hynes A&S '10, and Alex Hunt A&S '11 were chosen after having distinguished themselves on the field to compete for 24 spots and the chance to represent the more than 300 college programs of the Northeast Union in the annual College All-Star Championships held in Glendale, CO in May. Due to scheduling conflicts and other commitments such as internships and family vacations, only Boomer was able to attend all the mandatory training weekends and test matches with the NRU squad. Boomer joined BCRFC alumni such as Phillip John Albanese (A&S '08)

and Sean Hanel (A&S '07) who wore the NRU Warrior jersey in past years.

The NRU selectors this year faced a real challenge in picking the strongest team for the May Championships. The turnout by prospective players from all over the Northeast was the largest in history. The NRU was divided into two teams, the North, which included schools such as Dartmouth and Boston College, and the South, which consisted of Rutgers and other Met NY schools. After test matches against Old Blue of NYC and a Welsh collegiate side, the coaches of NRU selected three Rugby Superleague players; including Boomer Twardak who had played for the Boston Men's Superleague Team under Eugene Mountjoy, as well as many other players from NERFU, the League in which BC competes each fall.

Representing the NRU as a member of its All-Star team requires a huge time commitment from the players. This spring, Boomer had to travel all over the Northeast on the weekends to attend practices and play in test matches. This demonstrates his true dedication to the sport, considering that it was his senior spring, and he had to forgo many of the events in which his classmates participated. However, upon reflection, he has no regrets with the experience he gained playing on a national stage and meeting other players who share his same passion for rugby. He gave up late nights at Maryanne's and pizza from Roggies so that he could wear the Black & Gold jersey to represent the Northeast Union. Well, as Boomer admits, "All right, maybe not the pizza from Roggies!"

The All-Star Championships in Glendale was the most competitive rugby Boomer has ever played and many of his teammates agreed. The championship is set up into two tiers: Tier 1 consists of Rugby Union powerhouses such as Pacific Coast and So Cal while Tier 2 contains teams such as the NRU and the South. In the first test, the NRU team played the South with Boomer starting at outside center. The South had a great fly half and massive forwards, many who made the All-American team that will wear the eagle jersey this summer on their tour to South Africa. Unfortunately NRU lost to the South 42-15, but many believed that the South side was strong enough to compete in the first tier this year. In the second game, the NRU crushed the Midwest 48-12, where Boomer started at wing. Boomer played his best game of the week, receiving good ball and effectively kicking to put pressure on the other team. In the end, the NRU broke a five-year losing streak at Nationals, which was their goal from start. Look out for more BC players on the NRU team next year such as Conor Hynes and Alex Hunt.

Boomer graduated from Boston College in May and moved back to his hometown of Chicago. He started his first job as a Project Accountant for Walsh Construction in early June. Boomer is currently playing Sevens Rugby this summer with the Chicago Lions and hopes to win another National Sevens Championship for Chicago. He is looking forward to tailgating with other alumni ruggers at football games this fall, only on weekends when he doesn't have RUGBY!!!

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## BCRFC Spring Season Recap:

**Chestnut Hill, MA-** The Boston College Rugby Football Club followed their Championship at January's ACI Tournament with a very competitive spring schedule. As always, the spring season is designed to prepare the club for the league play in the fall. To reflect this goal, the spring schedule included grueling competition against teams such as Middlebury and Boston Men's DI side. As the club played without the experience of any seniors and many juniors who were studying abroad, it looked to its younger members to step up and fill the leadership void. This void was increased due to Captain Conor Hynes absence to spend the season playing for Boston's Superleague side, and Asst. Captain Alex Hunt spending most of the spring in Kenya with the USA U-20 National Side. Injuries to several starting juniors over the course of the season only increased the lack of playing experience.

That being said, the spring did prove an excellent chance for those sophomores and freshmen who were new to the sport to gain invaluable experience playing on the field against top teams—for example, Middlebury went undefeated on the season to win the DII Collegiate National Championship. Players such as freshmen Jack Casey, Mark Muldowney and Colin Curtin stepped into starting positions and performed well-above expectations. Junior leadership provided by Andrew Steck, Ted Brisbin and Julien Collard-Seguín – when not sidelined by injuries – inspired the efforts of the young Eagles. While ultimately such competition proved in many cases too much for the Eagle side to handle, vast improvement was seen over the course of the season. The last match of the season against Boston Men's proved to be a very close affair and a source of much optimism looking toward the fall. With the return of the captains who played up for the Spring and the several abroad juniors, who gained valuable experience playing in countries such as England and Ireland, the depth provided by the now experienced underclassmen and a two-week preseason camp, the Eagles look forward to challenging for supremacy in the 2009 NERFU DI Competition.

## Rugger Set to Tackle Cancer in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan-Mass Challenge

**Provincetown, MA-** On August 1st and 2nd former BCRFC hooker Tucker Margulies (A&S '09) will take up a new sport and a new cause in a big way. Continuing the charitable tradition of BCRFC, Tucker will join his sister in riding at the 30th annual Pan-Mass Challenge. The PMC is the largest athletic fundraising event in the country, raising over \$35 Million for the Jimmy Fund and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dana-Farber is renowned as one of the leading treatment centers for both children and adults with cancer. It is also a world leader in cancer research.

The ride itself lives up to its name, spanning the majority of the distance between New York and the Atlantic: over the course of two days, Tucker and his fellow riders will

travel 192 grueling miles from Sturbridge to Provincetown. Most riders spend upwards of 8 to 10 hours on their bikes the first day alone—let's hope they have a good pair of bike shorts.

Tucker and Kendra have committed to raising \$8,400 for their ride and are well on their way, having already secured donations for over \$5,000. Anyone who is interested in donating can do so easily online at [www.pmc.org/wm0060](http://www.pmc.org/wm0060) and [www.pmc.org/KM0257](http://www.pmc.org/KM0257). Checks can also be made out to "Pan-Mass Challenge" and sent to Tucker Margulies at 56 Sunset Rd Weston MA 02493. All gifts are tax deductible and many companies have gift matching agreements. Check out [www.pmc.org](http://www.pmc.org) for more information.

Hopefully the grit that he learned out on the pitch will translate into two-wheeled success (and if not he can always draft off of his sister). The club wishes them both the best of luck.

## Promising Freshman Invited To Camp

**Chestnut Hill, MA-** The Eagles enter the fall looking forward to a boost from their incoming class of freshman and transfer ruggers. 2009's crop already looks strong with at least five experienced freshmen and two transfer students recruited and set to attend the annual preseason camp. Feeder schools include several prominent programs that appeared at last year's National High School Tournament including perennial rivals Gonzaga High School and Xavier High School as well as other schools and programs such as Catholic Memorial, Greenwich High School, Staples High School, and Xaverian Brothers. On behalf of the entire BCRFC family we welcome these talented student-athletes to the ranks and look forward to working with them this fall.

## BCRFC Continues Support of Boston RSL



**Boston, MA-** As reported in the Winter 2009 issue, the Boston Rugby Super League squad coached by Mountjoy has benefited from an infusion of young and talented former and current Eagles. This past spring BCRFC veteran Hugh Galligan, as well as new BCRFC additions Phil Albanese, Karl Danso, Aiden Blake, Boomer Twardak and Conor Hynes took the pitch for the

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Boston RSL side. Current BCRFC President Andrew Steck, Vice President Ted Brisbin and Social Chair Julian Collard-Seguino also saw action for the Boston Men's club. Despite what was ultimately a disappointing season, the BRFC looks forward to developing the relationship with BCRFC and helping BC ruggers take their game to the next level, before one day taking the pitch in black and gold.

## The Friends of B.C.R.F.C....

Announces they are now a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization! Those who plan on donating this upcoming year should plan on taking the tax credit. BC Rugby supporters interested in donating should contact: Greg Tarca, Treasurer Friends of B.C.R.F.C.

[gregoryptarca@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryptarca@gmail.com)

## Alumni News?

Contact BCRFC Alumni-Relations Secretary Peter Kerr ([peter.kerr.1@bc.edu](mailto:peter.kerr.1@bc.edu)) with any information, questions, or announcements for the next newsletter issue.

## Coach Goonan Promotes Youth Rugby through Play Rugby USA



**Boston, MA** - As the USA National team continues to improve the standards of Rugby across the country, Play Rugby USA is doing its part to introduce the sport to more and younger athletes, in an attempt to foster love for the game from an early age. Starting their fourth year of developing youth and introducing team sports in after-school programs in New York City, Play Rugby and BC Strength and Conditioning Coach Justin

Goonan are looking to expand Play Rugby by starting a similar program in Boston. Currently hosting 3 summer programs across Metro-Boston, the Boston branch of the non-profit organization aims to establish partnerships with after-school and community-based organizations. A few current BCRFC members are assisting their coach with weekend clinics and events, gaining valuable coaching and leadership experience while giving back to the rugby community and the Boston community. Additionally, BC Rugby will increase awareness and support for BCRFC from local youth programs attending games after their involvement. For more information about Play Rugby USA or to learn about different ways to become involved, visit their website at [www.playrugbyusa.com](http://www.playrugbyusa.com) or contact Coach Justin Goonan at [justin.goonan@playrugbyusa.com](mailto:justin.goonan@playrugbyusa.com).

## BCRFC Participates in After School Program



**Brighton, MA**- This spring, BCRFC renewed its partnership with St. Columbkille's after school program. Once a week, a group of 5 club members visited the school to engage 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in a variety of activities. St. Columbkille is a sister school of Boston College located in Brighton. The partnership between the two schools is an experimental collaboration that is designed to act as a model for other prominent Catholic Universities across the country. The staff at St. Columbkille hopes that through the partnership with BCRFC, these young students can be introduced to positive male role models. Both the students and the members of the club enjoyed playing a number of sports alongside each other. Community Service Director Michael Domanico plans to grow this program throughout the fall and into next spring.

## NERFU Restructured for Fall 2009

**Chestnut Hill, MA**- This past spring the eight schools of the Ivy League left their respective regional conferences in order to form an Ivy League Collegiate Rugby conference. As a result, NERFU Division I will lose Harvard, Dartmouth and Yale. While traditional rivalries between schools such as BC and West Point and their Ivy League competitors will be lost, the Ivy schools were drawn away by the exposure and support that the nationally recognized Ivy League is likely to create.

Following this shuffle and the additional relegation of Norwich University to Division II, NERFU Division I was suddenly missing half of its teams. Nonetheless, NERFU officials, coaches, and school administrators worked hard to find a quick and simple solution: although there are several New England clubs interested in joining the Division I, this fall's league will consist of four teams - BC, Northeastern, UConn and West Point. West Point, due to its historic dominance in conference play, will play each team only once, while the remaining three teams will play each other twice. The winners of the West Point games will receive double points to compensate. Fortunately, BC looks forward to stiff competition not only in the league play, but in the preseason as well with the Dartmouth

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Classic and a match against Middlebury College, the Division II National Champions. Locations are TBD and will be posted on [bc.edu/rugby](http://bc.edu/rugby) shortly. Make sure to come out and support the BCRFC Eagles!

## **BCRFC Fall 2009 Schedule**

<b>Aug 29</b>	Boston RSL at BC
<b>Sept 5-6</b>	Dartmouth Classic at Hanover, NH
<b>Sept 11</b>	BC at Middlebury
<b>Sept 26</b>	BC at UConn
<b>Oct 3</b>	Northeastern at BC
<b>Oct 10</b>	BYE
<b>Oct 17</b>	UConn at BC
<b>Oct 24</b>	BC at Northeastern
<b>Oct 31</b>	BC at Army

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