



PARENTS INFORMATION BROCHURE

PENN STATE RUGBY
BUILDING CHAMPIONS—SHAPING FUTURES

2006/07 SEASON

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PENN STATE RUGBY SUCCESS

- Penn State Rugby was formed in 1962
- The Women's Team has won 3 National Championships—1997, 2000 and 2004
- The Men have made the National Final 4 nine times since 1989
- Collegiate Rugby is the most popular club sport on US college campuses

WELCOME TO PENN STATE RUGBY

If you're reading this brochure it probably means that your son, daughter, friend or relative has chosen to be part of the unique experience that is Penn State Rugby. First, from all the coaches and staff, welcome to the team.

We have put this brochure together to give you some background information on the game of rugby and the program at Penn State and how you can show your support for the teams throughout the season.

We also want to use this opportunity to extend a per-

sonal invitation for you to contact us if you have any questions about any aspects of the program. Our contact details are listed on the back of the brochure.

Penn State Rugby was elevated from a "club sport" to a "team sport" in 2005. This enables rugby to gain access to additional university resources.

Once again, welcome to the club. We look forward to another great season and the an opportunity to meet you in person.



Tim Ryland represented Penn State at the North American 4 series in the summer.



Ali Bowman attacks Ohio State with Kate Daley at the Final Four in Stanford.

PENN STATE RUGBY MOVES FORWARD WITH TEAM SPORT STATUS

In 2005 Penn State recognized that rugby was different from other club sports and elevated it to a "team sport" along with Hockey. There is a team sport coordinator, Meg Handley, who is charged with the running of the rugby and hockey teams on campus.

The designation is new at Penn State so it has taken some time for the University to determine what benefits team sports will have. This year there are a number of big steps forward.

1. Athletic Injury Plan: The primary insurance will be billed first, then anything that

is not covered under that plan will be covered under the Athletic Injury Plan. This should elevate a financial burden on the students to get medical care as they will not have to pay for anything that happened during a Team Sport practice/game/travel.

2. Catastrophic Plan: Team Sports are now also under the athletic departments catastrophic plan which will give assistance in any major injury.

3. Rugby Office: Rugby now has an office on campus in the East Area Locker Building

4. Academic Advisor Program: With the support of Team Sports, the rugby alumni club has set up

an academic advisor program. All Freshmen, Transfer students and any struggling student athletes are required to meet with their academic advisors regularly.

5. Administrative Support: The team sports office supports the program with administrative help. This includes booking buses, hotels etc.

6. Varsity weight room. The University has recognized that rugby has specific strength and conditioning needs. Penn State Rugby get access to the varsity weight room and University strength and conditioning staff

PENN STATE RUGBY VISION

Penn State Rugby Vision

‘To become the premier rugby University in the United States, producing National Championship caliber teams and providing support, networks and opportunities that will develop successful students into the leaders of tomorrow.’



All-American Mike Petri, playing for the USA All-American Team in the summer of 2004. Mike transferred to Penn State because of the strength of the rugby program.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Penn State Rugby provides a number of exciting social and development opportunities for students. Due to the time spent together (both at training and traveling) and the nature of the game, players develop very strong friendship bonds that extend well beyond rugby. On a campus as large as Penn State it is important for students to have an identity and a support structure, and this is what Penn State Rugby provides.

The program also offers

unique development opportunities and experiences that normal student life will not offer. For example both the men’s and women’s teams have had the opportunity to travel to Europe during spring break to experience different countries and cultures and play against international teams. In the past 5 years Penn State Rugby has traveled to England, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy and Switzerland.

In addition the Penn State Rugby program provides

leadership opportunities for students, facilitates international student exchanges, provides access to alumni mentors and job networks, and provides academic advisors.

The Penn State Rugby vision states that we have 2 goals for the program. One is to produce championship caliber teams. The other, and just as important, is the development of the student-athlete “beyond rugby.”

“Thanks for the wonderful season and year. I now see why my daughter and the other players see the women’s rugby team as so special. The National Championship only adds to the awe. You are such a positive influence to the players and the parents. The coaches are true ambassadors to the game of rugby and life.” [Parent 03/04 season]

REPRESENTING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Penn State Rugby Teams have represented their University well over the years. Penn State is one of the most successful collegiate rugby programs in the US.

The women have made 12 out of the last 13 Final Fours and have won the National Championship three times.

The men have represented Penn State at 9 Final Fours in the last 15 years and losing 4 times in

the National Championship game to Cal-Berkeley, the only men’s varsity program in the country.

In the last 3 years Penn State Rugby has been on College Sports TV 6 times, including hosting the CSTV Fall Rugby Challenge in 2003.

Penn State had 6 Women and 5 Men honored as All-Americans last year. 5 Men and 7 Women from Penn State have played for the USA National Team.



The Penn State Women’s Team, 2004 National Champions

HISTORY OF THE GAME

Rugby was one of the first team sports invented in the English private schools to develop leadership skills in the students. The goal was to develop leaders who could grow the British Empire.

Often called the ultimate team sport, rugby forces players to make decisions both individually and as part of a group under pressure. It is a great activity to develop self-confidence, discipline and leadership skills.

The game of rugby was developed in England in 1823

when William Webb Ellis "with fine disregard for the rules of football" as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it, thus originating the distinctive feature of rugby.

Since then the game has developed into one of the most popular sports in the world. The top playing nations such as England, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and France all have fully developed professional leagues. England is the current world champion and

America has a very strong team that has consistently qualified for the World Cup finals.

Rugby has grown tremendously in US Colleges over the last decade and is now the most popular club sport on college campuses.

Penn State Men and Women play a league schedule in the fall. Their league determines their eligibility for spring playoffs that lead to the televised National Championships in May.



All-American Kim Magrini running with the ball against Ohio State at the Sweet 16s in 2003. Kim became vice-captain of the USA Women's U23 National Team and was on the USA Squad for the 2006 World Cup. Kim did not play rugby before college.

SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Academic Advisor Program

Penn State Rugby has initiated an academic advisor program for the rugby teams.

Medical Support

Penn State Rugby has access to the University Athletic Trainers at all practices and at most games. The rugby players have access to the same health insurance as varsity athletes.

Alumni Network

The experience that members of the Penn State Rugby Teams have will last them for the rest of their lives. The Penn State Rugby Alumni Association is organized as a non-profit and has over 1100 rugby alumni.

Alumni Mentoring

The Rugby Alumni Club works to have rugby alumni who are professionals available to advise current students as

they begin to transition from University life to the real world.

Alumni Job Network

Penn State Rugby Alumni are very loyal, and will always look to rugby players first to fill vacancies.

Both the Mentoring and the Job Network are recent additions to the Alumni support network.

In addition...we parents very much appreciate the "intelligent rugby" approach and [we] see much growth in self esteem and character in our kids; [This development is] so special and so lacking in our educational system today, more important than winning and yet it allows you to win every time. A heartfelt thank you to all involved." [Parent 03/04 season]

STAFF PROFILES

Penn State has many great volunteers that are involved with the program. All of them help with both the men and women.

Pete Steinberg

Pete has coached the Penn State women's team to 9 final fours in 10 years and 3 National Titles. Pete has served as the Director of the USA Women's National Team and the head coach of the USA Women's National U23 Team. This past summer Pete was selected as head coach of the USA Hawks, one of the developmental teams

on the USA Men.

Don Ferrell

Don has been involved with Penn State Rugby for 8 years, the last two as the head coach. In 2006 Don was selected as a coach to the All-American team. Don is the USA Men's U19 National Team Assistant coach and has been to 4 World Cups with the U19 team. Don was a star football player and played linebacker at Lehigh University.

Terry Ryland

Terry just stepped down as the head coach of the Men after 10 very successful years that included 7 appearances at the Final 4. Terry has been involved with Penn State Rugby for over 30 years as a player and a coach. Terry has been a coach for the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate All-Stars and a selector and coach of the All-American Team.

Jim Mathias

Jim has been a coach with the Women's Team since

2001 and was instrumental in the 2004 National Championship. Jim played rugby at Penn State in the mid-80s and has been a significant supporter of both the Men's and Women's team.

Joe Pullara

Joe is an All-American flanker that graduated from Penn State in 1999. Joe went on to play for the Chicago Lions in the Super League. Joe works with the men and women's team.



3-time All-American Diana Klein runs with the ball against Princeton in the National Championship game in 2004. Diana played rugby in high school and was a USA U19 National Team player. She chose Penn State because of the rugby program.

Contact Information

Women’s Team—Pete Steinberg, pete@psurugby.org
 Men’s Team—Don Ferrell, daf4@psu.edu

PARENTS CONNECTION

PARENTS WEBSITE

We are developing a parents section on the Penn State Rugby website. The site provides specific information such as game locations and directions, contact information. To visit the site simply go to the main website www.psurugby.org and click on the ‘parents and friends’ link.

PARENTS SUPPORT NETWORK

In addition we have set up 2 email groups, one for the Men’s team and one for

the Women’s team. These groups provide the ability for parents to communicate directly with each other. If you would like to be added to the one of the lists please send an email to info@psurugby.org.

MERCHANDISE

We have a range of Penn State Rugby merchandise including t-shirts, shorts, playing jerseys etc available for purchase. You are able to purchase merchandise online at

www.psurugby.org

These Penn State Men’s Team from 1994 (right) and 2004 (left) gives you the sense of bonding that rugby teams can have.



| Date | | Men | Date | Women |
|---------------|----|-------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| August | 24 | Camp | 24 | Camp |
| | 26 | Alumni | 26 | Alumni |
| Sept | 1 | Scrimmage | 1 | Scrimmage |
| | 9 | At Kutztown | | Open |
| | 16 | GMU | 15-17 | At Beantown |
| | 23 | At Towson | 24 | Westchester |
| | 30 | TBA | | TBA |
| Oct | 6 | IUP | 7 | At Princeton |
| | 14 | At Loyola | 14 | Vassar |
| | 21 | At Maryland | 21 | At American |
| | 28 | Ohio State | 29 | Mason Dixon At Annapolis |
| Nov | 4 | Navy | | TBA |
| | | | 12 | Navy |

WENEED YOUR HELP!

Traditionally we have asked the parents to help with hosting both the Penn State team and the visiting team at home games. Often parents come to away games with food for the team after the match. We would like to thank all the parents that have helped out last year.

This year we need help selling merchandising as well at home games. You will get regular updates from the team via the parent listserve, and please consider responding and helping out when you can.