

# News from the Scrum



**St. Joseph's Prep Rugby Football Club**  
1733 W. Girard Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

## Prep Rugby Mission Statement:

*The Mission of St. Joseph's Prep Rugby is to provide a consistently positive and winning program to the young men of St. Joseph's Prep which fosters teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship on and off the rugby pitch.*

## Canterbury of New Zealand Kit

For the 2008-2009 Season, Prep Rugby will be sporting new Canterbury of New Zealand kits. Canterbury NZ is the premier outfitter of on-field rugby worldwide. With all the effort and energy our guys have put into Prep Rugby, we felt we owed them nothing less than the best. Canterbury NZ will be outfitting the full kit: shorts, socks, jerseys... even rugby boots (spikes)! At the Welcome Back Parent night (see ahead in this issue) we will be inviting our representative to explain the options for the new kits, as well as offer off-field Prep Rugby wear.

As a first step, to help commemorate the 2008 Championship Season, #7 in the USA Na-

tional Rugby High School Play-offs, Prep Rugby has commissioned Canterbury NZ to create two sets of jerseys: one crimson and one grey.

The material is a lighter weight jersey, not as heavy as the traditional cotton weight jerseys. So, while this jersey is game ready, it is also casual enough to wear off the field.

As can be seen, the logo is on the left chest, while the Canterbury NZ logo is on the right. On the right sleeve is the wording:

2008

EPRU H.S. Champions  
#7 National Playoffs



In order to have them arrive in time for the Alumni Game, there are no numbers, but they can easily be stitched on later.

These jerseys are available for general sale to all; there are 22 jerseys in crimson, and 22 in grey. Purchase is available currently through Mr. Farren, and will shortly be available through the SJP Bookstore.

## Alumni Game 2008

Prep Rugby is preparing to host a friendly Alumni Game on Black Friday, the Friday after Thanksgiving. This game is open to all alumni of the Prep who played rugby, either for Prep RFC or for their college teams... or even after college.

We are waiting for the permit for Fairmount Park, Memorial Hall

Field, but we expect to receive that shortly.

Time is scheduled for about **10:00 a.m.** If there is a problem, we'll spread the word.

We are unsure of numbers, so we are making this a casual day.. While some people may head over to Tír na Nóg Irish Restaurant, there is nothing "official" in

place. We do, however, hope to make this an annual event, which will be a great way to reconnect with grads, friends and enjoy a game of rugby.

[On a side note, if anyone would like to referee, we would like to welcome you do so!](#)

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## Special points of interest:

- *Welcome Back Parent Night is scheduled for December 2 at 5:30*
- *Canterbury of New Zealand will be providing our new 2009 team kit*

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## Welcome Back Parent Night

Hard to believe, but we are getting ready to kick off the 2009 season in just a few short months. For this Fall, we once again had some voluntary, student led workouts. There were some sessions at the pitch, but these are currently in the Prep Weight room. These are a good way for players not participating in other sports to stay in shape, and for new guys to come to know the rugby players and

begin to learn the rules of the game.

Of course, for parents, we are having our Welcome Back Night on December 2 at 5:30. At this meeting, we'll update where we are in preparation for the 2009 season, we'll welcome parents of interested players, we'll, well, you get the picture.

We'll have some light refreshments. Normally, this meeting takes about an hour, but with the addition of the new kit information from Canterbury NZ, it will probably be closer to 2 (plus some minutes) hours.

We hope to see you there.

## Prep Rugby Gear 2009: Canterbury NZ

Prep Rugby has seen great strides in our four years of existence, entering the EPRU in Division III in 2005 to winning the High School Championship in 2008 and going to the USA Rugby National High School Play-offs.

Clearly, we have had great student athletes.

As a gesture to their efforts, Prep Rugby is moving towards a new team kit with Canterbury of New Zealand, the premier provider of rugby wear. At the Welcome Back Night, our Canterbury NZ representative Doug will be on hand to discuss the 2009 kit (on field) as well as the hoodies,



warm-ups, etc

(off field) gear available for the 2009 season.



Players are encouraged to attend this meeting, as well, as Doug will be taking foot measurements for players who wish to purchase rugby specific boots (spikes).

## Beef—n—Beer Fundraiser

One of the more enjoyable aspects of being a member of Prep Rugby are the Beef-n-Beers.

B-n-B's have so many benefits. We are able to raise funds for the team, which we use to help offset the costs to the team of playing fields and field equipment, as well as to help our

players have the best experience possible. On top of that, we have been fortunate to be able to have our B-n-B's at Tír na Nóg Irish Restaurant in Center City Philadelphia.

The original plan was to try to have one about now, but we decided to put

it off until after the New Year as we prepare to kick-off the season.

We will announce the date shortly, and we hope to see all of you there.

More details to follow...

## Prep Scarves, Ties for Sale

Prep Rugby works hard, but we also try to enjoy ourselves. As part of that, one aspect of the team that players have long enjoyed is our team gear. We like to say that we are the best dressed team at the Prep—if not the most outfitted.

To that end, last year, we initiated two gear items to promote the team: ties

and scarves. The ties were part of the team dress code for the Ireland Tour 2008, and the guys looked great in their blue blazers with the team tie.

The scarves carry on the soccer and rugby tradition in other countries of fans and supporters wearing team colors to games and outside events.

Both are available for the price of \$20, with all proceeds going to Prep Rugby.

Contact Coach Farren for more information.



## Alumni Updates and Notes

We love to hear what's been going on with our alumni, recent grads and older alumni. So, all you Prep Rugby alumni, send us updates.

Of course, we can all stay connected with:

- Facebook: St. Joseph's Prep Rugby group
- LinkedIn: St. Joseph's Prep Rugby group

**Join us!**

[Current updates:](#)

Here are some '08 grads playing and making an immediate impact on their college A and B Side teams (in alpha order):

- Kevin Campbell, JMU
- Colin Curtin, BC
- Nolan Grady, Gonzaga, WA

- Ryan Gregory, Scranton
- Brian Kane, Marquette
- Marty O'Shaughnessy, Fairfield
- Dan Rowley, Pitt
- Trey Sikahema, BYU
- Josias Sterling, Temple
- Bryan Thompson: WVU
- Mike Wielgus, Scranton

If we are missing someone, please let Coach Farren know and the update will be here.

We know not all are here, but if you would like to be included here, let us know and we'll find a way to mention your college rugby highlights.

*... to the whistle in any weather, fellas!*

## Service / Fundraising Opportunity

Prep Rugby has a double opportunity this Fall. In the past, players have volunteered to rake leaves at someone's house for several hours on a Saturday. That person then donates money to the team (they generally also feed the hard workers!).

Lou Farren, Sr—the father of Coach Farren—LOVED this idea and wants to have it again. He needs about 4-6 players to rake leaves for about 4-5 hours. If players are interested in helping out they can help raise money for the team and Coach Farren will talk to Mr. Deitch about Service Hours. It's a win-win. [Interested players should contact Coach Farren a.s.a.p.](#) as Mr. Lou Farren would like players this coming weekend.

If this idea strikes you as a good idea for your yard, contact Coach Farren and some players will be rounded up to help you clean the yard and help the team raise some funds. Thanks!

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### Prep Rugby Slogan

2007: *Any Game, Any Weather, Any Time*

2008: *... to the whistle!*

2009: ... ?

— *What will 2009's be?*

*We're on the web  
(currently working to update):*

*[www.thepreprfc.com](http://www.thepreprfc.com)*

*Also, check us out on Facebook and LinkedIn*

### Prep Rugby Philosophy Statement:

*The Philosophy of Prep RFC is that rugby is a sport intended to be enjoyed by its players, their families and their supporters.*

*The basics of the sport, including the rules, the traditions, the history and the culture, will be taught to any player who shows a genuine interest in learning the game and becoming part of the team.*

*The coaches will conduct practice in the positive, disciplined manner of a Jesuit high school athletic program. The team concept is encouraged and fostered through practice, team attitude and activities. At the same time, in the off-season, other sports are encouraged for the players as a means of diversifying their talents, their agility and athleticism, and to prevent "burn-out".*

*The rugby philosophy encourages each player to achieve a level of success that equals his individual and team potential.*



## Prep Rugby looking for 2009 Sponsors

Prep Rugby has been blessed to have great support throughout our existence, and a key to the team's success has been our sponsors.

Our players have always felt part of a team and not simply a "club". This helped them to build confidence, and to know they were working towards an achievable goal, one in which others had faith in their ability to achieve. It sounds simple enough, but it is one of the intangibles that help create a team and great team community.

For the 2009 Season, we are again looking for sponsors. A more formalized structure will be set out shortly, but if you are willing to help the team and the players in their quest to continue to establish Prep Rugby as a premier team both at the Prep and in the East Penn Rugby Union, please contact either Coach Tom Farren, Sr. or Coach Brian McCloskey.

On a similar note, we are beginning to organize for the season and our home games. As of now, we do not have a current schedule for 2009. Once we

have that schedule, we will be able to prepare more accurately the various aspects of the season. We will post the information as soon as it is furnished to us from the EPRU administration.

We can't wait for the season to start, and we look forward to catching up and enjoying another great Prep Rugby season!