



NEWSLETTER

Play Rugby USA™ NEWSLETTER

No 8, Winter Wrap Up 2008

It's been a little while since the last Play Rugby USA ® newsletter but that doesn't mean that things have been quiet, in fact just the opposite! The winter season has seen some fantastic events, new program partners experiencing the fun flag rugby can offer and the development of some exciting new projects for play rugby that will create more opportunity's for every body involved in coaching, playing or just interested in rugby to find out more about the game and share rugby experiences and knowledge.

TEAM TALK

This is the second year that Play Rugby has teamed up with CHAMPS (ran by the NYC Department of Education in conjunction with the Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation) to offer flag rugby to schools in the New York area. 16 schools seized the opportunity to take part in this program and underwent a 10 week mentoring scheme, led by our expert coaches, to learn and experience flag rugby and the fun students can have playing it, all while developing the core principles of team work, discipline, respect and camaraderie. All these ideals were shown in abundance at the CHAMPS/Play Rugby USA® culminating tournaments held on Sunday 9th March and Sunday 16th March at Leheman HS in the Bronx and Franklin HS in Brooklyn, respectively. These tournaments were a great success, with some schools entering more than one



team, and to see a smile on every ones face from the students playing to their coaches and parents cheering them on. For many of these students it was their first opportunity to participate in a competitive event representing their school in any sport.



MS345 CHAMPS Tournament – Bronx Winners



THANK YOU! FROM PLAY RUGBY AND CHAMPS:

A district 75 (Special Education District) tournament also took place with 3 teams and over 40 students taking part. Play Rugby and CHAMPS would like to thank ★ **Mr Bill Stimpfle** and ★ **PS169** for hosting this fantastic event in it 1st year.

COMMUNITY RUGBY

Rugby is “Springing” up all over New York at the moment, with some great opportunities to participate in or watch flag rugby and it’s big brother rugby union: New schools are taking their first steps on the rugby ladder; we are creating Sunday rugby clubs; re-running our Wednesday league, and arranging field trips and curtain raisers to local National Super League matches.

➔ **Two Play Rugby USA @ Sunday clubs** are starting up this spring, kicking off in early April, in Harlem and on the Lower East Side. These clubs are available to any student that has participated in a Play Rugby USA @ program and also to beginners to rugby wanting to learn more and play this exciting sport, with permission slips from parents/guarians. Please contact us for further details.

➔ **The two NYC based super league teams (Old Blue and NYAC)** are in action this spring. Entry to their games are free for Play Rugby USA @ students and their parents. Again please get in contact to find out more information about their home games.

DATE:	GAME:
04.12.08	Old Blue New York Rugby football Club – New York Athletic Club
05.03.08	Old Blue New York Rugby Football Club – Chicago Griffins
04.05.08	New York Athletic Club – Belmont Shore
04.19.08	New York Athletic Club – Dallas
04.26.08	New York Athletic Club – Philly White Marsh



PROGRAM SUPPORT



Play rugby USA® is in the final stages of developing **The Play Rugby Club** - an Online Rugby Education Portal for children, parents and teachers looking to share knowledge and learn more about the game. This will be done with the aid of local and international multimedia clips of rugby games, drills and fun practices, annotated and reviewed by expert coaches to assist in the learning process. Students will also get the chance to ask world rugby stars questions about their experiences and ask for tips on improving their skills. Custom profiles for each student can be produced to allow them to upload their own media files and interact with other members from around the world.

Don't miss the next Play Rugby Newsletter for more details on The Play Rugby Club.

Donate – It costs less than \$6000 to support a Play Rugby program for a full school year. To make a donation please visit: <http://playrugbyusa.com/supporters/donate.html>

Questions / Comments / Suggestions / Contact:

Mark Griffin Founder / President Play Rugby, Inc. **T:** 212 851 8858 **E:** mark.griffin@playrugbyusa.com

Christian Mayo Director of Programs Play Rugby, Inc. **T:** 212 851 8859 **E:** christian.mayo@playrugbyusa.com