



Coaches Corner Issue #6

Spring 2011



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR SUCCESSFUL FALL 2010 CAMPAIGN INCLUDED:

- Record turnout of 45 student athletes registered with USA Rugby
- Record funding from student government, augmenting players dues and donation funding, allowing for bus travel to all away venues
- Recognition by University as one of the best organizations on campus with extensive community service commitments, highlighted by annual parents weekend "Pink Jersey Game", raising \$5,000 plus for American Cancer Society
- Although official record of 1-4, we matched up against Kutztown (College Premier Division, National Ranked) and 3 Division 1 opponents, and we're in playoff pool through our final match. By "playing up" we improved individually and as a team, preparing us greatly for the revamped Fall 2011 USA Rugby Collegiate schedule, with, for first time, true parity for premier (Elite) Division, D1, D2, D3 competition
- Establishment of directed gift funding in conjunction with the University Development office, allowing for 501.c.3 tax deductible gifting with funds directly to men's rugby

ALUMNI WEEKEND APRIL 29/30, 2011

With record turnout in 2010 for the 25th Anniversary of the Scranton Norsemen, our Alumni Association is planning on holding a golf outing at the Blue Ridge Trails Golf Club on Friday April 29. An alumni/team combined dinner at the University, Friday evening, followed by the annual alumni game on Saturday April 30. More detail will be posted soon, but save the date and plan to attend.

USA RUGBY; POSITIVE CHANGES FOR COLLEGIATE RUGBY

It is a documented statistic that Rugby is the most participated in activity on college campuses today, as well as being the fastest growing high school sport in the USA. The sport is well past the characterization of a loosely organized party based activity; all teams must comply with standards set by USA Rugby or will be ineligible to exist. Rugby will be part of the 2016 Olympics. The Collegiate Rugby Championships on June 4/5, 2011 in Philadelphia will receive 8 hours of primetime coverage by NBC sports. Bottom line is that Rugby is now a mainstream sport in the USA, and all organizations, competitions, and participation will reflect this model.

Starting spring 2011, the CPD (College Premier Division), begins formal competition on NCAA style format, currently with 31 "Elite" programs. Also, NCAA Division 1 competition also begins, with a transition from traditional Rugby "Unions" (geographical) towards traditional NCAA model of leagues and divisions.

In fall 2011, the University of Scranton will play a true Division 2 schedule in an 8 team league, providing more matches and better parity against peer schools. Schedule will include: Villanova, Drexel, Bloomsburg, TCNJ, York, Lafayette and East Stroudsburg. In past years we have competed on a 6 team division with 5 games, 3 of which were against division 1 teams. Although the University of Scranton is not NCAA Division 2 in varsity sport programs, the men's rugby club opted to play "UP" as allowed for in USA Rugby guidelines.