



Des Moines Rugby Football Club

# The Mauler

[WWW.DESMOINESRUGBY.COM](http://WWW.DESMOINESRUGBY.COM)

## Letter from the Des Moines Men's President

I'm looking forward to setting a more stable foundation for Des Moines rugby and I believe that we have the right people in place to spring board to where we feel that we should be. With the newly created Executive Committee, consisting of Men's and Women's officers, we have already established many ways to create a positive image within the community including blood drives and a charity concert event downtown. We are also planning on participating in the Drake Relays parade in April. We have been given the opportunity to practice indoors this winter, so we will not be behind once the season starts from having to be outside in freezing weather.

We have also created a social committee to plan on at least one social activity per month for the team to develop a strong brotherhood. We have had a poker night and are planning a team dinner before our first game in March. Stay up to date with our new calendar of events located on our website. This is an easy way to know the happenings of Des Moines rugby. Our schedule is also on the website. Please plan on attending home matches for all Des Moines teams as it is great to see the fan support on Saturdays. We have an exciting spring season ahead of us and I'm looking forward to many successes!

## Field Usage

The snow is starting to melt and we are starting to see sign of grass peeking through our fields. I know the urge from everyone is to get outside and play in the mud, but I will re-emphasize that whatever we do to our fields right now, we have to deal with the entire season.

Case in point is going out while the ground is still wet/muddy and practicing. This will create ruts, holes, uneven surface that once dried can blow a knee or an ankle out. This goes for both of the fields and all teams. We want to present a good playing surface for matches for all teams, thus please resist the urge to get on our fields right now.

While the snow continues to melt and ground becomes a little more dried, I suggest that teams that are practicing outside to go to the fields on 50th st or to find another section of grassy area near the clubhouse so that our fields may allow to get the moisture they need and maintain a smoother playing surface.

If you must practice on our fields, please walk AROUND the main field, not through the middle, as you make your way to the second field. Also, don't practice in the same area more than once in a row...move around so that the ground has time to "heal."

# Des Moines Rugby Foundation

2008 will be a big year for the Rugby Foundation. Topics include:

1. Further defining of procedures regarding use of the facilities. Foundation needs to appoint a new Master Scheduler (probably John Jungling & Molly) as well as a Groundskeeper (Jeff McHenry) and Interim Director while Scooter serves his country in Iraq (possibly Ron Gottl again or Ted Grauer?). Anyone wanting to use the facilities needs to understand that EVERYTHING needs to be approved with the Master Scheduler including rugby practices and games, additional events (meetings, fundraisers, clinics, etc.) so that John & Molly know when the clubhouse can be rented out to private groups. Be sure to get your confirmation from John or Molly in writing (an e-mail is sufficient) and keep a copy. The Foundation will get involved, if necessary, to settle disputes.

2. Possible contract with a charter bus company for road trips. We will not commit any DM team to using them, but will try to get the best price possible. And that will depend on how big of a commitment we're willing to make. I'll probably rent buses to take girls on road trips to St Louis, Minneapolis & Elkhart, Indiana (twice). If the men, women or boys are also interested, lets coordinate through the Foundation / Youth Booster Club (Todd & Susan Thompson). If we all use the same bus company, we'll get a better price.

3. Expansion of Youth Rugby Program. Paul Damge and I will work on expanding the present boys high school and girls U-19 programs. We are also going to start talking to Middle School Athletic Directors about introducing club rugby in the middle schools (possibly as early as 2009). If you're interested in helping develop either program or coaching. Let Paul (261-0504) or Phil (274-1232) know. The limiting factor on program expansion is, most of all, getting volunteers. If we can find one ruggers to work with a middle school, we can teach parents the basics of rugby in the off-season (Fall) to handle the brunt of the coaching (similar to the development of soccer in the '70s). We can also get them certified.

If we're going to have more rugby teams and want to control the situation, we'll need to develop additional fields for practices and games. If you want to help in this area, let Phil know. There IS room to expand around Bartlett/Windsor Rugby Complex, plus other areas around the DM area.

To expand both our programs and facilities will take money. As a 501 c 3, we CAN write grants (i.e. Prairie Meadows or Polk County) as well as seeking pledges from present and former players. We could also organize regular fundraising socials at Windsor Hall (poker nights). Again, if you're interested in helping, call Phil Kaser (cell = 681-6956 or home=274-1232).

## Play Rugby? Give Blood!

### One Pint Can Make a Difference...

Des Moines Rugby Donor Day!

Saturday, March 8, 2008

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Blood Center of Iowa

431 East Locust

Des Moines, IA 50309

To schedule an appointment contact

Beth Kostic at

[elizabeth.kostic@pioneer.com](mailto:elizabeth.kostic@pioneer.com)

#### Fun Facts:

- 32,000 units of blood are used each day in the United States
- The Blood Center of Iowa services 49 hospitals in 44 Iowa counties
- 60% of the population is eligible to donate ~ yet only 5% do!

#### Donors must:

- Be in general good health
- Weigh at least 120 lbs.
- Eat a good meal prior to donation
- Be at least 16 years old with signed Blood Center consent form

Please bring Blood Donor ID card or Photo ID

# The Wildlife of Des Moines

## Girls U-19 rugby club

Clubside - this will be a big year in Des Moines as we start a new parents' Booster Club (boys and girls parents) to help us improve efficiency and expand. Parents will take over responsibility for most administrative functions. Ray Keith, Eric Stimple, Marty Davis, Bob Brooks and I will handle coaching. We'll start an ambitious schedule with trips to St Louis, Kansas City, Minneapolis and Elkhart, Indiana (our first Midwest Tournament). We'll also restart our two day festival, and with 3 fields (including 50th St.) we can host up to 24 girls U-19 teams for three games each. We're also planning three buffet style meals and a Sat. night dance at the Palace Theatre at Adventureland Park. Des Moines Rugby Club has some of the finest club-owned facilities in the US and we plan to start hosting regional and national events.

## Our schedule

Monday, March 3rd - practices start on Monday and Wednesday nights from 5 - 7 pm. First two weeks at Val Air Ballroom.

Sat. March 29th - hosting Davenport boys & girls and Muscatine girls in Des Moines.

Sat/Sun April 5 & 6 - travel to St Louis tournament and play in inaugural Girls Division.

Sat/Sun April 12 & 13 - Hosting our Midwest Challenge - two day girls festival in Des Moines. Sat. night dinner-dance.

Sat. April 19th - triangular in Kansas City with KC Dragons and Westside U-20 (Omaha).

Sat/Sun April 26 & 27 - Annual weekend in Minneapolis - We'll play Orono one day and Armstrong the other.

Sat & Sun May 3 & 4 - may be open weekend for club as new Iowa U-19 All-star team (featuring several DM girls) plays in womens division of All-Iowa tournament in Iowa Falls.

Sat May 10 - host Burnsville (Mpls) boys & girls and Ames boys in Ames. If we can attract some new Ames girls to play, this will be their first "home" games.

Sat & Sun May 10 & 11 - first trip to Elkhart, Indiana to play in Midwest Girls Clubside tournament.

Sat. June 7th - Post season banquet at Outback Steakhouse in Ankeny.

## All-stars

This marks our first year for Iowa Girls U-19 Selectside (all-stars). We recruited Lib Caplan as Head Coach (former All-American at UNI and played in Womens World Cup in Portugal) and Sara Hillebrand (ISU womens Head Coach, 2007 Div II national Champions and UNI teammate and fellow All-American at UNI) as assistant. Ray Keith and I will also assist and handle administration. We held our first tryout camps last Fall as we form a team for the Midwest All-star championships in Elkhart, Indiana on Sat & Sun, June 14 & 15. We'll enter a team in the womens division of the All-Iowa Tournament May 3 & 4 to get three practice games together.

Last fall Ashton Steinke, former Muscatine and present Des Moines # 8, made the Midwest team that attended the National Tournament in Nashville, TN Nov 17 & 18 - a national championship won by the Midwest girls. This fall we hope to send more Des Moines girls to the Midwest tryouts (possibly hosted in Des Moines).

## Sponsorship

Our youth teams always host a social with dinner after home games. If you know of a restaurant that might be willing to sell us take-out for 50 or more at cost (or less), send Phil ([pkaser13@aol.com](mailto:pkaser13@aol.com)) a name and contact number. Also, if you know any companies that would consider being a Corporate Sponsor for our youth program, let me know. Last, the National Guard is a national sponsor of USA Youth Rugby. If you have a good contact among the decision makers at the Iowa National Guard, our Booster Club would like to talk to them about helping sponsor either the Des Moines Youth or Iowa Select Sides.

## Complete Schedule of All Des Moines Rugby Teams

Men – Blue  
 Women – Black  
 HS Boys – White  
 HS Girls - Pink

2008 Spring Schedule					
Date	Side	Location	Opponent	Result	Score
03-08	High School Boys	Des Moines	Intrasquad Scrimmage		
03-15	Men's A	Omaha, Neb	Omaha Goats		
03-15	High School Boys	Des Moines	Alumni Match		
03-22			Easter		
03-29	Men's A	Wayne, Neb	Wayne State Tournament		
03-29	Women	Wayne, Neb	Wayne State Tournament		
03-29	High School Boys	Des Moines	Davenport Central		
03-29	High School Girls	Kansas City, MO	KC Dragons		
03-30	Men's A	Wayne, Neb	Wayne State Tournament		
03-30	Women	Wayne, Neb	Wayne State Tournament		
04-05	Men's A	Cedar Rapids	Cedar Rapids Headhunters		
04-05	Women	Des Moines	Omaha		
04-05	High School Boys	Iowa Falls	Iowa Falls		
04-05	High School Girls	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis Tournament		
04-06	High School Girls	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis Tournament		
04-12	Men's A	Dubuque, IA	Gentleman of Dubuque		
04-12	Women	Lincoln, Neb	Lincoln City Women		
04-12	High School Girls	Des Moines	High School Girls Festival		
04-13	High School Boys	Des Moines	Pearl City Colts		
04-13	High School Girls	Des Moines	High School Girls Festival		
04-19	Men's A	Des Moines	St. Paul Jazz Pigs		
04-19	Women	Des Moines	South Dakota University		
04-20	High School Boys	Des Moines	East High		
04-26	Men's A @ 1130 am	Des Moines	University of Nebraska-Omaha		
04-26	Men's A @ 230 pm	Des Moines	Illinois State University		
04-26	Women @ 100 pm	Des Moines	Will County Morigans		
04-26	High School Boys	Iowa Falls	All-Iowa High School Tournament		

04-26	High School Girls	Minnesota	Minnesota Girls Tournament		
04-27	High School Girls	Minnesota	Minnesota Girls Tournament		
05-03	Men's A	Iowa Falls	All-Iowa Tournament		
05-03	High School Boys	Kansas City, MO	Kansas City Tournament		
05-03	Women	Iowa Falls	All-Iowa		
05-03	High School Girls	Iowa Falls	All-Iowa Tournament		
05-04	Men's A	Iowa Falls	All-Iowa Tournament		
05-04	Women	Iowa Falls	All-Iowa		
05-04	High School Boys	Kansas City, MO	Kansas City Tournament		
05-04	High School Girls	Iowa Falls	All-Iowa Tournament		
05-10	Men's A	Elburn, ILL	Fox Valley RFC Tournament		
05-10	Women		OPEN		
05-10	High School Boys	Story City, IA	Story City		
05-17	Women	Des Moines	KC Jazz B /Twin City Amazons B		
06-21	High School Boys and Girls	U19 and U17 Tournaments	???		
06-22	High School Boys and Girls	U19 and U17 Tournaments	???		