

Charlotte Catholic High School Rugby Club
Press Release
11/20/08
Subject: Varsity Rugby

After four years of developing the structure and play of the club, as well as fostering a positive relationship with the school, The CCHS Rugby Club in Charlotte, NC has been recognized as a Varsity sport at Charlotte Catholic High School. This will be the first Varsity Rugby program in North Carolina, due in no small part to the support of Principle Gerald Healy and Athletic Director Kevin Christmas. In the four years the club has been in existence, it has consistently placed near the top of the Carolina Youth Rugby League, winning the state championship once. In addition, there have been players such as Joseph Cowley and Jeff Levasseur who have achieved national representative honors at U-17 and U-19 levels, as well as many others who have been selected to represent North Carolina in the annual All-Star challenges.

The club began when CCHS students Michael Felts, Luke Rayson, Matt Suttoni, and Ross Rebhan found out that their history teacher, Mr. Keane, was a rugby player. They persuaded now Head Coach – and Captain of Super League Club Charlotte – Brendan Keane, to get the club going, and with great support from the players and their parents, the program has been building ever since. The club now boasts over 40 current players and over 50 alumni, many of whom are now playing for universities around the southeast.

In being awarded Varsity status, the club hopes to achieve a new level of prestige and cooperation both within the CCHS athletic community and without. Hopefully it will raise the visibility of the club, the sport, and its players on the local and national levels and help some parents and students who have not done so before give rugby a chance as a legitimate Varsity athletic accomplishment. In doing so, this new status helps to position the club and players for opportunities, both locally and nationally, in high school and beyond. It should also be helpful in the area of financing the club, with the school giving more support, providing more avenues to raise money, and again a special status with which to approach those interested in sponsoring high school athletics.

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