



# News Release

For immediate release

## **Media Contact**

Alan Ainsworth  
MARF  
[awa@phenet.net](mailto:awa@phenet.net)  
952-818-3377

## **State High Schools Rugby Championships this Weekend**

### ***Over 750 Girls and Boys players meet at NSC Blaine for the premier rugby event of the year***

**Twin Cities, Minnesota** – June 2008 – This weekend, June 7-8<sup>th</sup>, over 750 of the State's best girl and boy rugby players will gather at the National Sport Center in Blaine to decide the top high school teams in Minnesota. Fifty teams from the twin cities plus travelling teams from Duluth and Faribault will compete in five championship brackets.

The finals will be held throughout the day on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> in the main bowl stadium. The Girls U-19 championship game is at 11:30am, followed by the Boys U-17 game at 1:00pm and finally the Boys U-19 championship at 5:30pm.

The event is expected to draw a crowd of over 10,000 during the weekend. "This is the showcase for Minnesota high school rugby involving the top players in the state – both boys and girls," said Rob Clarno, president of MARF (Minnesota Amateur Rugby Association). "Many of these players have represented the USA in International competition and will be going on to play at both the college and club levels. In all we had over 50 teams playing rugby at the high school level this season representing over 1600 players and the sport continues to grow quickly."

Some of the Internationally recognized players include Katie Johnson, 16, a Hopkins player, who has played several games for US U-19 women's squads since the tender age of 15. The boys are represented by Jordan Judd, Rogers for the U-17 Eagles and Andrew Hanske, Minnetonka and Alex Agate, Hopkins who play for the U-19 Eagles squad. Hanske will be playing in Florida for the U-19 team against Canada and Wales this coming month.

Tickets for the championship games on Sunday can be purchased at the NSC stadium in Blaine- \$10 each, children 12 and under get in FREE.

For more information on the championships, match brackets etc. please check the MARF web site at <http://www.marfrugby.org/>

**About the Minnesota Amateur Rugby Foundation (MARF)**

The Minnesota Amateur Rugby Foundation (MARF) is a charitable foundation committed to fostering, and supporting the development of national and international amateur rugby in Minnesota. Since its inception the foundation has maintained a 501(C)3 status as a charitable organization. This provides for the raising and distribution of tax-exempt funds in support of local youth rugby programs, referees, and toward players representing Minnesota in National and International competition.

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**Action from the 2007 Girl's Final between Wayzata and Orono**



**Action from the 2007 Boy's Final between Hopkins and Southside**