

**BERKSHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
271 Barker Road
Pittsfield, MA 01201**

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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**BERKSHIRE RUGBY ESTABLISHING A HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAM**

(Pittsfield, MA) The Berkshire Rugby Football Club (BRFC) is pleased to announce that it is establishing a special program for Berkshire County high school age students. The program is designed to introduce young people to the game of rugby, which is one of the world's most popular sports. Commenting on the program's establishment, David Colli, current BRFC's Senior Men's Team captain and coach, stated, "we have been contacted by a number of local high school physical education (PE) teachers who have been incorporating rugby into their classroom curriculum. They've told us that many students have expressed enthusiasm about the sport and are now eager to play competitively. This is consistent with what USA Rugby, our sports national governing body, is finding throughout the country, and the BRFC will establish our program in keeping our national governing body's guidelines and standards." Colli continued, "BRFC has registered the team to play in the New England Rugby Football Union (NERFU) Under 19 (U-19) Division. We will begin to schedule games for the team so they can compete in NERFU's spring 2008 season.

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BRFC will host information sessions for students and their parents in Pittsfield and Great Barrington. The first session will be on January 24 at 6 pm at Taconic High School in Pittsfield. The second session will be on January 31 at 6 pm at Monument Mountain High School in Great Barrington.

James Hurley, BRFC President noted that “the Club has asked former players and coaches Josh Weeks and Tony King to assist with coaching the U-19 team”. Weeks has taught Physical Education in the Pittsfield School System for 21 years. From 2003 to 2006, he served as the Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics for the System and has coached Varsity Girls Basketball, Track and Field, and Swimming during his tenure with the schools. He is the first teacher in the Berkshires to implement rugby into the school curriculum, and started an after school program in 2006. He played with the BRFC from 1981 to 2002. King began playing rugby at Springfield College, where he captained the team in 1974 and 1975. He has played for a number of Division I rugby clubs throughout the country, and was the captain and coach of the BRFC between 1979 and 1983, when the team competed in NERFU's Division II League. He has been a certified Red Cross water safety and swimming instructor, and coached youth soccer and baseball. Hurley added that “we are very grateful to Tony and Josh for helping us get this program off the ground”.

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Students who participate will pay a \$60 registration fee, which will cover uniforms, insurance, twice-weekly practices, and games. For more information, contact e-mail awood@northampton-k12.us or phone Tony King at 443-9865 or Luke Bloom, BRFC Recruitment Specialist and Monument Mountain High School Physical Education teacher at 413-281-2526.

Additional information is also available at the Berkshire Rugby Football Club web site www.berkshirerugby.com

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