



International Rugby Academy

Newsletter of the International Rugby Academy

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IRANZ Goes Global

When a rugby team is on a roll, everything is possible. There is momentum and heaps of possibility. Business is just the same and at IRANZ we are certainly on a roll at the moment.



Demand for our programmes overseas has been significant for a number of years now and over 50% of our course participants are foreign, so offshore expansion is a natural progression. The USA is the sleeping giant of world rugby with their abundance of high level athletes and South Africa is full of raw potential. We have a joint venture with USA rugby and a licence agreement with Dick Muir in South Africa. Two different business models in two completely different

Graduates Feature in NZ U20s

Cameron to Captain USA U20s

High Performance Course Facilitators Announced

Quote of the month

For me, winning isn't something that happens suddenly on the field when the whistle blows and the crowds roar. Winning is something that builds physically and mentally every day that you train and every night that you dream.

Emmitt Smith,
American Football
Player

Course Calendar

Upcoming NZ Coaches' Courses

High Performance
Coaches' Course
8 Jun - 19 Jun 2009

Advanced Coaches'
Course
8 Apr - 14 Apr 2009
15 Aug - 21 Aug 2009
6 Dec - 12 Dec 2009

environments, but both high performance programmes will emulate our New Zealand course in design and price. For player and coach applicants it becomes a simple choice of timing and location, as all High Performance courses will be similar with the same quality of specialist personnel.

Successful programmes can only be judged by results and we have been delighted at the success of our graduates in the last twelve months. IRANZ graduates feature in the following national teams: England, USA, Canada, Chile, Japan and South Africa. We also have the following representation:

2009 Super 14 - 25 IRANZ graduates

2009 NZ U20s - 8 IRANZ graduates

2008 All Blacks - 5 IRANZ graduates

On the game, I have one wish for 2009 - that the rule makers will remove rules around the breakdown area, rather than create them. Simplify this vital part of the game and grow the contest. There must be an incentive for teams to attack the breakdown in numbers which will effectively clear the congestion in the midfield. Bring back legitimate rucking.

The Three Wise Men

Graham Henry, Dick Muir and Brian Ashton provided IRANZ High Performance Course participants with a unique opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas and diversity of coaching styles in February. The three wise men who all presented at the High Performance Course were very well received by both the players and the coaches. Adding to the cosmopolitan mix, the participants on the coaches' and players' courses represented 7 different countries - South Africa, New Zealand, USA, Argentina, Chile, Australia and United Kingdom. Talk about a united nations of rugby !



The Rugby Dinner 2009

Development Coaches' Course
12 Dec - 19 Dec 2009
Junior Development Coaches' Course
13 Jul - 17 Jul 2009

Upcoming NZ Players' Courses

High Performance Players' Course
31 May - 19 Jun 2009
Advanced Players' Course
15 Aug - 21 Aug 2009
6 Dec - 12 Dec 2009
Development Players' Course
12 Dec - 19 Dec 2009
Junior Development Players' Course
13 Jul - 17 Jul 2009

Pass it on

Know anyone who might be interested in our newsletter? [Click here](#) to forward this email to up to 5 friends at once.

The inaugural annual IRANZ rugby dinner was held at the Sport and Rugby Institute during the February High Performance Course and was such a success we have decided to make it an annual event. The proceeds of the dinner will provide scholarships for promising local players. We have been bringing a huge number of high profile rugby people into the Sport and Rugby Institute for 7 years, specifically to pass on their specialist knowledge. We realised that having them all in attendance at one time created a unique situation and that local people who are interested may like to hear their views on rugby. So we have created the opportunity to mix socially with these people, ask questions in a comfortable environment and generally see what we are doing for the development of our best young men.

RICOH



The first event was kindly sponsored by Ricoh and Steinlager. MC'd by Grant Nisbett and Murray Mexted, the guest speakers were Graham Henry, Brian Ashton, Jeff Wilson, Alby Mathewson, Josh Kronfeld, Eroni Clarke, Craig Dowd, Jon Preston, Juan Garcia Iturralde (Buenos Aires Head Coach) and Edmundo Olfos (Chile Head Coach). A great time was had by all and we look forward to more rugby, discussion and merriment next year.

IRANZ Player Profile - Alby Mathewson

Another IRANZ graduate achieving on the international rugby stage is Wellington halfback Alby Mathewson. From the Hawke's Bay, Mathewson attended Hastings Boys High School. He attended the IRANZ High Performance Course in February 2005 and was picked as halfback for the New Zealand Colts at the U21 World Cup in Australia in 2006. In July that same year he was picked in the Lions Squad and a string of impressive performances resulted in his selection for the 2007 Hurricanes Squad. He made his debut for the All Blacks vs Munster at Limerick in November 2008. We are sure there are more great things to come from Alby and it



was such a delight to have him back at IRANZ as a guest speaker at the IRANZ dinner in February this year.

IRANZ in Perth

IRANZ offers rugby organisations an opportunity to create customised programmes to suit the needs of teams, players, coaching staff and budget. An example of this is the Perth Rugby Academy, where IRANZ is sending staff coaches Dave Ellis, Wayne Taylor, Scott Robertson, Richard Loe, Mick Byrne and Christian Cullen to Perth on a variety of coaching stints during the next six months. IRANZ is mobile and flexible with the rugby services that we provide and we have a wide array of specialist coaches available.



IRANZ Intermediate Course

The IRANZ [Intermediate Players'](#) course (previously called the Junior Development Course) in the July school holidays is for boys aged 13-15. This course gives those players with aspirations for the future a chance to experience a professional rugby environment. Players spend an intensive 5 days building a solid foundation that will better prepare them for their rugby future. We concentrate on position-specific analysis and tuition, mental toughness, rugby intelligence and skills. Daily skills include basic passing, kicking, taking the ball into contact, continuity, evasive running, defence, vision and decision-making. Players will also have an opportunity to experience modules around team building and team culture, goal setting, mental toughness, rugby intelligence, match analysis, recovery and rugby nutrition. As usual, players will all undergo individual assessments including fitness (aerobic, flexibility



and speed), position specific assessments and individual skills. The feedback from the position-specific coaches and fitness trainer about current and future programmes will be of valuable benefit to these players for their future development in the game.

For the first time this year we are also holding the IRANZ [IntermediateCoaches'](#) course which runs in tandem with the players' course and is for school coaches and those who coach teenage players. Coaches will have the opportunity to interact with the coaches and players on the course, applying skills and techniques learnt, taking part in discussions and asking questions and will be provided with a framework to identify talent, increase positional knowledge, analyse performance and design a strategy and game plan.

See our [website](#) for further information or contact Catherine on Catherine@iranzt.co.nz.

IRANZ Graduates Feature in NZ U20s

A number of featured in the named for the Championships in Congratulations (Hawke's Bay), Ma'afu Fia (Manawatu), (Manawatu), Bay), Latu Talakai (Waikato), Shaun Treeby (Wellington) and Frae Wilson (Wellington). The boys who have all been through IRANZ courses, head to Japan to defend their title under the directorship of IRANZ Staff Coach Dave Rennie. We wish them all the best for the tournament.



IRANZ graduates have New Zealand U20 squad IRB Junior World Japan in June. to Trent Boswell-Wakefield Aaron Cruden (Manawatu), (Manawatu), Willie Ioane Leighton Price (Hawke's

Cameron to Captain USA U20s

The USA Men's Under-20s National Rugby Team heading to Nairobi, Kenya to compete for the 2009 IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy will be captained by 2008 IRANZ Graduate Cameron Dolan. Cam attended the August 2008 Advanced Course on a Scholarship from the United States Rugby Football Foundation and has been making an impact in the US rugby environment since his return.

Dolan, a Life University freshman, also played for the US U17s in 2007 and the US U18s in 2008. "It is an honor and a privilege to represent my country in a sport as great as rugby," said Dolan, who can play at lock or #8.



Coach Salty Thompson likes what he sees in his young captain. "Cameron is developing into a very good player. He's a young captain for the U20s but has the poise, presence and demeanor to set the example."

Congratulations Cam, we're sure to see more of you in the future.

Another USRFF grant recipient to IRANZ, Kevin Swiryn is tied for 4th in tries on this year's IRB Sevens World Series Circuit. Swiryn, who attended an IRANZ High Performance Course in 2008, has scored 20 tries through the first six series events. He's also the leading points scorer for the US with 100 points and has captained the side for the last two series events in Hong Kong and Australia. Well done Kevin.



High Performance Course Facilitators Announced

IRANZ is pleased to announce course

facilitators for upcoming high performance programmes in New Zealand, South Africa and the USA.

Players' course Facilitators are

- Buck Shelford (NZ)
- Hugh Reece-Edwards (SA)
- Mick Byrne (USA).

Coaches' course facilitators are:

- Pat Howard (NZ)
- Dick Muir (SA)
- Brian Ashton (USA).



IRANZ would like to acknowledge our sponsors Air New Zealand, Adidas and Summit for their ongoing support of our programmes.

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