

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milwaukee rugby player joins USA Selects at the Americas Championship

By Victor Drover
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Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee Barbarians Athletic Club today announced that Pewaukee native Ben Landry has been called up to join the USA Selects who are set to face Canada “A” and Uruguay in the Americas Rugby Championship (ARC). Due to an injury to starting lock Graham Harriman, two-time collegiate All-American Landry received the call late Saturday night and was on a plane Sunday morning to join the US team at the championship in Victoria, British Columbia (Canada).

Landry has been playing rugby since middle school in an amateur career extending through high school and college where he played for both UW Platteville and UW Whitewater. In 2013, he joined the collegiate All Americans — an all-star team sponsored by USA Rugby — on a tour of New Zealand. With both size and athleticism, Landry was successful at a number of other sports in college including basketball and football.

Weighing in at 245 lbs with a 6’5” frame, Landry is a formidable presence in any rugby match. He currently plays club rugby with the Milwaukee Barbarians and has a starting lock position for the Division 1 side. In his six matches this season for the Barbarians, he has scored 3 times. Landry is the second Barbarian to receive attention from USA selectors. In February, Aaron Young was invited to an Eagles selection camp.

Now with the USA Selects through Oct. 19th, Landry has begun training in Victoria and remains hopeful to be included on the 23-man starting roster for Wednesday’s match against Canada.

In August, Landry signed with Premier Rugby Management with the hope of finding a professional rugby contract overseas. Being selected for the USA Selects greatly increases Landry’s chances of playing for America’s top national team, the Eagles, and thus being viewed by international selectors.

About Milwaukee Barbarians

The Barbarians or 'Babas' is the premier club for rugby union in the state and was formed in 2012 through a strategic partnership between two local teams. As a member of USA Rugby, the Milwaukee rugby team competes at the highest level by fielding a Division 1 team in the Midwest regional competition where they are currently in 3rd place with a 4-2-0 record.

The Barbarians also field a Division 3 team in the local Wisconsin-Illinois conference and are in second place with a 4-0-0 record.

The Barbarians train and play their home games at Zablocki Park located at 3717 W Howard Ave, Greenfield, WI 53221. Their next Division 1 home game is Saturday, Oct. 18 at 1PM followed by a Division 1/Division 3 double-header on Oct. 25 at 12PM.

More information on the Milwaukee Barbarians can be found online at <http://milwaukeerugby.org>.

About the USA Eagles

The United States men's national rugby union team, nicknamed the Eagles, represents the United States in the sport of rugby union. The national team is managed by USA Rugby, which is a member of the North American and Caribbean Rugby Association, one of six regional governing bodies under the International Rugby Board.

The Eagles are the reigning Olympic champion in rugby, having won gold at the 1920 and 1924 Summer Olympics, and are currently ranked 18th in the world. Rugby has not been played at the Olympics since 1924, but makes a return in 2016 at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

On Nov. 1, 2014, the Eagles will host the New Zealand All Blacks — the current world champions — at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Only the very best players from the top American clubs are invited to join official Eagles selection and training camps. Invitations are usually based on performances in domestic Division 1 or premiership matches, and performances in the Americas Rugby Championship.

More information can be found online at <http://usarugby.org>.

About the Americas Rugby Championship

The Americas Rugby Championship is an annual rugby event typically held at Westhills Stadium in Victoria, British Columbia (Canada). Four teams participate in the championship: USA Selects, Canada "A", Argentina Jaguars and Uruguay. For the U.S., Canada, and Argentina, the tournament presents an opportunity to evaluate fringe players in very competitive matches.

In the 2014 championship, the USA Selects lost their first match 41-14 to four-time champions Argentina. The USA has 2 matches remaining: Canada on October 15 (11:00 PM EST) and Uruguay on October 19 (5:30 PM EST).

Contact and media

Photos and videos of Ben Landry and this press release can be found at <http://milwaukeeerugby.org/landry2014>.

To learn more, please contact:

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