With a Fine Disregard for the Rules of Football

RUGBY
Brief History

• Founded in 1823 at The Rugby School, William Webb Ellis.

• First match played in the United States was on May 14, 1874 between Harvard University and McGill University of Canada.

• According to Sport and Fitness Industry Association rugby is the fastest growing sport in the USA. Currently 115,000 registered players with USA Rugby.
Visibility

• Collegiate Rugby Championship in partnership with NBC Sports has been played every year since 2010 in Philadelphia.
• HSBC World Sevens Series held every year since 2004 with the last 5 years being in Las Vegas.
• 2018 Sevens Rugby World Cup will be held in San Francisco.
• English Premiership Rugby has signed a new contract with NBSCN to broadcast rugby matches in the United States.
• Americas Nations Cup televised on ESPN2.
• February 4 USA Eagles vs Uruguay in San Antonio, TX.
• February 11 USA Eagles vs Brazil in Austin, TX.
Visibility –continued

• “Rugby Weekend” coming to Chicago in November 2016.
• November 4 USA Eagles vs Maori All Blacks.
• November 5 New Zealand vs Ireland.
• 2016 launched Pro Rugby with 5 teams: Denver, Ohio, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco.
• Expansion planned to 8 teams for 2017.
• Houston has plans for a pro team with plans to join Pro Rugby or independent Texas League.
• Groundbreaking on new stadium should begin in 2017.
Youth Rugby in Houston

- Regis
- Katy
- The Woodlands
- Western Academy
- Lanier Middle School
- The British School of Houston
- Pearland Youth Rugby
- HISD has adopted rugby as part of its PE curriculum
- GHCAA has agreed to sanction rugby as it did from 1994-2009
Rugby at Regis

• Regis has a rich history in the GHCAA with 11 Catholic School Championships and 2 state titles.
• Regis is the longest continuous middle school program in the state of Texas, 1994-present.
• Regis is well represented in high school rugby mainly at St. Thomas and Strake Jesuit.
Regis Alumni

• Four Regis alumni have been invited to USA Eagles High Performance camps: Chris Lind, Ross Hill, Byron Henry and Reed Hogan.

• Chris Lind and Byron Henry were selected to represent their country as U-17 and U-19 Eagle Selects.

• Regis Alumni Paul Carty, Theology teacher and Head Rugby Coach at Boston College High School won back to back Massachusetts state championships in 2014-15 and 2015-16.