



FOOTBALL CANADA SEPTEMBER 2008 REPORT

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NEW FOOTBALL LEAGUE HOPES TO NUTURE NEXT WAVE OF PLAYERS

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Kevin Barrett Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN - The first tangible goal is 60 athletes.



Lisa Harlow, Football New Brunswick's director of female football, says a new league for high school aged girls will give them a place to play football after they graduate from the Fundy Minor Football system.

That's what organizers of a new football league for high school aged girls want in order to form the next wave of development for a sport that's gaining a foothold in southern New Brunswick.

If those in charge can attract four teams of 15 players for a season or two of modified games, then maybe, just maybe, the sport will have cemented a positive base to build upon.

For now, though, the immediate game plan is simple.

"It is not focused around competitiveness," said Lisa Harlow, the lead organizer and the Football New Brunswick's director of female football.

"It is focused on development and that is what it will take to become successful."

The Saint John initiative gets going Sunday at noon at Forest Hills School with a two-hour information, orientation session for interested players and parents.

The loop could bridge the gap between those girls who do play at the youth levels but drop the sport in the bantam (14-15 year old) and higher classes.

If the league takes strength, it will be a perfect developmental ground for the provincial senior women's football league, which just completed its fifth season.

Harlow is a key part of that league as an organizer and all-star player for the Maritime champion Saint John Storm.

"The big decision to do this is to help filter players through to our women's league which plays in the summer," Harlow said. "It gives these players somewhere to play for a number of years and it will help that program stay alive."

The organization will begin with high school workouts on Sundays in order to avoid conflict with other high school sports, such as field hockey and soccer.

It is not affiliated with the New Brunswick Interscholastic Athletic Association but the league will target the high school age group.

"We need to make this program work around their other activities," Harlow explained.

Because the concept is new, most of the first month will be spent on basics before the players graduate to games that feature six-on-six action.

While there is development programs planned for Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton, there will not be any provincial championships for several seasons.

"It is not at that stage yet," she said. "We need to develop the game with these girls. I would say 98 per cent of the girls have not played football before."

While male coaches will be involved, each team will also have a female coach and Harlow expects many players in the Maritime women's football league will assist in the development.

"I definitely think we can get 60 girls but I hope we can get more," Harlow said.

2008-09 CIS season Kickoff



The Canadian Interuniversity Sport Football 2008 regular season began on Saturday, August 23 with the UBC Thunderbirds losing to the Simon Fraser Clan 24 -10.

On the Labour Day Weekend the rest of the Canada West season will continue with three games. In a rematch of the 2007 conference final, Vanier Cup champion Manitoba Bisons will host the Regina Rams on Saturday, August 30.

Last year, Manitoba, 12-0 overall in 2007, won their third national championship and first since 1970, beating the Saint Mary's Huskies 28-14 in front of 26,787 fans at Rogers Centre in Toronto, the largest crowd to witness a Vanier Cup final since 1995.

The OUA schedule begins Labour Day Monday, with all 10 Ontario teams playing. Beginning their defence of the Yates Cup title, The Western Ontario Mustangs will face the powerful Ottawa Gee-Gees at home, who they beat 23-16 in last year's OUA semifinal round.

Beginning September 5-7, the Teams from the Atlantic and Quebec conferences will begin their 2008 schedules. The defending AUFC champion and Vanier Cup finalist Saint Mary's Huskies will host the Acadia Axemen on Friday, September 5. Meanwhile, the five-time QUFL champion Laval Rouge et Or host the Montreal Carabins on Sunday, September 7.

The 2008 CIS national semifinals are slated for Sunday, November 16. The Canada West champions will visit the Quebec champions in the Uteck Bowl, while the top AUFC

team will travel to Ontario to take on OUA's best in the Mitchell Bowl.

The Desjardins Vanier Cup, hosted by Ontario University Athletics, will be played at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 22 at Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton.

For the full the schedule, please visit www.universitysport.ca

CJFL AND QJFL 2008 SEASONS BEGIN



The 2008 CJFL Season is a few weeks into play and currently the Okanagan Sun are leading the BCFC standings, the Calgary Colts and Saskatoon Hilltops are on top of the PFC standings and lastly, the St. Leonard Cougars and Windsor AKO Fratmen are leading the OFC standings. For more information, schedule, results and standings, please visit www.cjfl.ca

The 2008 QJFL football season is just around the corner and teams are currently in training camp. The schedule officially kicks off on Saturday, August 30, with the Ottawa Sooners playing the Ottawa Junior Riders at the Nepean Sportsplex at 7 PM. Meanwhile the Châteauguay Raiders host the Laval Devils at Howard S. Billings and the Cumberland Panthers welcome the South Shore Monarx to Millenium Park, also at 7 PM. The first weekend on QJFL action finishes off of Sunday, August 31 with the Joliette Pirates visiting Westwood to take on the St-Lazare Stallions at 4:00 p.m. For more information, schedule, results and standings, please visit www.qjfl.ca



RIDER LINEMAN TACKLES MINOR FOOTBALL IN REPORT TO PREMIER

By John Weidlich [CBC News](#)



Gene Makowsky, left, submitted his minor football report to Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, right.. (John Weidlich/CBC)

The provincial government has received a playbook for helping minor football in Saskatchewan — and spending money to help more leagues get started is one of the recommendations.

A 20-page report, commissioned by Premier Brad Wall, speaks glowingly of the benefits of a football program for youngsters, saying it contributes to "character, teamwork, dedication, commitment, sense of community and more."

The report, released Monday, was prepared by Gene Makowsky, a teacher and professional athlete who plays on the Saskatchewan Roughriders' offensive line.

Makowsky's report also identifies the many barriers to establishing and maintaining a quality football program, including finding and retaining good coaches, overcoming startup costs associated with equipment and a lack of suitable playing fields.

"Football is unique in that it requires some equipment and getting all that equipment up front is a significant cost," Makowsky said at a news conference on the University of Regina Rams practice turf, a facility which he noted in his report is expensive to rent.

"Facilities are an issue, especially here in Regina where there are so many kids who want to play."

Wall said he wants to see the sport grow and remain open to all kids.

"It's got to be accessible," the premier said. "And, if we're going to make this an opportunity in our inner city neighbourhoods or, for example, on our reserves as Gene has noted, we've got to make this accessible financially."

Wall, an avid minor football coach in his home community of Swift Current, said he will act on Makowsky's recommendations before the report gathers dust.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Active Living Alliance – Youth Exchange Ottawa 2008

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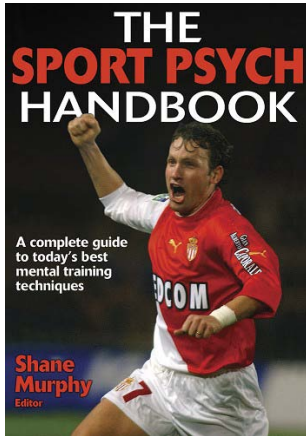
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