

December 10, 2008

To: Austin Area High School Principals, Athletic Directors, and Coaches,

This letter is meant to give you information about the state of high school girl's lacrosse here in Austin, Texas. Lacrosse is not a UIL recognized sport, but is supported by Booster Clubs that raise funds and coordinate game schedules, field space, referee utilization, District Tournaments, and the Texas State Championships. The Texas Girls High School Lacrosse League (TGHSLL) is divided into three districts, North, South, and Central. The Central District includes Austin, San Antonio, and the surrounding Hill Country. US Lacrosse recently designated the Central District as it's own nationally recognized chapter within the South-Central Region. This season's State Championship will be held here in Austin on May 9th & 10th at St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

There are 12 Varsity High School Teams and 9 Junior Varsity programs in Austin. We are currently adding high school programs from San Antonio and have inquiries from Georgetown, Waco, and Killeen. There are over 440 girls in the local area participating in high school women's lacrosse. Central District players have tried out for and were selected to the Texas teams that played in the US Lacrosse National Championship Tournament. We have seen girls from Austin make the Academic All-American team, and last year had an Austin player selected to the US Lacrosse All-American Team.

Texas college women's programs are at UT, Texas A & M, Baylor, Texas Tech, TSU, U of Dallas, St. Edwards, Texas A & M, and Trinity University. Over the last few years the Central District has had great success placing girls in college programs, including NCAA DI, DII, DIII, and Varsity Clubs. Many of these girls received significantly favorable financial aid or very valuable scholarships. Recruiters and Scouts have "discovered" Texas players and now realize there is very talented pool of players to be found here in Austin.

	HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS - SPONSORSHIP (Teams)								% Change	
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	07-08	01-08
Teams	783	819	976	1176	1270	1349	1480	1624	9.7%	107.4%
	HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS - PARTICIPATION (Players)								% Change	
Players	32400	35200	38900	43100	48100	52000	54800	61100	11.5%	88.5%

The chart from the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) above, shows the rapid growth of girl's high school lacrosse during the past few years. It is an exciting, fast moving, fast growing sport that is now gaining significant traction in Texas. If you have the chance to go and see a game -- do it; you will be impressed by the speed and athleticism of the game. If you are offered the chance to support your high school's women's lacrosse team, consider it seriously. Central District teams are always on the lookout for field space for practice and games, help with sponsorship and coaching, referee assistance, a bigger fan base, and would greatly appreciate solid backing from the schools they represent.

On May 9 and 10, 2009, the Central District will be hosting the TGHSLL State Div I and Div II Championships and All-Star games at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. All Austin-area High School Athletic Directors and Principals will receive complimentary passes for the entire tournament. Please contact me for further details.

Regards,
Jim Heck
Central District Coordinator
coordinator@ctgirlslax.org