

Friends of Drew Webb to put on 7's for 7 Lacrosse Tournament to support Depression Bipolar Support Alliance

The Friends of Drew Webb would like to invite you to Houston, Texas to compete in the Inaugural **7's for 7 Lacrosse Tournament** on January 8-9, 2011. This event will benefit the Depression Bipolar Support Alliance (Houston) and raise awareness of depression and other mental illness in athletes. Visit <http://www.7sfor7.com/> for more information, and to register for the tournament.

Drew Webb was the first Houston high school lacrosse player to become a high-level NCAA Division 1 recruit. He was valedictorian at Episcopal High School, where he proudly wore the #7 jersey. He set multiple scoring records, was recognized as a three-time Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) All-State Player, and was recognized two times as a High School All-American.

Most recently, Drew was honored by the THSLL at its 2010 State Championship on May 8th. The THSLL in 2010 established a THSLL Commissioner's Award, the Drew Webb Award for Academic and Athletic Achievement, in Drew's honor, with which to recognize THSLL student athletes for their academic and athletic achievements during and after high school. The THSLL subsequently awarded the 2010 honor on Drew posthumously during halftime of the Division I Championship game.

Drew attended Cornell University, and earned four varsity letters. While there, his struggle with depression came to the forefront, resulting in his hospitalization. Nonetheless, he persevered, continued with lacrosse, was a columnist for the Cornell Daily Sun, and graduated in 2008. Following his graduation, he coached club lacrosse and volunteered in the psychiatric ward at Ben Taub Hospital, as well as at a hospice, while he contemplated a change in career plans.

Sadly, in April 2010, while at UPenn preparing for medical school, Drew took his own life. In addition to his family and friends, his death shook the lacrosse community in Houston. He was a beloved figure in Houston, and throughout the State of Texas. His tragic death has galvanized the Houston lacrosse community to honor Drew and to work to prevent such tragedies in the future.

The Friends of Drew Webb are holding the **7's for 7 Lacrosse Tournament** to honor #7. The goal is to raise money for mental health care in young adults, but even more importantly, to raise awareness of this disease among young athletes and coaches. The goal is for a young athlete with mental illness to be treated like an athlete with an ACL injury or a disease like diabetes, rather than feeling like or being treated like an outcast or weakling.

In addition to a vendor midway, there will be programs with mental health professionals that work with professional and scholastic athletes to help educate coaches/athletic trainers/parents to recognize warning signs, and how to respond, and for the players to help them recognize and accept their peers. Proceeds of the event will go to the Depression Bipolar Support Alliance in Houston.

In the Houston area in the last few years, there have been at least two young-athlete suicides and athletes hospitalized with depression or anxiety disorders. It can be hard for a coach to recognize and/or address such issues, and, it is hard for teammates to know how to reach out to their struggling teammates. At least one athlete in Houston was hit hard enough by Drew's death to realize that he needed professional help. Consequently, it is our desire to further Drew's contributions to the lacrosse community, through his experiences, and we ask for your support.

The tournament will include up to 36 teams playing 7 vs. 7 on the South Campus fields (10001 Stella Link Rd, Houston, TX 77027) on January 8th and 9th. There will be High School, JV, and 7th/8th grade divisions. Team registration will be \$500 for a minimum of 5 games. For more information, and to register go to <http://www.7sfor7.com/>.