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Spotlight on players at Recruiting Fall Ball tourney

The National Recruiting Fall Ball Tournament will be held Sunday at St. Paul's School. This is the seventh year of the tournament and it is a great one. It started in 2002 with about 24 teams and now has 50 teams. The fall recruiting period for college coaches is a short one so they cluster around the good tournaments rich with talent. Between 70 and 80 college coaches attend the National Recruiting Fall Ball Tournament each year, walking from field to field with clipboards and roster notebooks in hand.

I spoke to Ray Schulmeyer, the tournament's organizer today and he's proud that each year they have players that commit to colleges at the tournament or immediately after the tournament. It really works for these kids and the coaches. I have witnessed players actually make a name for themselves at this event. The players are a good mix, from talented freshman wanting to be noticed early to seniors playing for the last time before they commit, as well as some serious blue chip kids that already know where they are going, who will play at major college programs.

Schulmeyer says they've had teams from as far as Florida and Texas. This year they have two teams from Burnaby Mountain, British Columbia. There is no playoff or champion of the tournament. The structure is designed to just showcase the participants to the recruiting coaches and you if you want to attend. There is no charge and its great lacrosse. St. Paul's has plenty of parking so come on out. Games are scheduled from 8-4:20 p.m. There will be eight fields going constantly.

Here's a list of the teams that are competing Sunday. In the "A" division, the competitors will be Alexandria Travel, All State, Archbishop Curley, Bishop Shanahan High School, Breakers, Bucks Select, Burnaby Mountain Selects Junior Elite, Burnaby Mountain Selects Senior Elite, Burning River Lacrosse Maroon, Celts Lacrosse Club, Central PA Dawgs, Delaware Silverbacks Elite, FuZe Blue, FuZe Gold, Greene Turtle OC, Hot Shots Lacrosse Club, Jagslax, LB3 Blue, LI Lax, Long Island Storm, Meltdown Lancaster Select, Mesa Fresh 2010, Morris Select, North Arundel Gold, Penn East, Potomac School, Rebel Elite, Renegades Gold, SMS Lacrosse, Springfield High School, St. Paul's, Team Langley, Thomas S. Wooton HS, Trilogy NJ, Vipers Elite and West Chester East High School.

In the "B" division, you'll see A.O.D. Richmond, Blue Mountain, Burning River Lacrosse Navy, Downingtown West PA, FuZe Select, FuZe White, Harford Renegades (Betsill), LB3 Silver, LB3 White, Long Island Saints, Madlax Sophomores, North Arundel White, St. Paul's I, St. Paul's II, Team Charlotte Orange and Trilogy.

As you can see, there will be plenty of teams from all over and these kids will be playing for spots on college teams. For most of them, that is their dream come true, so the action is intense. I hope to see you out there!

Note: For women's lacrosse fans, another tournament with many high school girls teams will be played at St. Paul's the day before, on Saturday, as well. With these two and the Hall of Fame ceremony in Hunt Valley on Saturday night, it's a hot lacrosse weekend in Baltimore, whatever the weather.

About John Weaver



John Weaver has been the editor and publisher of E-Lacrosse.com for 11 years, covering all levels of lacrosse all over the world. He grew up in Cockeysville. He was also the founding coach at Georgetown Prep in Bethesda and Georgetown Day School in Washington, D.C., while still in college.

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