

From Atlantis' HS Boys and Girls Teams to Overseas Men & Women's Tour: Jack Bradfield and Sophie Pyrz Star for Atlantis Men and Women in Barbados

February 4, 2019 4:07 PM

Sophie Pyrz (Atlantis #1094) and Jack Bradfield (#1001) became the first Atlantis High School players to play with the senior Atlantis women and men's teams on an overseas tour. Their trip from high school to senior rugby was, in both cases, aided by several Atlantis alumni and alumnae coaches.

Jack Bradfield. Jack Bradfield started playing rugby in 2010 at the age of 12. His first high school rugby was for St. Edward's HS in Cleveland, OH in 2013.

Jack – who can play every position in 7s – succeeded his brother Ryan (#957) as an Atlantis player. Jack's first Atlantis tournament, at 15, was the Surfside Sevens in 2014 in Stone Harbor, NJ, where he became Atlantis #1001, following Biddy Boyle's (#175 and Staff # [S#] 97) son Liam, Atlantis #1000. That team was coached by Jack Foley, Atlantis alumnus (#402 and S#108) and presently in charge of the Atlantis Boy's HS Elite 7s program.

He was named High School All American in 2015 and in 2016 played for Atlantis Rugby U19, runners-up at the Las Vegas 7s. He started playing for Atlantis alumnus Salty Thompson (#53 and S#55)'s EIRA Academy in 2017.

Jack was a member of the EIRA team that won the NAI 7s tournament in 2017. He captained the North American Lions' U19 team in Dubai in 2017, coached by Atlantis player and coach Greg Schor (#134 and S#46).

He represented the US U20 team in 2018 at Chula Vista, CA. He is presently playing at Notre Dame College (Cleveland) for Jason Fox, also an Atlantis alumnus (#236 and S#24).

The December 2018 tour of Barbados was Jack's first appearance for the Atlantis Senior VII.

Sophie Pyrz. 22-year old Sophie Pyrz started playing rugby in 2012 for Doylestown HS, under Atlantis coach Stacy Mancuso (S#111). She first played for the Atlantis Elite High School girls in 2015 at the Las Vegas 7s under Atlantis coach Tom Feury (S#19). She played for the Pennsylvania High School All Star team from 2013 to 2015.

Sophie - a scrum half and fly half in both 7s and 15s - joined the Penn State Women in 2015 and played for their 2016 and 2017 national championship teams. She's also been a full-time resident at American Rugby Pro Training Center for last 3 years.

Like Jack, Sophie got her first overseas tour with the senior Atlantis Women's team in the December 2018 Rugby Barbados World Sevens tournament.

Sophie: "Atlantis helped me to realize my love for 7s and has taught me many skills that I bring to every game and practice. The variety of coaches and staff are very supportive and collectively have mounds of tactical and technical skills to help players succeed. The overall culture of Atlantis is one that I love to be a part of due to its rich background and inclusive nature ... I hope to one day play 7s at the international level."

Sophie has also been coached by two both player and coach Atlantis alumnae: Kate Daley (#750, S#163), Penn State Women's Coach & US Women National Assistant Coach, and Julie McCoy (#392, S#104), former US Women's National Team Coach as well as Founder/Coach of the American Rugby Pro Training Center (ARPTC).

In 2018 the Atlantis men were 3rd at the Barbados World Sevens and the women were 4th.

Atlantis Rugby History

Atlantis began in 1986 as an Eastern US venture (short for "Atlantic Sevens). Started by internationally respected rugby coach Emil Signes former USA 7's Mens' and Womens' Head Coach. Atlantis quickly became a nation-wide enterprise. The Atlantis women first played in 1992. In 2014 High School Boys' and Girls' teams were added.

Atlantis has multifaceted goals. One of our most important is to develop promising players and improve their level of play (and ours) by mixing them with more experienced and accomplished players.

When invited to top-level international tournaments, we assemble teams representing the very best the US has to offer. We have also included accomplished players from other countries. Besides helping us succeed on the field, they can have an important role in developing less-experienced players and helping them achieve success.

In 30+ years of existence – from April 27, 1986 through December 31, 2018 - 279 Atlantis squads have played in 172 tournaments in 32* different countries. 1440 Atlantis Men, Women, High School Boys and Girls have played for Atlantis. Recently, to further these competitive goals, Atlantis has implemented a program of camps and clinics to be able to develop players in a controlled environment under the tutelage of excellent and experienced coaches. Atlantis's next camp will be February 17, 2019 at Robb Field, 2525 Bacon St, San Diego, CA. Questions about the camp contact Josieziluca@gmail.com. <https://www.atlantisrugby.com/camps>
North American High School 7's Series

The February 17, 2019 camp will be an evaluation process by the Atlantis selectors for the Atlantis U18 and U16 Boys' and the Atlantis U18 and U16 Girls' for the 209 North American High School 7s' Series. Atlantis will be participating in: the Tropical 7's April 2019, the NAI 7's Tournament in Utah August 2019 and other additional tours and tournaments. <https://www.atlantisrugby.com/camps>

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