

Sujet: April IFAF Insider

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IFAF INSIDER



April Edition

Monday, April 11, 2011

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WELCOME TO THE IFAF INSIDER

Every month the 'IFAF Insider' will share a selection of news (Spotlight), upcoming events (Calendar) and news articles (In the News) from the 59 countries represented by the International Federation of American Football (IFAF). Please follow links and email contacts for full details.

About IFAF:

The International Federation of American Football (IFAF) unites 59 countries on five continents through a burgeoning international sport. With national football federations in existence for more than 75 years, IFAF was created in 1998 to organize and further develop the game through international cooperation and global competition. The IFAF office is located near Paris, France.

Please send news stories for inclusion in future IFAF Insiders to Lauren@MPrestonSports.com.



Calendar



April

**2 - EFL Game:
Danube Dragons vs. Prague
Panthers**

Vienna, Austria
www.eurobowl.info/

2 - FFAF D1 Elite Games:
Dolphins vs. Cougars
Templars vs Argonauts
France

Spotlight

Featured in this month's Spotlight are: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Great Britain, Japan, Nigeria, Poland, and the United States.

www.ffa.org

2-3 - Viborg Bullets U13 & U16 Training Camp
 Viborg, Denmark
www.afboe.at

2-3 - Football Canada Coaches Association Convention
 Corpus Christi High School
 Burlington, Ontario
www.footballcanada.com

9 - EFL Game: L'Hospitalel Pioneers vs. Parma Panthers
 Barcelona, Spain
www.eurobowl.info/

9 - U19 International Game Finland vs. Russia
 St. Petersburg, Russia

9 - U13 Rocket Cup
 Nils Holgersson Hall
 Skurup, Sweden
www.amerikanskfotboll.com/

15-16 - Football Manitoba Super Clinic
 Winnipeg, Manitoba
www.footballcanada.com

23 - EJC Qualifer France vs. Serbia
 La Courmeuve, France
www.ffa.org

23 - EFL Game: Parma Panthers vs. Calanda Broncos
 Parma, Italy
www.eurobowl.info/

24 - EJC Qualifer Austria vs. Russia
 Vienna, Austria
www.efaf.de

30 - EJC Qualifer Denmark vs Finland
 Vejle, Denmark
www.efaf.de

May

7-8 - EFL Quarterfinals
 Austria
www.eurobowl.info

7 - Austria Senior National Team Training Camp
 Innsbruck, Austria
<http://www.afboe.at>

14-15 - SAFF Flag Football Challenge Tour
 First Round
 Sweden
www.amerikanskfotboll.com/

27-28 - 2011 BC Football Conference
 British Columbia
www.footballcanada.com

IFAF / Nigeria ...



A group representing the IFAF, USA Football and the Amobi Okoye Foundation visited Nigeria from March 12-22 as part of a continuing initiative to establish the sport of American Football in Africa.

The traveling party was led by IFAF President Tommy Wiking, USA Football Executive Director and IFAF Treasurer Scott Hallenbeck, IFAF Development Director for Africa Marc-Angelo Soumah, IFAF Development Manager Jack Reed and representatives of the Amobi Okoye Foundation.

The group includes four current NFL players - Amobi Okoye and Conner Barwin of the Houston Texans, Frank Okam of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and James Ihedigbo of the New York Jets. They will spearhead the fourth annual C.A.T.E. (Changing Africa Through Education) program run by the Amobi Okoye Foundation.

Follow the trip - including videos & photos - at the IFAF Blog:

<http://ifaf.blogspot.com/>

Japan...



Japan claimed the eighth and final berth at this summer's 2011 IFAF Senior World Championship of American Football with a convincing 76-0 win over Korea at Kawasaki Stadium near Tokyo.

Japan was crowned champion of the Asian Federation of American Football (AFAF) and now joins Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Mexico and the United States to compete for the title of American Football world champions in Austria this summer from July 8 to 16, 2011.

The IFAF Senior World Championship is held every four years having first been contested in 1999 and the eight nations from four continents will compete in Vienna, Innsbruck and Graz in the fourth edition. Japan boasts the world's most impressive resume, having reached the final in each of the previous three tournaments, winning in both 1999 and 2003, before falling 23-20 in double overtime to the United States in 2007.

Read entire [game recap](#) at IFAF.org.

[IFAF Blog](#)

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'In The News'

[Nigeria to establish football federation](#)

AP

Wall Street Journal

Football will take root in Nigeria on Sunday with the establishment of a national federation.

Four NFL players will be on hand for the announcement. Amobi Okoye and Conner Barwin of the Houston Texans, James Ihedigbo of the New York Jets and Frank Okam of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

[Catching up with ... Connor Barwin](#)

Bill Koch

Cincinnati Enquirer

Barwin returned recently from Nigeria, where he accompanied Texans teammate Chris Ogbonnaya on a two-week trip. They visited schools, helped out in a medical clinic and ran clinics on American football in conjunction with the International Federation of American Football.

"They're trying to make American football an Olympic sport," Barwin said. "The only continent it's not played on is Africa. We tried to lay the foundation in Nigeria."

The response was encouraging.

[Football to take root in Nigeria](#)

AP

ESPN.com

Austria...

Head Coach Rick Rhoades and his coaching staff convened the squad for the first national team camp of the year.



There is one big surprise: After ten years of absence and six years of not playing football at all Martin Hammermüller returns to the national team.

After winning the National Championship in 2005 with his club, the Raiffeisen Vikings of Vienna, the 38-year-old offensive lineman put his career to an end. Several times Hammermüller won the National Championship and he was also part of the Raiffeisen Vikings first two Eurobowl Championship teams.

After his career, Hammermüller still supported his club as an offensive line coach and his passion for the sport came back. Due to the fact that he stayed in shape he realized that he still had the physical ability to compete.

In summer Hammermüller had intensive talks with coach Chris Calaycay about a possible return. "Of course I did not want to loose him as a coach, however I also wanted to support him. He trained very hard and he changed his position form tackle to guard", reveals Head Coach Chris Calaycay of the Raiffeisen Vikings and Defense Coordinator of the national team.

With his experience and knowledge he is a great support for the national team. "It is always difficult to find good people. Martin is a very intelligent player and he strengthens the team. However this doesn't mean that he is a part of this team yet", Coach Calaycay further explains. His ongoing absence and his age bring several difficulties along. "He has to stay healthy. A return after five years can be dangerous", Calaycay states.

Before the big showdown, the Austrian senior national team will have three other training camps. The camps will be held in Innsbruck in May, Vienna in June and the final camp in July in Wolfsberg.

Visit Official Senior World Championship website:

<http://www.americanfootball2011.com>

Canada...

The Football Canada Coaches Association (FCCA) held the first annual 2011 FCCA Coaches Convention April 2-3 in Burlington, Ontario.



Greg Marshall (Saskatchewan Roughriders), Marcel Bellefeuille (Hamilton Tiger-Cats) and Marc Trestman (Montreal Alouettes) presented at the two-day coaching development at the Corpus Christi Secondary School. Along with the CFL, coaches from high school and minor football, NFL and USA Football will speak at the convention.

"Football Canada is extremely excited in launching the first annual coaches convention supported by an incredible line up of coaches as presenters," said **RICK SOWIETA**, Football Canada Director of Sport. "This is a clear continuation of our mandate to provide our coaches with professional development and resources."

www.footballcanada.com

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[Specht enjoyed trip to Brazil](#)
Cincinnati Enquirer

It took an 11-hour plane flight, but St. Xavier football coach **Steve Specht** stepped outside of the United States for the first time the first weekend of April to help to conduct a two-day national football coaching clinic in São Paulo, Brazil.

"An unbelievable experience," Specht said of the trip.

Specht, who been a part of the USA Football non-profit organization for the past few years, visited Brazil with Miami (Fla.) Christopher Columbus High School coach **Chris Merritt** to help instruct 100 coaches of high-school aged and adult club football teams from around that country.

[Aiding Africa: NFL players doing their part](#)

By Lisa Altobelli
NFL.com

Texans DT **Amobi Okoye** is on the short list for winning the prize for, "What did you do this offseason?"

Okoye, with his charitable foundation, partnered with the International Federation of American Football to establish a Nigerian national federation dedicated solely to promoting the sport - the first of its kind on the continent.

[Okoye unites NFL players for football in Africa](#)

HoustonTexans.com

A group representing USA Football, the International Federation of American Football (IFAF) and the Amobi Okoye Foundation will visit Nigeria from March 12-22 as part of a continuing initiative to further advance football's burgeoning popularity in Africa.

Among the key events to occur during the trip is the formal establishment of Nigeria's national football federation on March 13 - the first such national federation dedicated solely to football in Africa.

[Ihedigbo Off to Nigeria](#)

Australia...

The Bayside Ravens 'Flight Path' has seen another two players given the opportunity to take on the world of US football, this time in the Junior College ranks at Snow College in Utah.



Linemen Elijah Pati and Nick Kramer will enrol in August at Snow College where they will be part of one of the powerhouse programs in the Junior College system. The duo have spent the past two seasons with the Ravens, using the experience as a springboard to these collegiate opportunities, following Jesse Williams as Ravens in the US.

"I feel very obliged and honored to be given a chance to show what I can do in the class room and on the football field at Snow College," said Kramer. "The Ravens have laid out a foundation to my football, and I will be forever grateful, and the boys at Judy Holt Park will be a big part of my motivation to succeed," added Kramer.

Fellow big man Elijah Pati echoed these sentiments "I would like to give special thanks to, again, the Bayside Ravens, and especially the Coaches, for the love, support, and motivation I've received." "I feel privileged to achieve a dream that many strive for, to play American Football with a great program like Snow College".

Ravens Head Coach Steve Box was understandably proud of the boys. "It is a great opportunity that has been presented to these boys and I applaud their motivation, drive and commitment to take it on. I am sure they will represent themselves, their family and their club very well."

www.baysideravens.com

Canada...



In preparation for the 2011 International Federation of American Football (IFAF) Senior World Championship, Football Canada conducted a series of three selection camps to determine the players who will represent Canada as members of the Senior Men's National Team. The IFAF Senior World Championship is slated for July 6-18, 2011 in Austria.

The first of these selection camps took place in Moncton on January 30. The remaining two camps were Saturday, February 26 in Saskatoon at the Saskatchewan Soccer Centre and Sunday, February 27 in Guelph at the Marden Fieldhouse.

Canada will be lead by head coach Larry Haylor, defensive coordinator Glen Constantin, and offensive coordinator Greg Marshall. See full [coaches bios](#).

For more information on the Canadian National Team please visit www.footballcanada2011.com.

United States...

Randy's Radar Blog
NewYorkJets.com

Safety James Ihedigbo is among a quartet of current NFL players who are headed to Africa to assist in the fourth annual C.A.T.E (Changing Africa Through Education) program run by the Amobi Okoye Foundation.

The foundation is leading the establishment of Nigeria's football federation. Through the work of the Nigerian-born Houston Texans defensive tackle, the Nigerian federation and IFAF plan to start two high school tackle football leagues of six schools each as well as a youth flag football program.

Fútbol americano en África
ESPNDeportes.com

El fútbol americano plantará bandera en Nigeria, con la creación de la primera federación nacional dedicada a ese deporte en África.

Cuatro jugadores de la NFL estarán el próximo domingo en el anuncio oficial: Amobi Okoye y Connor Barwin de los Houston Texans; James Ihedigbo de los New York Jets, y Frank Okam de los Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

[Okam to help bring football to Nigeria](#)
Buccaneers.com

Bucs DT Frank Okam, whose father was a native of Nigeria, is one of four players who will aid in the establishment of a Nigerian national federation for American football during an upcoming visit.

Frank Okam was 10 when his father, Franklin Okam, told him by phone that it was time for him to become the man of the house. The elder Okam had called from his native Nigeria, where he would pass away two years later, leaving behind his son, wife and two daughters in the Dallas area.

[Sask. gets cracking in Senior Football](#)
By Taylor Lambert
The Star Phoenix

Let's bring it in here, the coach says.

The large men in athletic equipment before him stand from their kneeling position and gather together, stretching a hand into the centre of the group. A pause, then a voice booms: one, two, three!

The group responds in empathic unison: Canada!



Mel Tjeerdsma, the former head coach at Northwest Missouri State University, will lead the 2011 U.S. Men's National Team in football in the fourth International Federation of American Football (IFAF) Senior World Championship July 8-16 in Austria. USA Football assembles America's national teams in the sport for international competition.

The U.S. Men's National Team offensive coordinator is Larry Kehres, head coach of the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. Kehres is 303-23-3 (.926) in 25 seasons with the Purple Raiders, winning 10 NCAA Division III national championships in 14 title game appearances. His teams also have won 19 consecutive Ohio Athletic Conference crowns, 21 in all.

The U.S. defensive coordinator is Lou Tepper, a former head coach at Illinois, Edinboro (Pa.) and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Tepper was the Illini head coach from 1991-96, going 25-31-2 and reaching three bowl games. He is 101-75-2 (.573) overall in 16 seasons as a head coach. Tepper has served as the architect of elite defenses in his 17 years as a Division I defensive coordinator at Virginia Tech, Colorado and Illinois.

See full article at www.IFAF.org or www.usafootball.com.

France...

Results from Week 3 of FFFA Elite Championship League:

- Spartans 12 Flash 14
- Centaurus 17 Black Panthers 13
- Dolphins 6 Argonaut 63
- Cougars 47 Templars 28

After three weeks of play, the Flash and Argonauts are on top of the leaders board currently holding an undefeated 3-0 record.

The Centaurus and Flash are currently 2-1 and the Spartans and Black Panthers have one win a piece as the Templars and Dolphins are still looking for their first win of the season.

See full game recaps at www.FFFA.org.

Finland...

The third annual Taft Snow Bowl tournament was held in Vantaa, Finland on March 5.

The tournament attracted a record number 17 teams in the one-day event which features three categories of play - U11, U13, and U15.

The Taft Vantaa won the U11, Porvoo Butchers claimed the U13 title and Helsinki Roosters won U15.

See full [tournament results...>](#)



[Japan trounces South Korea, qualifies for IFAF World Championship](#)

By Hiroshi Ikezawa
Japan Times

Japan isn't ready to give away its world championship berth to any other country in Asia.

Japan scored 10 touchdowns and two field goals to rout South Korea 76-0 on Saturday at Kawasaki Stadium in the Asian qualifying game for the fourth IFAF Senior World Championship, which will be held in Austria this summer.

[Youth football returns to Canton for Four Nations Cup](#)
Canton Repository

Canton and USA Football will be partners again this summer for an international tournament.

Canton will host the inaugural Four Nations Cup from July 16-24 at a site to be determined.

[American Football boss storms Nigeria next month](#)
Vanguard

As part of efforts to popularize American football, the President of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF), Tommy Wiking will visit Nigeria next month with the aim to establish the foothold of the sport.

[Canada taking the gridiron to a world stage](#)
Mark Masters
National Post

More than 150 Canadian football players attended three open tryouts across the country during the last month with the goal of making history. They want to be part of the first Team Canada to compete at the football world championship.

"This is an important moment for us," said Canadian head coach Larry Haylor during a tryout Sunday in Guelph. "We want young Canadians thinking football is a game that can not just take them to the pros, but also allows them to represent their country. We want kids to have that playground-to-podium dream."

[Cowboys' punter McBriar drops in on training](#)
SydneySwans.com.au

We know our Swans' players are capable of launching some enormous kicks for goal.

Great Britain...



The first ever women's student flag American Football game to be staged in the UK will take place at the University of Warwick.

Last month saw the birth of the UK's first women's student teams, the Warwick Wolverines and Coventry University Jets Ladies, and now they are set to go head-to-head.

Coventry Jets Academy and Plymouth Pirates have thrown their weight behind the event and will be fielding mixed and men's teams in a round-robin of unofficial matches against the women's teams.

Andrew Gambrill, who helped organize and coaches both the Warwick and Coventry sides, said: "I'm immensely proud of the job my coaching staff has done. Taking complete novices and turning them into teams that will put on excellent games. But the real praise has to go to the girls who have embraced the challenge and worked so very hard."

<http://www.buafnl.net>

Poland...

In American football, a foul committed on the field does not usually bring an immediate halt to the game, and so in order to be aware that a foul has been committed in a particular location, the official throws a characteristic yellow flag onto the spot where it occurred. Although the 2011 season will not start until April, Polish officials have already thrown their first flag of the season - against leukemia.



The officials of the Polish League of American Football (PLFA) have joined forces with the DKMS Foundation to combat this common enemy. The campaign, titled "Flag Leukemia" ("Rzuć Flagę Białaczkę" in Polish), aims to actively promote the fight against a disease that does not eventually have to become terminal, and will run throughout the entire 2011 football season. Action will be centered in the 25 Polish cities that host the 30 teams participating in Poland's three levels of organized American football, and will be supplemented by promotion on the Internet.

Current information about the campaign, together with answers to questions that frequently arise for potential marrow donors, can be found at <http://www.rzucflage.pl>.

Brazil...

With the help of funding from the IFAF Education Development Program, Brazil's American Football Federation - Associacao De Futebol Americano Do Brasil (AFAB) - hosted a National Coaching Clinic on April 2-3 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The event united coaches, players and administrators for the first time in the history of American football in Brazil, which has athletes active

2010 alone saw Dan Hannebery's monster left-footer at the MCG against Hawthorn and Daniel Bradshaw's unforgettable torp after the three-quarter time siren at the SCG against Brisbane, but how do our boys compare to the best from the United States' National Football League?

[Europe: Where one day off is enough](#)

Mark Masters
National Post

You will have to excuse European football players if they think they are tougher than their counterparts in North America.

[Tom Bainter named to USA Football's Wellness Committee](#)

By Mason Kelley
Seattle Times

Tom Bainter, the head football coach at Bothell (Wash.) High School, has been named to USA Football's Football and Wellness Committee, a group designed to further promote best practices for America's youth and amateur football community.

Bainter is one of the top prep football coaches in the Pacific Northwest. He is 104-26 (.800) in 11 seasons at Bothell, winning KingCo Class 4A titles five times and appearing in the state finals twice. He also was the running backs coach at the 2009 IFAF Junior World Championship in Canton, Ohio, helping Team USA win a gold medal.

[Kraft joins Mass. Governor on Israel mission](#)

Jerusalem Post

New England Patriots owner and philanthropist Robert Kraft and his wife Myra are in Israel along with 30 New England-area business leaders on Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's Innovation Economy Mission.

The group will take part in industry forums, company visits and meetings with Israeli business leaders and government officials in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem.

One of their most important visits, however, will be to Kraft Family Stadium in Jerusalem on Thursday night to watch tackle football games of the Israel Football League.

on more than 35 clubs and is being run in conjunction with SAB Sports.

The International Federation of American Football (IFAF) provided grants to 15 of its member federations spanning four continents to benefit youth and junior American Football development through the IFAF Education Development Program.

IFAF representatives met with the AFAB board and sport leaders in Brazil to discuss the further growth and development of the game of American football.

The two-day clinic in Sao Paulo was led by former U.S. Under-19 National Team coaches **CHRIS MERRITT** and **STEVE SPECHT**. The first day will focus on offensive strategies with the following day switching gears to defense. The coaches will go over individual drills and techniques coupled with informational DVDs.

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