

PLWC NEWS

JULY 10, 2025

VOL.1, NO.1



EXHIBITIONS IN MUKONO

Lacrosse is coming to Mukono in Uganda on Saturday, July 12, 2025. The new Apostolos Youth Lacrosse Academy in Mukono, in the central region of Uganda, will match up with Hopeful Academy of Masaka in an adult exhibition of the game. Hopeful Academy was one of the initial youth lacrosse training academies in Africa. Bill Belichick's foundation donated

money for a field at the Youth Academy that sits next to both the Equator and Lake Victoria.

The Navy Seals of Tororo in the East Region of Uganda will also play the Golden Rocks Lions of Kampala in a highlight Youth contest featuring two of the most developed youth programs in all of Africa. For more information on the Mukono event, contact (Benji) kyakulagamohammed@gmail.com for more details. (continued EXHIBITION on page 10)



Mukono PLWC Regional Select Games and Gospel Event on
January 2, 2025



UGANDAN DRAWS ATTENTION

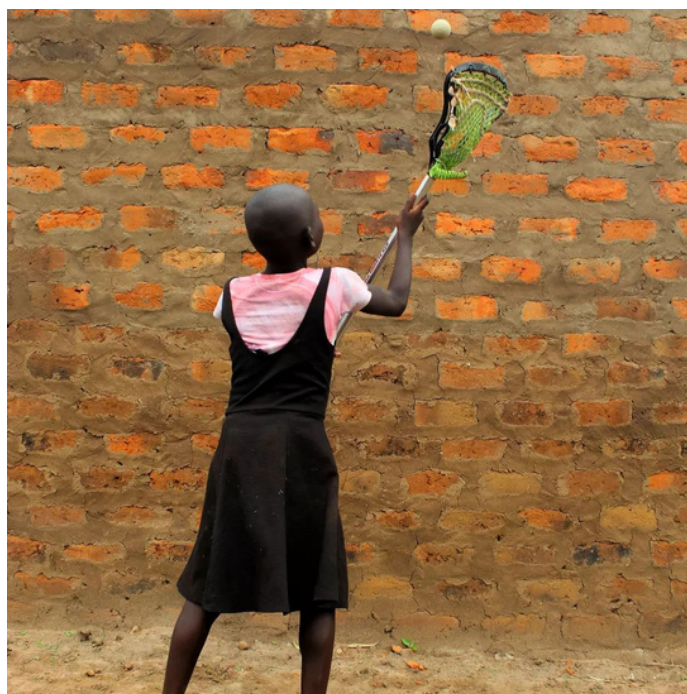
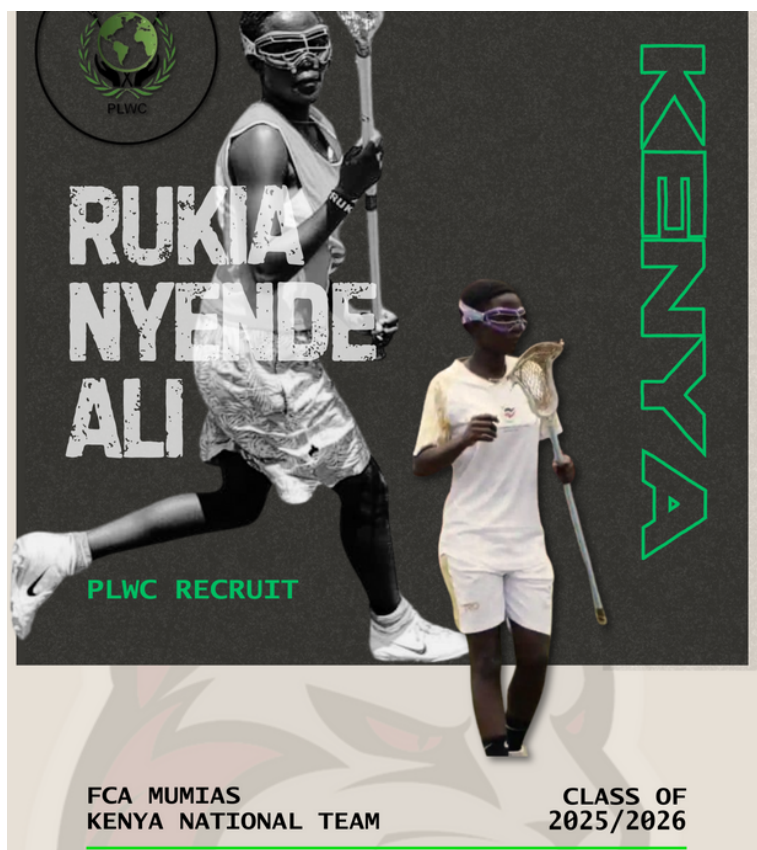
Christine Ijawet became Africa's first ever NCAA lacrosse recruit in history in 2023 as she entered Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts. Since then she has been selected for the All Rookie Team in 2024 and has become a devastating draw control specialist and feature player for Anna Maria's Amcats. She has also been accepted into Anna Maria's competitive nursing program as both the youngest and only student athlete in her nursing class. An honor role student, and effective leader, Christine has exceeded all expectations.



Anna Maria's Women's Lacrosse team competes at the NCAA Division III level in the most competitive part of the US for the game of lacrosse. As Christine enters her Junior Season, she will be joined by three other Africa players from Kenya who have been accepted to Anna Maria. The Kenyans are in the process of acquiring their Student Visas for entry into Anna Maria. Now, as the Women's Lacrosse team prepares to field four Africans this spring, the Amcats will also debut in the competitive Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference MASCAC for the first time.

THREE KENYANS JOINING UGANDAN AMCAT IN THE US

They have been developing youth lacrosse with FCA and the Kenyan youth programs and have been selected for the Kenyan National Teams. Now three of Kenya's top women are headed to the US to compete with Uganda's Christine Ijawet on Anna Maria's Women's Lacrosse team in 2026. Marian Jebet Lelei, Sharon Khakuya Kwalanda and Rukia Nyende Ali have each been accepted to Anna Maria College and are now in the process of acquiring their student visas for the 2025/2026 school year. (more at RECRUITS on page 5)



UGANDA PREPARES FOR THE WORLD WALLBALL SERIES - 2025 EDITION

The Secret to Uganda's lacrosse success as a rising African Lacrosse power, rests in its foundation in Wall Ball and the development of the World Wallball Series. The World Wallball Series was developed during the Covid-19 shutdown in 2020 and 2021 when the only activity allowed was wallball. Wallball skills build a lacrosse player's fundamental skillset. The foundation of Uganda's Golden Rocks Lions was its development of the World Wallball Series, which has made the Golden Rocks Youth Lacrosse programs some of the strongest

lacrosse programs in all of Africa. The World Wallball Series, founded in 2021, consists of testing players for one minute in 10 essential isolated skills for passing and catching. The test measures the amount of times a player can strike the wall with a lacrosse ball using that particular skill in 60 seconds. A score of 30, (one strike every two seconds), indicates a decent player, while a score of 60 indicates a very strong player. Emachar Nicholas holds the record with a high score of 81 strikes per second, which is faster than one strike on the wall every second. Isolating players throwing motion through the World Wallball series exercises, naturally corrects parts of the player's throwing motion as a player cannot perform adequately without correcting the fundamentals around the skillset. The World Wallball Series is developing Africa's potential.



OVER 400 BOXES OF LACROSSE GEAR BEING SENT TO EAST AFRICA

From 5-8 PM on Friday nights during the summer in Hardwick, Massachusetts, volunteers come to the Hardwick Community Church to pack up lacrosse gear for East Africa's youth lacrosse academies. The PLWC has been collecting gear in an unused church since 2022 and is now organizing it into units to ship by container to 36 youth lacrosse academies in East Africa. The goal is to get each of the academies at least 24 sets of boys protective youth gear. It makes little sense to equip only one or two academies with protective gear, as that would be dangerous for everyone. So the PLWC has been collecting gear to organize to give to the rising youth lacrosse academies all at once.



PREPARING EAST AFRICAN TEAM BOXES IN HARDWICK

A 40 foot container worth of gear is being prepared to be shipped to Uganda to its 21 youth lacrosse academies, which will each receive at least 12 boxes of gear containing two protective helmets and accompanying protective gear for boys, along with other items needed for the development of the game. The protective gear will allow the academies to conduct a first ever youth academy lacrosse season of play followed by an East African playoff series. Equipping lacrosse training academies also paves the way for the development of an East African Youth Lacrosse Association, which is the natural next step for lacrosse to develop in East Africa. Along with Uganda, boxes are also being packed for the rising youth lacrosse academies developing now in Tanzania (6), Kenya (6) and Rwanda (3) (GEAR..continued pg. 6)



THE 2025 PLWC REGIONAL SELECT GAMES HEAD TO JINJA AND MASAKA IN AUGUST

The PLWC's Regional Select Games are an "elite" level of play that were initiated in Mukono (Jan. 2nd), and then in Kampala (Feb. 2nd) followed by Tororo (April 26th) and Arua (April 27th). The selection of the best players has exposed the lacrosse talent of Uganda this year to the global community, while also establishing the first elite level of play for Africa. To conclude this introductory 2025 Elite season, the PLWC regional select games will head to Jinja on August 23rd where an East Ugandan Select team from the North East, East and South East regions of Uganda will compete against Kenya's and Tanzania's top u20 players. The PLWC Regional Select Season concludes on August 31st in Masaka, (see SELECT...continued pg. 11)

(...continued from RECRUITS, page 3) The three Kenya girls are also anticipated to be joined at Anna Maria by the first African male lacrosse and football recruit in NCAA History. Emachar Nicholas of Uganda is both a field lacrosse player who has also played box lacrosse in Uganda in some of Uganda's first indoor and box lacrosse games. Since 2021, Nicholas has also participated in a developing American Football program in Uganda. He would be eligible to play both American Football as well as Lacrosse at Anna Maria College. Football is played in the fall and lacrosse is played in the spring in the US, so Nicholas could play with the football team in the fall semester and the lacrosse team in the spring. Nicholas also won the last World Wallball Series, and is an effective coach of both the Golden Rocks Leopards, a youth lacrosse academy in Kampala, as well as the Golden Rocks Deer, which is a youth lacrosse Academy on the Eastern side of Uganda in Tororo, next to Kenya. (Continued... RECRUITS page 9)

EMACHAR NICHOLAS FIRST FB/LAX RECRUIT



PLWC NEWS

JULY 10, 2025

CHURCH LADIES CONNECT AT ACE SEWING CLASS

The new Sewing Class being offered as part of the ACE after school programs has created a way for some church ladies from Central Mass to become involved with African students in the US. The African Community Education (ACE), located at 51 Gage Street in Worcester, provides after school services for Africa's refugee population trying to navigate their way in the US. Now in its 19th year, ACE is also creating a unique pathway to friendships. Ladies from the Tri-Parish Church in New Braintree and Hardwick as well as the North Brookfield First Congregational Church are using their love of sewing to make new friends. The ladies have gathered sewing machines (cont. SEWING, page 11).



(GEAR...continued from page 4): Sharing the game of lacrosse involves helping communities, and in particular youth communities, participate in raising up the great Native American sport and past time in their area. Getting gear to these communities is the most needed thing now.



For centuries, America's indigenous peoples used lacrosse as a way to settle differences and bring peace into their world through settling disputes through lacrosse. Now, those sharing the game by helping get gear to Africa are also helping to bring peace "lacrosse the world" today. If you would like to help, email: plwc.dl@gmail.com.



Monday October 13th, 2025 marks the 5th annual Indigenous People's Day Celebration in Newton Massachusetts. This year, the PLWC will be petitioning the event to allow the ACE lacrosse class an opportunity to showcase a sample of Indigenous African Seven's Lacrosse or Volleycrosse. African Seven's lacrosse is the discipline of the game that is used in East Africa and is being taught in the ACE lacrosse class. African Seven's Volleycrosse is being in the ACE class to teach the game's movement - on a basketball court with a volleyball in place of sticks. In anticipation of the event, the ACE Summer lacrosse program is preparing an East vs. West African exhibition game. The PLWC hopes to also be an event vendor with a display of ACE's (cont... at PEOPLE's DAY on page 10)



EAST AFRICA'S YOUTH LACROSSE

In 2020 the Golden Rocks Lions were born as the first PLWC youth lacrosse academy developed specifically as a community ministry. At the time there were only a few youth lacrosse training academies in Uganda. Ifamile Emu Children's Center in Bukedea and Kids Lacrosse Africa (KLA) in Jinja were two of these. But today there are over 20 such youth academies in Uganda and a growing number also being developed among other East African countries as the game of lacrosse grows. (see YOUTH ACADEMIES...continued page 11)



TANZANIA, KENYA, UGANDA, RWANDA LACROSSE

The East African countries of Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya have taken bold steps forward in respect to lacrosse development and its future as an Olympic sport. With outstanding passionate leaders developing both the youth lacrosse training academies in each of the four countries, as well as the elite level PLWC Regional Select Travel Teams, East Africa is preparing well for future success. Mukaga John Brian, Director of the PLWC Travel Program and one of Uganda's 2022 and 2023 National Team members shares; "I am thrilled to reflect on our recent success in Tororo and Arua. Key Highlights included; 1. Successful Youth Select Games: Our East and West teams demonstrated impressive talent, sportsmanship, and teamwork. 2. Empowering Youth: We focused on empowering young people through sports, promoting education, and personal growth. (continued... EAST AFRICA...page 10)



GRACIES FRUIT PERFECTION BRINGS SMILES

Gracie's Fruit perfection is an all natural fruit topping made with the best local farm grown non-processed fruit products on the market. More importantly, it tastes great. The Gracie's Fruit company is also a new company being developed that will open up its marketing with direct e-commerce sales, before being made available in Costco. The PLWC Scholarship program is proud to be one of the founding partners for the Gracie's Fruit Perfection company and will offer an affiliate portal to process orders whose commissions will be donated to the PLWC Scholarship Fund. Gracie's first run is anticipated to be out in August of 2025.



AFRICAN COMMUNITY EDUCATION (ACE) SUMMER LAX CLASSES

African Community Education (ACE) is partnering with the Peace Lacrosse the World Campaign to offer summer lacrosse classes on Mondays and Tuesdays for the 21 different African countries that ACE serves. ACE lacrosse students will be invited to play with the Worcester-Auburn Youth Lacrosse program this next spring, offering African youth players a great opportunity to learn and play the game of lacrosse. Combining the strengths of ACE with the PLWC-Advanced Scholarship Program's Kenyan and Ugandan Student Lacrosse Athletes playing at Anna Maria, the training class anticipates being the foundation for developing an African Olympic Education Commission, focusing on helping African student lacrosse athletes, prepare both their skills as well as their visa compliance for the introduction of lacrosse in the Olympic games in LA in 2028.

PLWC.DL@GMAIL.COM

(RECRUITS... continued from page 5): Division III in the NCAA is considered the “Amateur” division of college sports, allowing student athletes the opportunity to compete in multiple sports for the “love of the game”. The Peace Lacrosse the World Campaign’s - Advanced Scholarship Program is also making it possible for “student-leader” Athletes from Africa to have an opportunity to come to the US to attend college. While participating in sports as “student leaders” candidates like Nicholas are singled out for their leadership contributions to their communities. So, rather than being recruited specifically to play a sport or because of academic achievement, the PLWC Scholarship program seeks to identify effective leadership in Africa to bring to the US. Division III does not allow athletic scholarships, so student athletes have to be “students first”. Once accepted to a Division III school, merit scholarships and financial aid help meet the school costs. However, this also always leaves a balance to be paid, which usually is about ⅓ of the school’s total fees. The PLWC scholarship program focuses



on securing the African student’s balance through the charitable participation of a growing support community, collecting funds in a PLWC Scholarship Fund. The PLWC Scholarship Fund is making it possible for qualified African Student Lacrosse athletes to come to study at NCAA Division III schools like Anna Maria. Those interested in learning more or even helping develop the PLWC Foundation and eventual PLWC Endowment for Africa can contact; PLWC.dl@gmail.com.



**INVITING THE NIPMUC TO
DINNER ON AUGUST 2ND,
350 YEARS AFTER THE
AMBUSH OF MATOONAS**

Over 350 years ago, the Nipmuc people, a network of Native American tribes in the Central and Western parts of Massachusetts and Connecticut, taught the colonials how to play the game of lacrosse. The Nipmuc needed help in defending their people. So they created allies by teaching the colonials how they trained for war, which the game of lacrosse was used by native cultures to do. This helped to secure the Nipmuc tribes from the other Western, Southern and Northern tribes who were raiding the Nipmuc and taking their children as well as their food and other supplies.

In 1670, Matoonas was the Nipmuc, Quaboag’s Wesimessit (New Braintree) Tribe’s Chief. He was also the Constable for the area, in charge of the Quaboag Plantation’s Security. However, in 1671, a nefarious plan was developed that involved falsely accusing Matoonas’ son of murder. He was tried and publicly executed in Boston where he was also dis-

PLWC NEWS

JULY 10, 2025

membered as a point of humiliation and intimidation. Planning his revenge, Matoonas bided his time and successfully orchestrated the events that resulted in the bloodiest conflict in American History; King Philip's War. On August 2nd, on the 350th anniversary of an event history calls "Wheeler's Surprise" we will invite the Nipmuc and any other friends and interested parties in peace, to come and "bury the hatchet" so to speak, by having an honest conversation and exposure of the history around the Battle of Brookfield. While it is important to speak honestly about the true facts surrounding this event, to better understand what led to the deterioration of society in 1675, the ability to establish trust for the future, is also tied directly to how honest people can be about the past. If you are an advocate for truth, then plan to come on Saturday August 2nd, to 33 Smith Hanson Rd. in North Brookfield. There will be a potluck picnic and story telling opportunity as we uncover the secrets surrounding likely the best kept secret ambush in all America's history. Contact email: plwc.dl@gmail.com



(from EXHIBITION ..page 1)
But the games in Mukono also signify the growth of lacrosse in Uganda as the Navy Seals Academy teams, right after they play their Exhibition games in Mukono, will travel back to Tororo to participate in a 12 day community festival where lacrosse will be on display alongside other growing sports in Uganda. Navy Seals Head Coach Owere Chris envisions the growth of lacrosse in the local schools around Tororo and hopes the exhibition will help. Lacrosse enters the Olympic Games in 2028 in LA and the youth players of today will be Uganda's best hope for participation in the debut of lacrosse in the Gold Medal competition. For more information on the Tororo Exhibition or how to help, contact:

Owere Chris at email: oweresiliver@gmail.com

(From PEOPLE'S DAY... page 6): ...sewing class alongside of other lacrosse apparel and other items being sold to support the PLWC Scholarship programs and developing lacrosse efforts in Africa.



(From EAST AFRICA... page 6): "...Our events brought together talented youth from across the region, showcasing their skills and empowering them beyond the classroom. We're proud of what we've achieved and look forward to continuing our mission. Our events not only promote athletic excellence, but also foster youth development and community engagement." - Mukaga John Brian, PLWC Travel Team Director.

Success is in the future with Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania joining Uganda in developing both youth lacrosse training academies as well as the elite level of play for East Africa.

PLWC NEWS

JULY 10, 2025

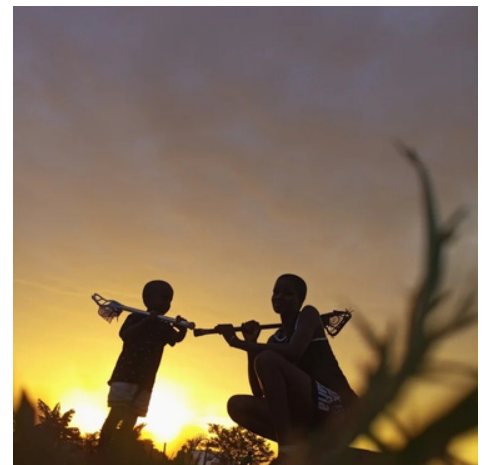
(Continued from SEWING... page 6):...to donate to the new ACE class and have even joined the sewing class on occasion. But the interest does not just extend to their own hobby interest, the church ladies have also helped to support Africans learning the sport of lacrosse. In 2023, some of the ladies of the Tri-Parish Community Church decided to donate money they had made by selling backed potatoes at the Hardick Fair, to support the development of the PLWC Scholarship fund. They were the fund's first donors - which allowed the PLWC Scholarship Program to get off the ground. The PLWC Scholarship program seeks to support not only the African Students coming to the US for college, but also the Youth Lacrosse Training Academies developing in East Africa as well as both Entrepreneurial initiatives, the PLWC Travel Programs as well as acclimation efforts to help Africans feel at home in the US.



(from SELECT...page 5): as Uganda's Western and Southwestern Elite u20 teams match up against the Elite Rwandan and East African teams. The top 48 Players from both the boys and girls u20 Regional Select six game Season will then be invited to play for the Uganda East and West and Kenya/Tanzania and Rwanda/East Africa teams- in The East African Select Games. The 2025/26 PLWC PEACE Games, December 27th - January 5th, 2026 in Arusha, Tanzania will feature the East African Youth Lacrosse

Championships, as well as the East African Select Games along with the World Wallball Series Championships as well as an exhibition of Peace where women from around the world will be invited to come play for Peace...lacrosse the world

(YOUTH ACADEMIES continued from Page 7)...At the heart of the Peace Lacrosse the World Campaign (PLWC) is the development of Africa's youth academies. Christine Ijawet, the PLWC President from 2020-2023 led the effort to start youth lacrosse training academies across Uganda. Recruiting candidate players from Uganda's U20 National Men's and Women's teams, Christine led lacrosse missions to bring youth lacrosse to cities in the north, south, east and west of Uganda. Today, these youth academies are the entrepreneurial anchor organizations developing the sport in communities and schools as well as other government and non-government organizations. By supporting the youth lacrosse academies it effectively offers a workable model for all of Africa.





PLWC NEWS - Peace Lacrosse the World Campaign

PLWC Scholarship
33 Smith Hanson Road
North Brookfield, MA. 01535
plwc.dl@gmail.com

Dear Reader,

July 10, 2025

We hope you have enjoyed this first edition of PLWC-NEWS and the stories that are emerging as lacrosse develops in East Africa and across the African Continent.

Our aim is to help you become familiar with the leaders in both Africa as well as around the world who are contributing to helping make the world a better place, by sharing the game of lacrosse.

The Peace Lacrosse the World Campaign is a collection of people, organizations, teams, clubs and ministries that have or are working together to develop peace in the world, through supporting the activities and efforts involved in developing lacrosse around the world.

East Africa, and the African continent as a whole, are important locations for the game of lacrosse, as for its standing to sustain in the Olympic Games, lacrosse really needs to become more than just a North American dominated sport. Thus, for lacrosse to stay, Africa needs to play!

However, lacrosse is more than just a game, as its dynamics help to develop entrepreneurs all over the world, and its fraternity is heavily involved in finance and investment.

For Africa to truly have a fair chance of participating in lacrosse, some of the dynamics that have defined Africa's place in the world economically will need to evolve and change. We hope to invite you through these stories and connections with the leaders making things happen on the ground, to be a part of this change.

The PLWC NEWS will be a by-monthly newsletter filled with not only relevant stories from the ground in East Africa, but also with connections to leaders and organizations around the world helping out, so you can share your part as well.

As a Charitable effort of the Libby Mission, the PLWC Scholarship programs and the PLWC NEWS editions have been supported entirely by charitable funds, donated by individuals who simply hope to help advance God's work through the game and community of lacrosse.

In this next year, we anticipate the need to develop a PLWC Foundation and PLWC Endowment for Africa, and to include corporate donors in the efforts and community of the PLWC.

If you might have any interest in helping us take these steps along the way, please feel free to reach out to our email (plwc.dl@gmail.com) and we will look forward to getting back to you with any answers you might need or direction in how to help the PLWC bring peace, lacrosse the world.