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## **Lindenwood Rugby Coach Named Assistant for Men's Junior All-American Team**

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### LINDENWOOD RUGBY COACH NAMED ASSISTANT FOR MEN'S JUNIOR ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

August 4, 2015

Lindenwood University men's rugby head coach J.D. Stephenson was named as an assistant for the AIG Men's Junior All-American Team (MJAA) for players under 20 on Monday, Aug. 3. The MJAA camps are scheduled for Aug. 31 – Sept. 1 in Chula Vista, Calif. Actual competition for the Men's Junior All-American squad is set to begin in the spring of 2016.

"Being selected as a coach for the USA U-20s is a humbling and proud moment for myself as a coach, and is a reflection of the time, commitment, and success of our program as a whole from the administration to coaches and support staff that make our program what it is," said Stephenson. "I'm excited to take on this role and develop as a coach under the expert tutelage of a brilliant coaching staff."

Stephenson began coaching at Lindenwood as a graduate assistant in 2011, the inaugural season for the program. In 2013, he took over as head coach and recently led the Lions to their first USA Rugby College 7s National Championship in May, 2015.

He began playing rugby at the age of four, and has played rugby across the world, including Australia, Scotland, and New Zealand. Prior to Lindenwood, Stephenson was invited as a lead coach at the USA Under 18 National Team winter camps in 2011 and 2012, and was invited to the 2013 winter camp of the USA Under 20 National Team.

In 2010, Stephenson completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree specializing in finance and accounting at the University of Canberra and graduated from Lindenwood in 2012 with a Master's of Business Administration.

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