

International Player Testimonies!



Kyle Corrigan | 2021 | *Sherbrooke, Canada*

“My experience training at the WPRA has been unforgettable! I have had so many opportunities to learn new skills and improve both on and off the rugby field with the help of great coaches. It has also been great to be able to compete, train, and socialize with the other players at the academy. Everyone here at the academy has been very helpful and supportive of us foreigners, providing a great environment for improvement and memories that I will have forever.”

Have a listen to Kyle’s exit interview:



<https://youtu.be/ZA2HsQdviIQ>



Hunter Modlin | 2021 | *California, USA*

“The Western Province Rugby Academy was an amazing experience! The coaching is world class, and the atmosphere is like that of a professional side. The one-on-one sessions with the coaches allowed me to develop in the aspects I wanted to develop in, and the player pool pushed me to be the best I could be. Whether it was game time, or small field sessions, the environment was conducive to development. The Academy gave me the opportunity to not develop as an athlete, but as a person. The stories I heard from my teammates, coaches, and even the people of Stellenbosch were humbling and meaningful. Alongside that, the life skills sessions we had taught me how to have a better mentality when approaching life on and off the field.”

Have a listen to Hunter’s exit interview:



https://youtu.be/VOtf1szlq_g



Tucker Trickey | 2021 | *California, USA*

Overall, my experience at the WPRA has been life changing. Coming from the United States, where rugby is still developing, to a fully developed country where rugby is a part of the culture I knew coming here, I was in for a treat.

My expectations were completely blown away by the generosity of the students and coaches. Everyone wanted to see the way of life they’ve seen on TV because most have never met an American before. Especially the players, Jake and I had oaks at our door, constantly wanting to get to know us and talk to us about American culture and values. Many students have told us their aspirations of coming to the US and starting their careers as rugby players to create new lives for themselves.

In addition to the player’s excellent hospitality and open-mindedness towards us, some of the coaches wanted to get to know Jake and I as students on and off the pitch. I had many conversations about home life and the current status of rugby in the States. Everyone was very interested in knowing the type of training we do and what coaches teach to American players. What fascinated me the most was the culture instilled in the players and their commitment to pushing each other to the limits.

Coming here and being in this environment personally made me a better person and rugby player. I hit personal bests in the gym and crushed my fitness scores from back home, and I credit it to the coaches and the highly competitive environment here at the WPRA. Finally, it won’t be easy leaving the WPRA because the friends I have made here, and the memories that have been created will last a lifetime. This experience will be one that will never be forgotten and cherished for years to come.

Have a listen to Tucker’s exit interview:



<https://youtu.be/9KkDmh6PGY0>



Quintin Tindel | 2021 | California, USA

“My experience training at the WPRA has been unforgettable! I have had so many opportunities to learn new skills and improve both on and off the rugby field with the help of great coaches. It has also been great to be able to compete, train, and socialize with the other players at the academy. Everyone here at the academy has been very helpful and supportive of us foreigners, providing a great environment for improvement and memories that I will have forever.”

Have a listen to Quintin’s exit interview:



<https://youtu.be/fcdxeK5X-20>



Jake Stone | 2021 | California, USA

My time here within this academy has helped change and develop me for the better not only as a rugby player but also as a young man. The rugby community and lifestyle within the academy is something I will miss indefinitely. Waking up every day in a rugby environment, getting the opportunity to live near my teammates and coaches the gym and the fields was amazing. I really enjoyed meeting likeminded players and coaches that really have a passion for rugby, this helped motivate me to be the best version of myself. I feel lucky to have stayed in this community even if it was for a short period of time. The campus community welcomed me with open arms, Players, Coaches, Canteen workers, and cleaning ladies all helped take care of my wants and needs and made sure my stay here was spectacular!

Coming from the United States our rugby culture and level of play is still growing, and we have a lot of work to do; back home we call it “Closing the Gap”. We have this saying because we understand how far behind, we are (In terms of rugby skill and culture) to some of the best in the world like South Africa. It has been a life changing experience to be able to experience South African rugby and its culture for myself and it’s made me wish I grew up playing rugby here because rugby is my passion and I hate explaining what rugby is to the majority of people I meet.

My home academy is nothing like this and that makes me sad to be leaving such a well-run academy. I’ll miss working with coaches like Jason and Coenraad because they care about the development of their players and put in the extra effort to ensure the growth of hard-working athletes like Tucker and myself. I feel I have more opportunity for recognition and growth in my career here with WPRA than I do at my home academy, but everything happens for a reason and once I am back home with my coaches I will continue to work hard and earn a professional contract for my Hometown.

At SD Legion Academy’s best, they had me on meal plans, training with professionals and in the gym 3 times a week. At its current state there is only 1 gym session a week with no contact from coaches or professional players and upon my return I will be one of 3 Academy players. After this experience you can imagine how underwhelming my return will be and because I will go from living and breathing rugby here surrounded by my teammates to virtually no rugby environment once I’m back unless I am offered a Jr. contract.

Having coaches that put in real effort for over 90 players here has felt like an absolute blessing because my coaches are often too busy to give academy players their attention. I’ve played for 10 years, and I’ve made clubs, select sides, travel teams and representative teams but this Academy has been the highlight of my career and I only wish I could’ve developed more.

If I could’ve stayed here for a full year to develop more as a rugby player I would. I will greatly miss the friendships and coach relationships I’ve made here! I’d love to keep in touch with the academy and update the coaches here on my career status back home and if possible, come back to develop more in the future. My Biggest Thank You to all the staff involved with keeping me satisfied with my experience and I look forward to the possibility of revisiting South Africa and potentially being the next South African Captain America!

Have a listen to Jakes’ exit interview:



<https://youtu.be/WP6s2DlJafg>