



Seven Benjamin passes the ball to Alex Huerta during a BRIDGE Lacrosse practice in a field across the street from St. Philip's School and Community Center.

Below: Cricket Griffin, treasurer, and Edie Lycke, president and founder

Bridging The Gap

STAFF PHOTOS: CHRISTINA BARANY

Non-profit program exposes kids in South Dallas to lacrosse

By Chuck Cox
Sports Editor

After mere 10 minutes before a road game at Parish Episcopal School, members of the St. Philip's lacrosse team discovered they did not have a goalie stick.

Not good. But Edie Lycke, president and founder of BRIDGE Lacrosse of Dallas, which started the program at St. Philip's four years ago, came to the rescue. She jumped in her car, whisked away to her house, got a goalie stick out of the garage, and was back to make sure the Saints would be able to march onto the field.

"I call her the Pied Piper of lacrosse," said John Thompson, who has two sons — Tyler, 12, and Zach, 9 — in the program. "The passion she's got for this is incredible. ... I can't say enough

good things about her." Lycke, a Preston Hollow resident, had already started several youth lacrosse programs in North Texas, including at Hockaday, when she read about a program in the Boston area that brought the sport to inner-city kids who had never been exposed to lacrosse. "I thought, 'Wouldn't it be nice if they had an opportunity to play

lacrosse and have the enjoyment and love of the sport the same way I have seen literally hundreds of kids in other parts of the city?"

Lycke said. The program started in 2005 with a fifth- and sixth-grade team at St. Philip's, which is located in the Fair Park area. Two years later, a third- and fourth-grade team was added. The Saints, who play in the North Texas Youth Lacrosse League (NTYLL), open their season with a pair of home games Saturday.

Diversity, Growth, and Enrichment, also started a girls team at the Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School, a DISD magnet school in Fair Park, and conducts a two-week summer lacrosse camp.

Cricket Griffin, who is the president of NTYLL and treasurer of Highland Park Lacrosse, is in her first year as treasurer of BRIDGE's Dallas chapter. And she shares the same passion for the sport as her long-time friend, Lycke.

"We need to have it in underserved communities," Griffin said. "That's the whole point. And I'm giving back. We want more than two teams [at St. Philip's] and one team at Irma Rangel."

The popularity of lacrosse in

"I love lacrosse. I think my son is proud of me that I've done so much for lacrosse in North Texas."

Cricket Griffin
Treasurer of BRIDGE Lacrosse

The Dallas chapter of BRIDGE, a non-profit organization whose names stands for Building Relationships to Initiate



North Texas has boomed in the last 10 to 15 years, largely in affluent areas. Griffin said there are about 144 youth teams in the area, and the North Texas chapter of U.S. Lacrosse is the 14th-largest in the nation.

"I just said, 'I can help this sport grow,'" Lycke said. "That's why I started so many teams and really wanted to see it come to

See LACROSSE, Page 6B

Seams Like Old Times

What: Patron Party celebrating the 25th anniversary Saint Valentine's Day Luncheon and Fashion Show

Where and when: At the Hilton Anatole Chantilly Ballroom, Feb. 13

Why: Raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Tony and Ruth Ann Lisotta; Kayla and Brian Roughton, co-hosts



Denny and Joanne Landers, co-hosts



Janie Condon, luncheon co-chair 2009; Crawford Brock, owner, Stanley Korshak, fashion show sponsor; DeeDee Lee, luncheon co-chair 2009



Diane DuVall-Rogers, underwriting chair; Gigi Potter; Lissie Donosky



Patsy Donosky; and Nancy Dedman

WEDDINGS

See who happily said, 'I do' **6B**



PARTY OF THE WEEK

Mad Hatter: An evening of cocktails and shopping **2B**



DID YOU KNOW?

On this day in 1992, Tiger Woods, 16, became the youngest PGA golfer in 35 years.

ENGAGEMENTS

Cullum—Nixon

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brooks Cullum Jr. of University Park are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Chandler Cullum, to Morton Nixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Walter Nixon Sr. of Highland Park.

The bride is a graduate of Highland Park High School and received her bachelor degree in family and consumer sciences from the University of Georgia. She currently designs and produces jewelry in Austin, Texas.



The groom is a graduate of Highland Park High School and received his bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship and new venture management from the University of Oklahoma.

He is a sales representative for Drilling Info, an online oil and gas information company headquartered in Austin, Texas.

The bride and groom have known each other since their sixth-grade confirmation classes at HPUMC and became friends on a trip to Italy in high school. They became a couple the summer before college.

The wedding is planned for March 28, 2009, at Highland Park United Methodist Church. The ceremony will be officiated by the Rev. Mark Craig.

Holman—Pyle

Mr. and Mrs. E. Leon Holman of Dallas are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn Talley Holman, to William Scott Pyle, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Scott Pyle.

The bride is a graduate of Highland Park High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Mississippi. She is employed at Bill Reed Decorations.



The groom is a graduate of Highland Park High School and received his

Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a commercial real estate broker and operations manager for Belclaire Companies and Parking Company of America.

The couple will wed on April 25, 2009, in a ceremony at Highland Park United Methodist Church, where Katy is a fourth-generation member. The Rev. Mark Craig and the Rev. Paul Rasmussen will officiate.

Sine—McCullum

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnston Sine of St. Louis, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin Michelle Sine, to Jack Barton McCollum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike McCollum of University Park.

The bride is a graduate of Lafayette High School in St. Louis and received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Clemson University. She attended Tulane Law



School for her juris doctorate. She is an attorney

at McGuire Woods in Richmond, Va.

The groom is a graduate of Highland Park High School and received his Bachelor of Arts in finance and psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. He attended Tulane Law School for his juris doctorate. He is the chief operating officer for AmeriFlex in Mt. Laurel, N.J.

The wedding is planned for Oct. 17, 2009, in New Orleans.

Dallas Art Fair

What: Dallas Art Fair private cocktail reception
Where and when: Goss-Michael Foundation, Feb. 7
Why: Celebrate the success of the inaugural fair

Cheryl and Kevin Vogel



Alina Richards and Cheryl Kelley



Bill Crowley and Kate Nelson



Blain Vanderberg and Andrew Edlin



Left: Bill Beach and Carrie Secrist

Lacrosse

Continued from Page 1B

Texas and South Dallas. I have seen so many kids fall in love with this sport and have so much fun playing it. You want more kids to have that opportunity and have that fun."

Jack Tierney is in his third year volunteering as head coach at St. Philip's. He played collegiately at Cornell and started the lacrosse program at St. Mark's.

"I came down three or four years to run a clinic," Tierney said. "I saw a need, and I was fortunate enough to be in a position to help these kids out. They're a great group of kids. It's a fantastic way to expand the sport."

Both Lycke and Griffin initially got interested in lacrosse through their kids. Lycke's daughter, Christina, played at Hockaday, while Griffin's son, Kolter Livengood, played at Highland Park.

"My kids are used to 'gung ho' from me," Griffin said. "I have always volunteered, whether it was Turkey Trot, which I was on the Turkey Trot board for years and years, and my kids always volunteered with me. At first they think, 'Come on, mom, give it a rest,' but I love the sport. I love lacrosse. I think my son is proud of me that I've done so much for lacrosse



STAFF PHOTO: CHRISTINA BARAN

St. Philip's head lacrosse coach Jack Tierney tightens the chin strap on Joseph Melton's helmet during practice. The team will have its first two games of the season this Saturday.

in North Texas."

It doesn't take long at any given practice to see the excitement and enthusiasm the St. Philip's kids have for the sport they otherwise would have barely known anything about.

"I had heard of it [lacrosse], but I wasn't that familiar with it," said team

captain Tyler Thompson, who is in his third year in the program. "I really like how it felt, because it felt like I could do anything. I'm planning on going pro."

And that's worth a million hurried trips home to grab a goalie stick.

E-mail chuck.cox@peoplenewspapers.com

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