



Media Release
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Lacrosse too rough for Carlton spearhead World's best come to Melbourne

The fastest game on two legs is coming to Melbourne and is too hot to handle for one of our biggest AFL stars, Carlton spearhead **Brendan Fevola**.

Fevola, who was on hand at Hisense Arena today to launch the Lease Plan National Lacrosse League All Star Series to be played in Melbourne this October, admitted that despite his rich family history in the sport of lacrosse, his mother would not let him pick up the stick because she thought it was too rough.

"I loved lacrosse, but my mum wouldn't let me play. She thought it was too rough. Dad used to get stitches and have bloody noses and broken bones every week so mum said I couldn't play and that's how I started playing footy," Fevola said.

"I wanted to play but mum wouldn't let me and back then you had to listen to your parents, when you're a kid."

Fevola's father, Angelo, played lacrosse for Malvern Lacrosse Club for 25 years and was a Victorian representative and All-Australian. His uncle, David Joy, represented Australia in field lacrosse and coached the Australian under-19 team.

The Lease Plan National Lacrosse League (NLL) All Star Series is the newest major international event to hit Melbourne and will feature the world's best lacrosse players in an action packed, fast flowing and big hitting East versus West battle.

Direct from the United States, the two game series (Friday, 23 October and Saturday, 24 October) will be held at Hisense Arena and will provide Melbourne sports lovers with the unique opportunity to experience this highly entertaining and talent-packed event.

Each team will comprise of nine of the world's best players from the National Lacrosse League and three of Australia's best home-grown talent.

Player announcements will be made in the coming weeks.

Fevola, keen on having a hit out himself, is confident that Melbournians will embrace the event.

"It's going to be a spectacle and I reckon they will fill it (Hisense Arena) and it will probably be an annual event because it's such an exciting sport.

"I'll play (in a celebrity match), it'll be the off season so that will be exciting. That'd be great if I could play, but I'll have to ask mum first."

One man who knows exactly what Australia is in for is **Keith Nyberg**, Australia's latest player to jet off to North America to try his luck against the world's best.

The Australian representative was selected to trial for the Calgary Roughnecks in November 2008 alongside 45 fellow hopefuls from around the world. The 35-year-old made it to the final cut for the Roughnecks, who eventually took out the season's major championship.

Nyberg is thrilled that the Lease Plan NLL All Star Series is coming Down Under, and is confident the spectacle won't disappoint.

"The guys that they will bring out really are the best in the world and it is amazing to have these guys play in our country," Nyberg said.

"The pace and level of skills of these athletes is phenomenal, and a huge step up from anything we have ever seen in Australia."

Nyberg is also excited about the opportunities the event gives lacrosse and its players in Australia.

"It will be an amazing, once in a lifetime opportunity for any of the Australian guys who get to play alongside these stars of the game," Nyberg continued.

"We get to play against them at the world championships once every four years, but never alongside them.

"And hopefully, the event will showcase our sport to the Australian public and put it on the radar of young children looking to take up a new sport."

NLL Chairman of the Executive Board, Steve Govett has promised nothing but the best come October.

"This is going to be the greatest lacrosse event, outside of the US, ever," Govett said via a video message today.

"We're bringing the best to you and now it's up to you to fill that building.

"We're going to sell you the whole seat; you're only going to need the edge."

NLL Commissioner, George Daniel, is also excited about the series heading to Australia.

"This series demonstrates the international growth of lacrosse and the NLL and we are excited about bringing the world's best players to Australia," Daniel said.

Tickets for the 2009 Lease Plan NLL All Star Series are available now from Ticketek. For more information, visit www.nllallstarseries.com.

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