



# Richard A. Donelli Memorial Scholarship



**Education Level**  
**High School Senior**



**Amount**  
**\$2,500**



**Minimum HS GPA**  
**3.0/4.0**



**Scholarships Awarded**  
**1**

## Who is Eligible

The scholarship may go to a high school senior if no qualified junior or senior collegiate applicant applies. Candidates must have a 3.0+ GPA, demonstrate financial need, and attend an accredited four-year college with a recognized rugby program. Selection considers character, recommendations, community involvement, extracurriculars, rugby potential, and personal statement. Funds may cover tuition, books, or fees.

## Apply Now!



[www.usrugbyfoundation.org/  
college-scholarships](http://www.usrugbyfoundation.org/college-scholarships)

## Scholarship Process Timeline

- May 1st** ● Applications Open
- August 31st** ● Applications Close
- Fall Semester** ● Review Applications
- Spring Semester** ● Check applicant's college attendance and rugby participation. Award scholarship.

# About the Scholarship



## Richard A. Donelli

Richard “Dick” Donelli was one of the most dominating figures in American rugby. A former starting quarterback for Columbia University, he went on to co-found the Old Blue Rugby Football Club in 1961, helping to shape the growth of the sport in the New York area. Known as a physically commanding scrumhalf, Donelli combined athleticism with technical precision in his passing and an unwavering competitive spirit. In 1972, he captained the Met New York All-Stars in a memorable match against the New Zealand All-Blacks, showcasing his leadership on the field. Beyond his playing career, he coached Old Blue RFC to four Final Four appearances from 1979 to 1986, leaving a lasting impact on the club and the broader rugby community.

## The Scholarship

The Richard A. Donelli Memorial Scholarship was established to honor Dick’s legacy by supporting collegiate rugby players in the New York Metropolitan area. Awarded annually by the United States Rugby Foundation, the \$2,500 scholarship is open to male or female players, either before or after graduation, who demonstrate athletic talent, leadership, and commitment to the sport. Selection reflects not only skill on the field but also character, dedication, and involvement in the rugby community. The scholarship is proudly presented at the Old Blue Annual Hall of Fame Dinner, celebrating both the achievements of the recipient and the enduring influence of Dick Donelli on American rugby.



**Richard A. Donelli Memorial Scholarship**  
[www.usrugbyfoundation.org](http://www.usrugbyfoundation.org)