

MEDIA RELEASE



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Former Aussie Hawaii Gridiron Player helping to grow the game in Australia

Sydney, AUSTRALIA: Paul Manera might not be a name many people have heard of but in the Australian gridiron community he is a household name.

Manera is an alumnus of the University of Hawaii. He was the second Australian to ever receive a scholarship to play American football at the college and played for the Rainbow Warriors from 1989 to 1991. In his senior year at Hawaii Manera was selected to the Western Athletic Conference as an Academic All-Conference Player and graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration with a Major in Finance.

Manera began his coaching career in the Spring Semester of 1992 where he assisted with the Hawaiian Offensive Line. It was during this time that he realised his calling and returned to Australia to help the game that had given him so many opportunities.

"I could have stayed in the USA and coached over there, there are friends that I coached with at Hawaii that are now Head Coaches or Coordinators in college who are enjoying great careers, but I realised that I could really make a difference by coaching in Australia and it really motivated me to come home".

In the 20+ years since his return to Australia, Paul Manera has coached at the Club, State, National, International and Professional level. Arguably, his biggest contribution to the sport would have to have commenced in 2008 when he and his wife, Elissa, started their sports business. Bring it on Sports specialises in teaching American Football in schools. Their Flag Gridiron program has sustained steady growth and in 2015 they taught over 400 sessions at schools in the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

Now they are taking it a step further – Bring it on Sports, led by Manera, are running NFL Flag Camps during the April and September 2016 School Holidays. "Helping the game to grow down under has been really satisfying; the kids love playing Flag Gridiron and NFL Flag. It's also a great way for them to try the sport without having to put on the pads so it's a great opportunity for boys and girls all over Australia to experience America's favourite game." Manera says.

NFL Flag School Holiday Camps will be held in Brisbane, Darwin, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth throughout 2016. <http://www.bringitonsports.com.au/events/nflflagcamp/>

For more Information:

Elissa Manera
Bring it on Sports
0408-116-014
elissa@bringitonsports.com.au

