

February 5, 2004

## Jesuit Upends Highlanders

Jesuit HS 1/31/04

The new team on the block, the Fairfield Highlanders, played their first game in their organization's history and showed a lot of enthusiasm and eagerness for the competition. With a few varsity players to stabilize a plethora of super sophomores, the trys came early in the match as the Highlanders got a taste of life in the Sacramento Valley league.

Sean McNamara opened the scoring in the first minute with individual brilliance. Closely following this was Pierce Cooley, the super soph scrumhalf, diving in for a score. Anthony Vitto wanted to show off for his grandmother visiting from the East Coast and scored the first of two trys off a perfect draw and pass from Pierce Cooley. Tyler Collins then made a break from midfield and passed to Anthony Vitto who then did a behind the back flip pass to a streaking Sean McNamara for a dazzling try. That man McNamara was in the next score as he ran 40 meters to be tackled near the goal, and then flipped the ball up to Julian Columbero. The big sophomore prop rumbled by him to take it in for a score. Kudos for the great effort by the big man to stay in support for the entire 50 meters that the play covered in the field.

Anthony Vitto then ran down a long kick ahead by Tyler Collins. David Read got on the scoreboard by following Zach Reed to the goal and then finishing in the goal with a pick and drive move. Zach Reed and Christian Warne finished out the scores in the second half with good individual efforts.

The younger players impressed the sidelines and Tyler Collins showed he is ready to claim a spot on the starting XV. It was a fine day for the first outing of the season and a good time was had by all.

At the post game presentation, Fairfield chose Chris Warne as best forward and Zach Reed as best back. Congratulations to both teams.

Jesuit 1-15: Malim , Read, Columbero, Kerr, Murchison, Beebe, Fitsos, Hackard, Cooley, Collins, Demichei, McNamara, Reed, Vitto, Burky

Bench: Pierce, Phillips, Misso, McKay, Harmon, Bonner, Rowe, Warne, Klopfenstein, Acker, Siegel, Lundholm, Kesich

Scoring: Trys-McNamara (2), Vitto (2), Cooley, Columbero, Reed, Read, Warne

Conversions: Collins 1/6; T. Siegel 1/2; Lundholm 0/1

Referee: Jason Klier

Parent's Day Finds New Talent

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Tom Janis and Athletic Director Ron Nocetti introduced a willing mob of parents to the secrets of rugby on a bright sunny day at the Jesuit Rugby Pitch. It was a pleasure to see the interest at the school and about the activities that keep their kids off the streets. After an introductory walk about the field by Tom Janis with explanations about the various lines on the field, the parents broke into 3 groups. The first group led by Jason Klier and Carl Kuehn did lineouts and learned the numbering system of the jerseys. The second group led by Tom Janis developed handling skills with the ball in backline moves. The last group learned about scrums and rucks and that is where the trouble began. After learning the spot of hooker and combining with her female loosehead prop, Mrs. (Mean Machine) Demichei demanded that her group push the heavy scrum machine around the field or pay the consequences of her ire. Push they did and reaped the applause from an appreciative group of freshman boys that found the task difficult for themselves at a recent practice. A second group of scrum fanatics was led by ferocious tight head prop Rebecca Hamilton and her alter ego Doug, our alumni correspondent.

Cheers and Jeers

-To Sue Gamache for volunteering and providing the refreshments for the post game program. Thank you very much.

-To Coach Marty Popelka for working through lunch every day so he can get off early from work to coach on Tuesday and Thursday. That is truly giving it maximum effort. The team appreciates your efforts and sacrifices to be at practice!!

-To Christian Warne who handed in his long sought for medical release on Saturday and then immediately was Forward of the Match in his first game. Strong work, Chris!

-To Athletics Director Ron Nocetti and head groundsman Kevin Fleming for allowing us to practice on the Rugby field this week. It allowed us to get so much of the vital pre-season grading of players done and will help us in our quest of the National #1 spot in 2004.

-To Alex Spinoso-it was great to see him at practice last week. We had heard the word that Alex would be out this season and we were looking forward to his return to the Rugby Field. But...unfortunately Alex suffered a knee injury in soccer that necessitated an operation on the injured ACL this week. Quick recovery, Alex. Maybe we might see him as the Varsity team manager while he recovers.

2004 - Here it comes

The 2004 season is just over two weeks away from its commencement and Jesuit has a long way to go to be ready to defend its 2003 #2 ranking in the nation.

It is not going to be an easy start to the season. Only three players who took the field in the National Championship game in Fort Worth in 2003 will be starting in 2004 and two of them look like playing in different positions.

Thank heavens for the depth we now have in Jesuit Rugby. The Varsity coaches are confident that they can mould a very presentable team for the first League game against the Vacaville Black Dogs two weeks Friday.

Anybody who saw last Friday's intra squad trial would agree. With Kairos and other activities taking out players from the game such as Estrella, Sweeney, Kallergis, Lewis, Jesseman, McNamara, Taylor Collins and Imwinkelried to name a few, the quality of the scrimmage was outstanding.

Coaches Barry, Fred and Andy couldn't stop smiling at the end of the trial. It was not only the depth at senior level that pleased with the form of so many of our younger players, particularly our sophomores.

With the Varsity squad on the verge of being named it is apparent a number of our younger players will be seeing some time in the big Varsity games ahead.

The game ended in a fitting 20-all draw between Coach Fred's Ferocious Fighters and Coach Andy's Audacious Attackers.

#### Teams

##### Coach Fred's

Holzmann, Read, Colombero, Watje, Misso, Reed, Jue, Murchison Bittner, Morrison, Vitto, Puente, Forner, Bier, Fellmuth Bench - Marszal, Kesich, Hendricks, Ackler

##### Coach Andy's

Nickerson, Beebe, Malim, Fry, Lllewelyn, McCoy, Fitsos, French Cooley, Sardon, Demichei, Mariani, Burky, Champion, Renda Bench - Rowe, Mackay, Bonner, Kerr, Blamey, McKay

#### A Big Test Friday at Davis

It's never easy playing in Davis, and this Friday should be no exception. Jesuit's Varsity squad will return to Pioneer Park (weather permitting) for another battle with the Davis High Devils.

With so little time available before the first League game at Vacaville, fast tracking of players and game plans will be taking place. We are only in the second week of our pre-season and many players are still being considered.

Players please support the judgment of your coaches in selections - they have had a great deal of experience in coaching schoolboy Rugby. Show them your true team spirit by simply playing when and where you are selected. We know that you will.

#### The Quick Learning Freshmen Sophomores

Both Coach Barry and Coach John finished working with the Varsity squad on Tuesday and went over to work with Coaches Marty, Dave and Carl who were coaching the players new to the game.

The half hour session finished with the players able to retain the ball by means of squeeze ball and two-man drop for up to six phases. Well done, men. We ask ourselves - what is going to happen when they have actually got on to the field and play a game of Rugby?

#### Notices

IMPORTANT-Friday is the last day to hand in orders for warm-ups and kit bags. Please give them to Coach K as that is the last chance to order those 2 items for 2004.

Varsity game vs. Davis at Davis Pioneer Park 4 PM Friday. (Subject to change of venue to Jesuit if Davis' field is closed. We will know Thursday at practice.)

Any questions, please email [sheldonoaks@hotmail.com](mailto:sheldonoaks@hotmail.com)

The Management