

February 12, 2004

It's a Record

The coaches and administrators at Jesuit don't know whether to laugh or cry but the all-time record for attendance at a practice was broken Tuesday when over 110 players "invaded" the Rugby Field. Thanks to pre-planning and coaches patience all seemed to work out well in what could only be called a "Crowded House".

Parents and players will appreciate that it very difficult to give all and sundry equal opportunities but coaches will do their best. They just ask for patience.

A Busy Few Days Coming Up

With a game this Friday for the Varsity XV and the frosh/soph teams only arranged Tuesday at Oak Ridge, there will be added pressure on players and coaches to keep track of who is playing where.

On Saturday a Varsity team, a senior B squad and a frosh/soph team travel to Santa Rosa for games against the formidable Elsie Allen Club. Players are asked to make sure that they know if they are playing or not, and at what venue the game is on.

A Cancellation but a Great Intra Trial

Last Friday we were scheduled to play Davis High School at Jesuit. A last minute cancellation by Davis meant that we were forced to call for an intra squad trial. As it turned out, the trial was a great success. Coach Barry and Coach John feel that the trial gave them a much better insight into the starting Varsity XV for 2004.

Marauders Launch Rugby Assault on Rio

Believe it or not, almost 80 Jesuit Rugby players launched an assault on the Rio Rugby field Wednesday to play two games of Rugby. We are not quite sure how 80 goes into two Rugby games but coaches Andy, Marty, Carl, Dave and others did it. Congratulations gentlemen. Preliminary reports state the B team was victorious 12-7 but that the FS ran out of time at 7-5 to Rio. Game summaries are promised for next week's newsletter.

With so many dedicated Rugby players in 2004 of whom some 45 are brand new to the game, the management tries by the day to get more games. This may mean that there will be little notice about hurriedly arranged games (as with Friday's games v Oak Ridge). Sorry about that but we are grabbing almost any game offered to us.

Varsity XV 2004

The first game of the 2004 Sac Valley League will be played a week Friday when Jesuit travels to Vacaville for the game against the Black Dogs of Vacaville.

This will not be easy as Vacaville looked impressive in its win over Grant at the Sac Valley High School tournament on Sunday. Jesuit is suffering from a lack of worthwhile lead-up games and hit-outs.

With only two starters back from the Championship game starting line-up in Fort Worth, Jesuit will be looking to the depth of its program to supply it with quality players to fill the thirteen gaps.

The two starters from the 2003 National final have had positional changes at this stage. Tough center Steve Lewis is now looking at home as a flanker while Ryan Taylor, who played so well at full back, is now in the centers.

2004 will be something of a challenge, but we have answered similar challenges before.

Rugby Curves

Something unheard of has occurred!! The game schedule has had some last minute changes.

Varsity Players. Due to the school holidays practice will be 1:30 PM -3 PM on Thursday 2/12/04 and all players must see Barry to sign in for availability for the upcoming games. This practice is mandatory and very important.

B and FS-Please sign in for availability for Friday and Saturday with Barry as soon as possible after 1 PM. There may be no regular practice Thursday due to the many games this week. Your coaches will meet you on the field Thursday.

The following is the up to date schedule:

February 13, 2004

Games at Oakridge HS; A game kickoff 4 PM; FS game kickoff 5:30 PM; sorry no B game vs. Oakridge. Directions on the web. Please have varsity players at the field kitted up at 3 PM.

February 14, 2004

Games in Santa Rosa vs. Elsie Allen HS; kickoff FS at 11 AM, A game kickoff 12:30 PM, and B game kickoff 2 PM. Directions on the web and plan to be there 1 hour before your game starts.

February 21, 2004

The Lamorinda game venue has changed to Miramonte HS so that all players can easily attend the Cal/UBC game directly following the games. A game kickoff at 9 AM, B game kickoff at 10:30 AM, and, sorry, no FS game on this date due to time constraints. Directions are on the web. You must be at the field kitted up at 8 AM.

The Management