

February 13, 2003

Frosh/Soph

Jesuit 78 Delta 5

After it was decided to play three 20 minute periods, the Jesuit players realized that the five young ladies dressed in Rugby gear were not Delta cheerleaders but their opposition.

Even more interesting was the fact that the girls played splendidly, outplaying their male counterparts on many occasions. One of the young ladies is off to Wales as the USA Under 19 hooker.

She amply illustrated why when she took two tight heads (Delta wins the scrum even though Jesuit puts the ball into it) from the Jesuit pack. The girls also cut many runs by Jesuit players short with excellent tackles.

It took Jesuit less than 20 seconds to register first points when a neat pass from half back Pierce Cooley sent center Sean McNamara on a blistering 65 meter run to the try line.

"The Cool One" extended the lead to 12-0 when he scored himself after support play down the right side of the field and kicked the conversion (extra point).

To its credit, Delta scored a good try next after a quick attack on the Jesuit line.

Adam "The Jolly Red Giant" Marszal scored next from a line out 5 meters from the line that Cooley converted.

It again was the "Jolly Red Giant" who scored again from a penalty play in front of the posts.

For a second it looked like he had a black and white striped cap on his back that turned out to be, on closer inspection, one of the Delta players.

The conversion was unsuccessful and Jesuit went to the half time break leading 24-5.

Jesuit began the second half in dynamic style with Christian "Mr Nice Guy" Warne scoring from a scrum. Winger Louie Devoe received a clever pass from the scrum base and raced across to score.

From the subsequent kick-off, Kevin Abbess passed to Eric "The Thinker" Rowe who broke numerous tackles as he streaked down the right touch line to score from 60 meters out. "The Thinker" topped it off by deciding to convert his own try. Jesuit now led 41-5

Once again the kick off was returned for a try, this time by Sean McNamara who weaved in and out of traffic for another 60 meter try scoring effort that the "Cool One" Cooley converted.

Robert "The Mole" Weaver dug his way out of a sticky situation on the sideline at half way and raced 50 meters to score a splendid solo try.

It was Jonathon Tucci's turn to score when he took the pass from the side of the scrum and dived over to make the score 68-5.

Christian "Mr Nice Guy" Warne struck again, this time picking up the ball from the back of a ruck and rumbling 15 meters for the try. He was later seen apologizing to defenders for running over them.

Just when you thought that it was safe for the farmers to go back to their fields, the "Jolly Red Giant" awoke one more time, this time running 22 meters for the final try.

A conference of coaches decided that it was the furthest that they had seen him run without a water break.

The final score line did not do justice to the efforts of the Delta team. Players to their credit did not take a backward step.

Referee Crispin Cooke, despite his Irish heritage, did a fine job of explaining the game as he called penalties. It is reassuring to have referees of Crispin's ability.

Adam Marszal was chosen by Delta as Jesuit's best forward while Sean Mcnamara received the nod as best back.

Jesuit played great, attractive running Rugby. This is a credit to their coaches (Marty, Tim, Jason, Mather, Carl and Dan) for the manner in which they have taught the players new to the game the basics so well.

The Frosh/Soph running Rugby season is well and truly on the road.

Senior B

Jesuit 63 Delta 7

With the trial SAT in progress during the early part of this game, the Jesuit numbers were a little thin at the start but with the completion of the exam a mini invasion of players took place and the substitutes came thick and fast during the second half.

Jesuit began in confident style with team members able to drop into a running Rugby style that brought tries from the very beginning.

"Mr Versatility" Cole Valadez scored the first try that Derek Siegel, in a welcome return to the Jesuit playing roster, converted to open the scoring at 7-0.

Lock Matt Hackard scored the second try for Jesuit when he supported play well to crash over for the try.

Flying winger Scott McDowell, who had a huge game, scored the first of his tries after an exciting, jinking run down the left wing. With Siegel's conversion, Jesuit led 19-0.

Half back, Gary Longo, who made a number of exciting runs from the scrum and ruck base, was rewarded for his efforts with a clever try between the posts. Again Siegel converted to take Jesuit to a 26-0 lead.

Delta showed that it would not be denied when it pounced on a Jesuit mistake and charged across for a fine try that was converted to cut the lead to 26-7.

"Mr On-the-Ball" Jesse Dundon was rewarded for a tough game up front when he scooped up a loose ball to dive over. He was rewarded for his support play shortly after when he again crossed and with Siegel's conversion the Jesuit lead was 38-7.

With an "army" of reserves looking for action, the playing personnel changed dramatically and first Michael Bier, then Mike Morrison, Derek Siegel and the indomitable Billy Bittner crossed.

Bittner's try came from a remarkable 50 meter run by prop John "The Russian Bear" Korokosov to within a meter of the Delta line from where Bittner picked up the ball to dive over.

Frosh/Soph coach Mather Kearney controlled the game very competently as referee. The minimum number of penalties kept the game flowing, making it an entertaining game for spectators and players alike.

The senior coaches were seen in heavy discussion about a number of performances by Jesuit players. A number can expect to see action over this weekend when three big games will be played in four days.

A Weekend of Powerhouse Rugby

Friday, February 14

Jesuit vs. nationally ranked Kansas City Junior Blues at Jesuit 4pm

The Kansas City Junior Blues contains USA Under 19 players - this should be some game

Saturday February 15

Jesuit vs. College Green - the battle for the Holy Bowl San Jose Bowl - 10am

Monday February 17

Jesuit vs. Lamorinda - our perennial Bay challenger Miramonte HS 12noon (followed by a senior B game)

These three games will tell us much about our prospects of making the Nationals in 2003.

Don't miss the game at Jesuit on Friday.

The Varsity Battle of the Giants

Jesuit 53 Grant 0

If Jesuit ever thought that it had a big team in 2003, it looked small as the mighty men of Grant rumbled onto the Jesuit pitch on Friday. They had one serious big team.

And Jesuit would be well advised to forget the final score line as it is very misleading. Grant is a far better team than indicated by 53-0. Jesuit simply got the momentum going and seized every scoring opportunity.

A couple of early penalties allowed Jesuit to move the ball to within five meters of the Grant line. From a quick tap, the quicksilver scrum half John Parshall darted over for the first try of the game.

Flanker Joe Welch showed why he is a National player when, in support, he swooped on a pass inside the Grant 22 area to race over for the second try. With the Eric former conversion, Jesuit led 12-0.

Lock Paul (Spiderman) Jesseman, whose Rugby has come ahead in leaps and bounds this season, added the third when he crashed over through a mass of humanity to score. Again Forner converted and Jesuit led 19-0.

The will o' the wisp Parshall scored his second try off a set move down the weak side from a scrum close to the Grant line.

But it was the welcome returnee Derek Siegel who scored the try of the match - a weaving, twisting, turning, bumping 40 meter run down the left wing that totally won the crowd.

With Forner adding the extras again Jesuit had moved to a 31-0 lead at half time.

Outside center Zack "The Quiet One" Powell opened the second half scoring for Jesuit when he scurried over to score from a tap and his score was followed shortly after by his fellow center comrade, Steve Lewis, who powered his way over to make the score 41-0.

Prop John Falatouese, scored his second try for Jesuit in only his third game, when he swept around the back of a lineout to dive over. Jesuit discovered another goal kicking potential when replacement winger Adam Mariani thundered over the conversion.

There were smiles all round when replacement lock Ryan Malhoski closed out the scoring when his last minute charge carried him over the line.

Grant chose Louie Stanfill as the best forward and Steve Lewis as the best back.

Though Jesuit will not get too carried away with the result, Grant deserves full credit for running themselves to a standstill in what was an entertaining game with an abundance of excellent ball movement.

The game was totally incident free as both sides showed respect for each other's Rugby and the large crowd was rewarded with an entertaining spectacle.

The Easter Tour

In a two-pronged attempt to bring continued success to the Rugby program, Jesuit will be making a four-match tour of Seattle and Canada during the upcoming Easter break.

The tour serves two main purposes. The first is to give the Varsity XV four tough games against top teams in anticipation of State and National play-offs that follow very shortly after.

The second is to blood as many likely candidates for the 2004 Varsity XV as there will be a Senior B game at each of the four venues.

Players and parents will need to know details of the tour. The web site will carry full details as soon as the last minute arrangements are sorted out. Make plans now. Parents are welcome to tour.

True or False

1. Rugby goal posts are the same width as soccer goal posts.
2. The crossbar between Rugby posts is the same height as a soccer crossbar.
3. A #10, a stand-off and a five-eighth are the one and same player.
4. A field goal is worth two points.
5. A team scores a try when it inadvertently has 16 players on the field. Is it a try or does the referee call it back??

Coach's Corner

· You may have thought that Rugby is definitely not a game for girls but Saturday would have laid those thoughts to rest when our opposition, Delta, fielded five girls during the two games.

And the girls could really play the game. One of their young ladies, who happens to be the USA Under 19 hooker, won the best forward award in the first game. She was not worried about size and returned during the second half of the Senior B game to battle with our big men.

· It is great to see so many Frosh/Soph players, parents and supporters enjoying their introduction in many cases to Rugby. It is also heartening to see that patience is the word as coaches try to get some 50 players onto the field during one game. We would like to schedule more games but finding teams to play is not easy. Ask Coach Fred.

· Besides being great fun, the Easter tour to Seattle and Canada is a great Rugby experience. It is too good an opportunity to put the finishing touches on the charge to the State Championship and, hopefully, the Nationals in Dallas to miss.

We will shortly be asking for interested players to commit themselves to the tour. Should our numbers exceed the maximum of 40 (and we expect greater than that number to want to go) we may have to be selective.

There are two games scheduled in the Seattle area and two in Canada. All our opponents are very highly regarded in high school Rugby. Parents of selected players are most welcome to tour with the group.

Answers to True or False

1. False. Soccer posts are wider.
2. False. The Rugby crossbar is higher.
3. True. Different countries call the #10 by different names. He is also known as first five or fly half

4. False. It is worth three points.

5. It's a try. The score when the referee realizes that a team has too many players on the field stands. The referee cannot change his call once it is made, even if it is wrong.

The Collegiate and Alumni Report By Doug Hamilton

As this year's Jesuit Marauders look ahead to the beginning of conference action, league play is already well under way in the Northern California Rugby Football Union's Collegiate Divisions. While there are still fifteen college clubs competing in the NCRFU, the teams have restructured their divisions. D-1 now has seven teams rather than six as last year's NCRFU, PCRFU, and USARFU D-2 champion Stanford moved up to D-1. Chico State, the last place team in D-1 from last season was not required to step down to D-2. The result has been more competitive play in both divisions, well, that is other than perennial D-1 Champion Cal which continues its dominance. League play started in D-1 on January 25 as the St. Mary's Gaels visited Cal. The Gaels fought hard for the first half and entered the intermission down only 15-0, but in the second half it was all Cal as the Bears ended up winning 52-7. Starting for the Bears were Kyle Khasigian, Andrew Lindsey, and Jake Stanfill. Cal won the B match as well, 46-0, with Joe Androvich and Jim Orlando playing for the Bears while Pat Follett and Joe Midtlying started for the Gaels. Andrew Hamilton of St. Mary's and James Sehr of Cal provided moral support for their teams as injuries kept them off of the pitch. Numerous Jesuit faces were in the crowd including Coach Khasigian and Mrs. Khasigian, former Jesuit player and coach Ray Lehner, current Eagle Kort Schubert, Tony Kafouros and Jarhett Blonien. Cal continued their winning ways over the next two weeks as their A side defeated Nevada and former Jesuit player Mike Luca, 69-19, and then shut out UC Davis, 57-0. Over that same period the Cal B side defeated the Wolfpack, 80-0, and had a harder time of it against the Aggie B side, winning 29-10. Also at Davis a combined second and third side defeated an Aggie second and third side 7-0 in a short scrimmage. Tony Kafouros, now enrolled at UCD was again in the crowd as were Jason Klier, also at Davis, and Andrew Hamilton of St. Mary's who attended the game as he recovers from knee surgery. Pat O'Sullivan was in attendance as well as he is now helping coach the UCD Women's Rugby Club's A team. While Cal sits comfortably atop the D-1 standings with a 3-0 record, the rest of the First Division has the makings of a real interesting season. UCD has only played one game, and that was against Cal, but the other five teams are all currently tied for second place with one win each. St. Mary's has a victory over Chico, while Chico has defeated Stanford who in turn has defeated Sacramento State, which defeated Nevada, while the Wolfpack has already defeated Stanford. "On any given day," Looking ahead St. Mary's visits UCD in a rare midweek match as this newsletter goes to press. Cal will host the University of British Columbia this Saturday in one of the oldest collegiate rivalries on the Pacific Coast. And for those of you who are watching, Cal and Stanford will resume their series on February 22nd at Cal. The following Jesuit alumni are on D-1 rosters in the league:

California: Joe Androvich, Kyle Khasigian, Andrew Lindsey, Jim Orlando, James Sehr, and Jake Stanfill St. Mary's College: Pat Follett, Andrew Hamilton, and Joe Midtyling Sacramento State: Matt Condon, Chris Davila, and Matt Foster Nevada: Mike Luca

Santa Clara is on top of D-2 at 3-0 with wins over UC Santa Cruz, USF, and Santa Rosa Junior College. Jahrett Blonien is on the Bronco roster.

In fall action on the West Coast Mike Troughton and the Arizona Wildcats made a swing through Northern California playing St. Mary's and Stanford over the course of a November weekend. While the Arizona A side lost to the Gaels, Mike and the B's held on to defeat the Gael reserves, perhaps aided by a red card issued against the Gaels' Andrew Hamilton, leaving them a man down for the majority of the match.

This January Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, still stinging from an opening round play off loss to the surprising Gaels last season made two very convincing trips into Northern California, defeating Stanford, 51-0, and following that a week later with a 40-7 victory over UC Davis. The Cal Poly roster lists Jesuit alums Scott Cavell, Justin Lucas and Adam Riley.

Cal Poly and Arizona play in the Southern California Rugby Football Union's First Division. Also playing in that division is San Diego State which has included several Jesuit players in recent years including current coach, Crispin Cooke. Currently on the Aztec roster are Dave Viani, Kyle Miller and Ian Svetich. All are captained by former Jesuit player and captain, Danny Kaufman. Kyle Miller has already started at prop for the Aztec's A side. Up the coast from San Diego State, UC San Diego, after a very successful time in D-2 moved up to D-1 a few years ago. John and Mike Meissner play for the Tritons. In Southern California's second division Mike Stewart wears the cardinal and gold for the University of Southern California.

Please write to share your news with the Jesuit rugby community. Rugby, travels, school tales, all will be considered for publication. Shooting the boot and going zulu will not. Notes from players, parents, coaches and friends are all of interest. Even if you have hung or the boots, or grades, jobs, or the medical staff have hung them up for you, we'd love to hear from you. Without your input this quickly becomes "All Cal, All the time." Write to Doug Hamilton at "dragon1137@aol.com" Be sure to put something about Jesuit Rugby in the subject line, or it is likely to be deleted like all of "those" ads.

Next week, More NCRFU, East coast notes, and other odds and ends

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers - To all of the billets volunteering and to our chairladies, Kathy Barrientes and Nancy Ferro for all of their help with organizing Kansas City's tour.

Cheers - To Sue Gamache for all of her help with post game refreshments. It's much appreciated after a tough game by all of the players.

Cheers - To Kevin Adams--man of steel. His chin was sewn up on the sidelines with out anesthesia and he immediately returned to practice without missing a beat.

Cheers - to all of the parent's that showed up on Saturday to cheer on the Jr. Marauders v. Delta.

If there are any questions and comments, please contact us through the website or email sheldonoaks@hotmail.com. See you at the games!!!

The Management