

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.IX No.1

Feb 16, 2005

Jesuit Bests Lamorinda

Jesuit HS 2-11-05

As the only tune up before league play begins, the Marauders were justifiably concerned about playing Lamorinda early in the season. With many parents in support and a perfect spring day as ordered, the score of 37-5 for the Varsity was comforting if not entirely satisfying compared to the performance.

Lamorinda was aggressive and well coached in forward play and constantly drove the Jesuit forwards off the ball in the first half. It was only individual heroics by Tyler Siegel, easily the Man of the Match that kept Jesuit going forward. Other individual heroics by Eric Fry and Zach Reed gave Jesuit a cushion at half time that was expanded in the second half.

At the post game interlude, Lamorinda chose Eric Fry as best back and Dimitri Godamunne as best back.

Jesuit B's Run Past Lamorinda

Jesuit HS 2-11-05

The Killer B's did not grass grow under their feet, but showed a lot of continuity in defeating Lamorinda 48-7. Sparkling Standoff Tim Harris kept the backs breaking through the gain line and Ben Dodd ran wild from the base of the scrum to keep Lamorinda at bay. Our scavenging flankers Sean Gay and Nick Conn picked up every loose ball.

In the end, Lamorinda chose Tim Harris as best back and Ben Dodd as best forward.

Jesuit F/S makes it Three for Saturday

Jesuit HS 2-11-05

Sunny skies greeted the Jesuit frosh-soph team as it prevailed against Lamorinda 8 tries to one. Half of the squad was chosen to play Lamo with the other half going to Rio this Thursday. The forward pack came out strong against Lamo side consisting of all freshmen. The forwards dominated play through out the day against a smaller but game Lamo pack. Sloppy ball handling and early jitters prevented any scoring for the first ten minutes but by the end of the first half it was Jesuit three tries, Lamo zero. The back started the second half strong and tallied 5 more tries against the Lamorinda side. A series of Jesuit penalties for not retreating ten meters help Lamo push over its lone tally in the second half.

The future of Jesuit rugby looks bright as the Frosh-soph team has size and speed. The forward and backs rucked strongly and all the ball carriers ran hard. There were many excellent individual efforts. Among them were flanker Kyle Hernandez showing an extremely high work rate on defense, Elliot Telford is a force in the back line, Props Jeremy Deterding, Ryan DeAnda, Joe Johnson and Kyle Paquette were strong in the scrums and lineouts and little Mike "Stubby" Stevens was always around the ball at the breakdown, burrowing in among the forwards and digging out lots of loose balls.

Next up for the FS teams are Rio at Rio Americana on Thursday at 4 PM. A traveling squad will be chosen for De La Salle on Saturday. Del Oro is hosting a tournament for F/S, also on Saturday. All players not making the trip to Concord are encouraged to play at Del Oro. If we have enough players committing to Del Oro, we will see about having two teams entered to increase playing time for all.

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

As the Northern California high school rugby season begins to get underway, college teams are already well into their spring season. As usual the University of California sets the standard in

college rugby and this year is proving to be no exception. The Bears already have convincing victories over D-II Humboldt State as well as league opponents St. Mary's, Nevada, Chico State, and just this past weekend, Sacramento State. Seeing considerable action thus far for Cal are Louie and Jake Stanfill, Andrew Lindsey, James Sehr and Joe Welch. This year California has added a new wrinkle to its schedule with several mid-week matches featuring the California freshmen, a.k.a. the "Young Bears," against Northern California D-II "A" Sides. Following the example of their more seasoned brethren on the Cal varsity side, the freshmen have scored impressive victories over both U.C. Santa Cruz and Santa Clara. Anthony Estrella has played for the freshman side.

St. Mary's has had trouble getting the spring season started with scheduled games against U.C. Santa Barbara and Santa Clara canceled, leaving the Gaels to start the season against Cal. They followed the loss in Berkeley with home victories over Chico State, Sacramento State, and UC Davis. The day after defeating Chico on the much maligned soggy pitch in Moraga St. Mary's traveled to Stanford's state of the art venue where they defeated an Arizona team that was coming off of a Saturday win over Stanford. Sacramento State is a team on the rise with impressive victories over Southern California teams Cal Poly S.L.O. and U.C. Santa Barbara. U.C. Davis has a league victory over Stanford and a win on the road over D-II U.C. Santa Cruz. Sacramento State and U.C. Davis each defeated a Utah State team that made the trip to California.

Many Northern California teams play non-league matches in the autumn in addition to the spring season. This past fall Sacramento State went to San Diego and won the San Diego City Tournament. St. Mary's easily defeated Oregon State in Corvallis and both U.C. Davis and St. Mary's defeated a touring Central Washington team. Previously the Aggies had struggled against both UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly.

The big news in Southern California has been the surprising struggle of last year's national runner-up, Cal Poly S.L.O. The Mustangs have suffered from a variety of problems, including heavy rains which left them without a grass practice field, forcing them to practice inside or on parking lots. They have also faced some unexpected manpower, coaching and funding shortages. Poly ventured north only to lose to Sacramento State, and then returned home to lose to U.C.L.A. and rival U.C. Santa Barbara. With only one team from the Southern California league qualifying for the collegiate play offs this year, U.C. Santa Barbara seems to be the favorite as the Gauchos followed up their victory over Cal Poly with an exciting stoppage time win over UCLA. San Diego State and Kyle Miller hope to have something to say about who wins in the Southern California RFU.

In the Rocky Mountains, it is simply too cold to play rugby in the winter and most of their schedule is played in the fall. Regis University, a Jesuit college in Denver with several Marauders on its side, has played several matches already before the cold set in.

In other news of note involving Marauder alumni Kort Schubert was named the Captain of the US National Team, the Eagles. When he is not preparing for the international test season, Kort is playing professionally in Wales. Kort's high school and college teammate, Chris Miller, is one of two Chris Millers sharing coaching duties at Sacramento State. Chris has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience from Cal to his new duties in the Capitol City. A very aggressive fall conditioning program is already paying off for the Hornets.

Off of the pitch Jared Siegel finished his "gridiron football" career at the University of Oregon as the Duck's career scoring leader.

Even farther off of the pitch, Jared is married now. While he and his wife deal with the rainy climate of Oregon, Quinn Beckwilder has likewise taken a bride, but is dealing with the much harsher winter weather in Canada.

David Grega is following Jesuit rugby from Kuwait where he is now stationed with the US Army. David writes that the lessons he took from rugby-team work, friendships, forming bonds and being there for your "mates"-have followed him to the military. He would love a note and can be reached at norcaltanker@yahoo.com

Keep in touch with Jesuit Rugby. Let the newsletter know what you are up to on and off the pitch. Send your comments to dragon1137@comcast.net (Note this is a new address this season.) Please mention "Jesuit Rugby" in the subject line.

Jesuit Slips by Rio Linda Knights

Rio Linda HS 2/15/05

Pouring rain could not slow the Jesuit JV who came from behind in the second half to defeat a spirited Rio Linda team 17-12. The Rio Linda rugby team, together for only one month, came out hard and fast against Jesuit. Capitalizing on Jesuit's mishandling of the slick ball, Rio Linda scored first to take a 5-0 lead. Using solid running by their #8 and counter-attacks from a fast backline, they soon pushed the score to 12-0. Rio Linda plays hard and aggressive, if not a bit ragged rugby. This was to be expected by a new team unfamiliar with all the Laws of the game. With time running out in the first half, the Jesuit team put together its best series of play attacking the Rio Linda defense repeatedly. Aided by several Rio Linda penalties, Jesuit scored to pull within 5 points, 12-7 at half time.

The lights came on at the Rio Linda stadium for the second half. Jesuit kept its poise as Rio Linda continued to put big hits on the Marauders. Unfortunately for Rio Linda, the discipline shown in the first half slipped away and the Knights were repeatedly penalized. Jesuit tied the score 5 minutes into the half but could not take the lead as the conversion sailed wide. Rio Linda continued to hurt itself with foolish penalties and had two players sent off for repeated offenses. Jesuit scored twice in the second half as play was mutedly in the Rio Linda half of the field. With time running out and Jesuit on the goalline, Rio Linda was repeatedly fouling. With the game no longer in doubt, the ref whistled full time rather than award a penalty try. Final score: Jesuit 17 Rio Linda 12.

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers-to new coaches Ryan Demars, Joe Androvich, and a return of Crispin Cooke.

Thanks: to roving reporters David Miller, DDS, Doug Hamilton, and Marty Popelka.

Congratulations: to Mike Gamache who will attend the University of Oklahoma (the second best football team in the US behind.....hint: they wear Cardinal and Gold) to star on their top 10 rugby team next year.

Upcoming Games:

Friday-Varsity at Rio; kickoff 4 PM, no B game as Rio's B team has folded. Saturday-F/S 10:30 AM, Varsity noon, and B's 1:20 PM at DeLaSalle HS on Concord. See website for directions to the school.

Please email Doug Hamilton for any alumni news and check the website to keep up to date on events for rugby.

Starting Lineup for League Opener v. Rio Named

Head Varsity Coach John Shorey named the team to face Rio at 4 PM Friday at the Rio pitch. Sickness and injury have allowed worthy newcomers the opportunity to stamp their imprint on the game Friday.

Players 1 - 15: Columbero, Frandrup, McKay, Watje, Murchison, Malim, Reed, Fry, Cooley, Taylor, Scott, Puente, McNamara, Champion, Floyd.

Any questions or comments email sheldonoaks@hotmail.com

The Management