

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.IX No.2

Jesuit Raids Rio

Rio Americano HS 2-18-05

The weather cooperated with a sunny afternoon after rain for a week and the Jesuit forwards took advantage of the good atmosphere to smash and bang the ball forward against the Green and Gold of Rio. In the end, the Red and Gold Express ran up 53 points to 14 for the hosts.

The first 5 tries were scored by current USA U-19 players Eric Fry, Zach Reed, and Ryan Taylor. Fry and Reed teamed up from a penalty play to score. Following this Ryan Taylor attacked from his standoff position to score from 20 meters out. The tight five stole a tighthead in the scrum, Joey Malim picked up and went strongly down the weakside and handed off to Eric Fry in support to score. It was Fry again from a stolen lineout to score and then Zach "the Big Cat" Reed pounced on another errant lineout to cross the try line. It was 31-0 at intermission.

The second half opened with more thundering runs by Julian "the Colossus" Columbero, more high wire catching by Ted "Thin Air" Watje, and heady play by Pierce Cooley at scrum half. Nate Floyd enjoyed his switch to #10 with a score early in the half, followed by a smooth stroke of a penalty kick by Jacob Scott and a quick reaction drive from a maul by Pierce Cooley for a try. The final was 53-14 as Rio got a head of steam late in the game for 2 very skillful scores to the delight of their vociferous fans.

Notable on the day also were the lineout throws of Kurt "the Laser" Frandrup, the straight up running of Spencer Puente, the take charge attitude of Nate Floyd, and the solid scrumming of Matt McKay at tighthead prop. Developmental Squad players making a mark were Andrew Harmon at THP, Ben Dodd at jumper, and Cori Nicodemus and Jason Law at lock.

Rio chose Sean McNamara and Best Back and Eric Fry as Best Forward. The teams were honored with excellent refereeing by Mr. Tony Latu.

Jesuit 53 Lineup 1-15: Columbero, Frandrup, McKay, Watje, Murchison, Malim, Reed, Fry, Cooley, Taylor, Scott, Puente, McNamara, Champion, Floyd

Trys: Fry 3; Taylor, Cooley, Reed

PK: Scott 1/1

Conversions: Watje 4/5; Cooley 0/1

Referee: Tony Latu

Attendance: 150

Rio Shocks Jesuit F/S

Rio HS 2-17-05

Rio F/S 31 Jesuit F/S 26

Having fielded a strong squad for Lamorinda on Saturday, the rest of the Marauder F/S Armada set sail across American River Drive for Rio Americano High School to play the Rio Rugby Club. Utilizing strong back line play, led by Ian Forner, Jesuit jumped out to a 21-0 lead and lead 26-5 at halftime. Substituting virtually a whole team, Jesuit saw its lead start to fade as it was unable to contain the outside running of the Rio backs. Losing most lineouts to a more experienced Rio forward pack cost Jesuit field position and soon the Rio team had tied the score, 26-26. Jesuit settled down and held Rio for ten minutes before a mid-field turnover led to a Rio breakaway to put the Raiders ahead 31-26. Jesuit turned up the pressure and repeatedly probed deep into Raider territory only to turn the ball back over on penalties and knock-ons. Jesuit made a final desperate push in the closing minutes of the game driving inside the Rio 10 yard line. Time and again the Marauders pummeled the Rio defense only to be held up feet from the goal. With less than one minute to play Jesuit made one last drive at goal. At the one yard line the ball came out and was loose on the deck. Jesuit pounced on it but was whistled for a penalty for failing to release. The final whistle blew and Rio came away with a hard fought, well deserved come from behind victory. The disappointed Jesuit players congratulated the victors for their well earned win 31-26.

Jesuit Slips by the Spartans

DeLaSalle HS 2-19-05

The Green and White clad Spartans of DeLaSalle came close to a major upset, but the Jesuit XV held on to a 13-0 lead, rope-a-doping at the end as DeLaSalle tried to score repeatedly in the last 10 minutes.

DeLaSalle pressured Jesuit the entire game with their Cal like forward play and defensive patterns. The narrow field aided the style of play, frustrating the Marauders throughout the 70 minutes. With the testosterone flowing, the forwards bashed one another and the backs tried to crack the wall of green in the backline to no avail. In the end, the boot of Jacob Scott gave Jesuit some breathing room and Eric Fry iced it with a drive off a penalty play.

It was an excellent opportunity for some development players to see action at the Varsity level and a lot was found out about many. Leading the charge for the forwards was Eric Fry and Zach Reed. Matt McKay was solid in the scrums, Alex Murchison took advantage as lead jumper, and Jason Law had some strong runs.

For the backs, Tim Harris was indoctrinated in his varsity start debut, Jacob Scott was steady at fullback and kicked true for 2 penalty kicks, and Colin Hawley saw his first action of the season.

The team would like to thank DeLaSalle for their warm hospitality, the post game refreshments, and for a strong performance and complete sportsmanship throughout all 3 games. The invitation to Sacramento in 2006 was accepted and the teams can look forward to a long term rivalry.

DeLaSalle chose Eric Fry and Sean McNamara as outstanding players at the post game function.

Jesuit 13

Trys: Fry

Conversions: Watje

Penalty Kicks: Scott 2/3

Lineup 1-15: Columbero, Frandrup, McKay, Law, Murchison, Malim, Reed, Fry, Cooley, Harris, DeAnda, Puente, McNamara, Wegener, Scott

Jesuit B's Prevail in Concord

DeLaSalle HS 2-18-05

A spirited match produced strong rugby from both sides in the inaugural encounter between Jesuit and DeLaSalle. Jesuit eventually prevailed 36-14 but not before withstanding great pressure from the Bay Area theologians.

Two tries apiece were produced by Colin Hawley, Vincent "Southern Pacific" Nunez, and Patrick Beebe. Nunez powered over carrying green clad Spartans with him. Hawley slipped through gaps in the backline and Beebe was opportunistic with favorable loose balls. Strong performances were produced by Andrew Harmon, Jason Law, Cori Nicodemus, and the indefatigable Michael Marsh. In the backline, one could not help noticing the sparkling play of Matt Klopfenstein and the power running of Michael Miller. The B debuts of Jake Sehr and Alex Illium were marked by rampant enthusiasm and energy during the closing minutes of the game.

The hosts chose powerful Vincent Nunez as best forward and lightning quick Colin Hawley as best back.

Jesuit 36

Trys: Beebe 2; Nunez 2; Hawley 2

Conversions: Harris 3/3

Frosh/Soph Make It a Sweep

DeLaSalle HS 2-18-05

The minions in Red and Gold swarmed over the all weather field to open the First Encounter against DeLaSalle. After a hard fought battle the youngsters from Jesuit ended up on top

Jesuit Frosh/Soph Win 1st Del Oro Tournament

Del Oro HS 2-19-05

Under tutelage of Jesuit 2004 Man of the Year Dr. David Miller, the split frosh/soph team won Del Oro's invitational tournament as their other half was beating DeLaSalle.

The First Annual Del Oro Frosh/Soph Tournament

Despite predictions of all day rain, the sun was shining on Loomis for the First Annual DO F/S Tournament. This tournament was the brainchild of Del Oro Senior Danny Rose, who organized this as part of his Senior Project. Danny and the Del Oro parents did a great job , starting with donuts in the morning, a barbeque at lunch and wonderful time had by all. Ray "Vanilla Gorilla" Schwartz, Rod Chance and Mike Villierme provided discipline and education for the boys while reffing. A big "Thank You" goes to Danny and all the volunteers for doing a great job.

Five teams were represented, Del Oro, Cougar (Del Campo), Mother Lode (Oak Ridge/Ponderosa), Rio and Jesuit. With the F/S squad split between De La Salle, soccer, the 4 day weekend and possible rain, Jesuit ended up with only 22 players for the tournament. Great!!! More playing time for everyone! However, we had only 4 experienced sophomores show up. Fortunately, one of the four was Evan "Kicking King" Sheehan who educated boot would make a big difference for the team. We also had only 6 forwards and 16 backs, which meant players were playing out of position. Robby "The Robot" Calhoun was our only experienced forward, so he played as an undersized prop and did great job leading the pack. Robby and Scott "Big O" Obana showed converted back Scott "I'll play anywhere!" McFarland how to bind, hook and scrum. Bobby "Shiny Shoes" Shanahan played #8 for time and Pat Sweeney, Jim Bennett and Chris Turner were the rest of the regular forwards. Frosh Jeff Ackler, Kellen Holmes, Alex Gillaspay and soph Cameron "Hard Nose" Clark filled in well at flanker. This make-shift pack held their own in the lineouts and scrums. Versatile sophomore Kevin Rapport filled in at scrum half and wing. Our opening game was against Mother Lode. Jesuit came out hard and after a series of exchanges found itself deep in ML territory with a penalty in front of the posts. Even Sheehan calmly slotted the kick what became the winning kick. Winger Mike "Burner" Boville

got clean ball out of a scrum from Will "Foster Grant" Pidd, Cameron Clark and Caleb Koewler and out raced the Mother Lode defenders to dot down between the posts. Reliable "Kicking King" Sheehan slotted the conversion to give Jesuit the lead 10-0 at half time. The Second half started with ML benefiting from a seemingly endless series of penalty calls against Jesuit. Despite good defense, ML scored to make it 10-7 early in the second half. The defense stiffened and the penalties subsided and Jesuit held on to beat ML 10-and make the finals of the tournament. Daniel "Iceman" Iritani help seal the win when late in the game, in front of the Jesuit goal, (in great fly half tradition) held the ball just long enough to draw two defenders and open up a nice hole for the centers who ran the ball 30 meters to relieve pressure and seal the game. For his efforts, "Iceman" got flattened, but his selfless sacrifice made a difference in the game.

The finals were against Rio Rugby. The game was spirited but pointless as Rio was found to be playing Juniors and forfeited the title to Jesuit. The final official score was Jesuit-1 Rio-0. The play of the game was made by Alex "Hairy" Gillaspy. A Rio back broke free for what appeared to be a try between the posts on a 50 meter run. However, coming all the across the field, Alex knocked the ball free in the end zone before Rio could mark it down. Alex then gathered the ball and returned beyond the 22 with some nifty running before being taken into touch. Congratulations "Hairy" Gillaspy on the play of the tournament. Jack "Good Manners" Keyes gets the Sportsmanship Award for not complaining when I missed playing him in our first game. His reward was playing the whole second game.

Jesuit is now the proud own of a nice trophy from this inaugural Del Oro tournament. The other players taking home ribbons for Jesuit were:

Jamie Spaeth

Pat Sparks

Matt Melchione

Chris Romero

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers-to real team men Ryan Taylor, Brian French, Ryne Misso, Nate Floyd, and Dimitri Godamunne who showed up at DeLaSalle to cheer the team on despite inability to play due to injury and illness. Thanks for the support!!!

Cheers--- to the Jesuit parents that braved the cold and rain to cheer on the ruggers. There was quite a group and thanks for the effort. Special thanks to Mr. McNamara and friends that provided water for the players.

Scores Around the World

Sacramento Valley Conference

Varsity

Burbank at Vacaville-rained out

Davis at Del Oro-rained out

Jesuit 53 at Rio Rugby 14

Mother Lode 3 at Cougar 0

JVs

Rancho C. 3 at Rio Linda 26

CB 20 at Vacaville 0

no other scores reported

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

Traditionally in Northern California few rugby matches are scheduled over the extended President's Day Weekend as that weekend is set aside as a planned "bye" or make-up weekend.

Such was the case this year as only one league game was scheduled in the Collegiate D-1 division. Up and coming Chico State visited struggling Davis and came away with a win, beating the host Aggies, 27-14. A scheduled non-league match between Sacramento State and Southern Oregon was canceled. In what looks more like a baseball score, the Stanford Cardinal defeated a traveling Colorado team, 6-5.

Earlier in the week the Cal Bears hosted the Thunderbirds of the University of British Columbia in the first game of their annual home and away series. The home team came out on top, 15-5. Andrew Lindsay, Louie Stanfill and Jake Stanfill each started the match though Jake was the victim of a serious knee injury early in the game. Joe Welch came on in substitution late in the match.

In addition to the UBC series, another annual Cal tradition is the two game road trip. This year the Bears traveled to the Lone Star state where they defeated Texas A&M, 61-8, on Saturday and the University of Texas, 83-5 on Monday. James Sehr was designated the captain of the match on Saturday, and played opposite Joe Welch at flanker. Welch, Lindsay and Louie Stanfill started on Monday.

Back home in Berkeley the news was not as good for Jake Stanfill as tests disclosed that the knee injury he suffered against UBC was serious enough that he will miss the remainder of the season.

The race in Southern California got more exciting as Long Beach State defeated previously unbeaten UC Santa Barbara and San Diego State fell to Arizona. UBC continued south from Berkeley to join University of Victoria and the University of Western Ontario in an invitational at UCLA. UCLA, while improving against American teams, proved to be a good host to the Canadians, losing to both UBC and UWO.

In Colorado Regis University is in need of an extra team physician as Marauders Derek Seigel, Craig McCoy and Dan Propheeter have each experienced some down time with a variety of fractures and infections. Coach Dan Hatstrup wants to clarify that it is not too cold to play rugby in Colorado, but that two feet of fresh powder provides a generally accepted excuse to swap the rugby boots for ski boots.

Local college bragging rights are on the line this coming weekend as Sacramento State, looking to get back on the winning side after losses to St. Mary's and Cal, will host UC Davis, who is equally in need of a win. In other league action Chico travels to Stanford and St. Mary's visits Nevada. Cal will host Arizona State in a non-league contest.

Alumni, tired of All Cal, All the Time? We can't write about you if don't write to us. Send your e-mails to dragon1137@comcast.net.