

February 19, 2004

Marauder Pups Come Up Short

Feb. 13, 2004

Oak Ridge High School, El Dorado Hills, CA

Jesuit's Marauder Varsity and Freshman/Sophomore rugby teams traveled to Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills, CA for late afternoon exhibitions.

The varsity team demonstrated their superior skills on both defense and offense with an impressive victory.

The F/S team followed with their game at approximately 5:30 PM. Normally at this time of the year and this late in the evening darkness would prevent any decent competition. However, Oak Ridge's stadium has night lights and the F/S game proceeded.

The kick off was at 5:30 PM and the Marauders made impressive gains with a drive down the field setting up Cori Nicodemus for a dive over the try line for a score. This was followed up by a perfect 22 meter conversion by Nate Floyd to bring the score to 7 to 0.

Ten minutes later in a see-saw battle across the playing field, the Marauders brought the ball down in the Oak Ridge territory setting up Matt Klopfenstein for the team's second try. Ted Watje topped it off with another perfect 22 meter conversion to bring the score to 14 to 0.

Numerous substitutions were made allowing the freshmen tyros a chance to demonstrate their new found skills. The rest of the first half was a see-saw battle on the field. Oak Ridge was able to score twice with no conversions. The half time score was: Jesuit 14-Oak Ridge 10.

A Friday the 13th onus fell on our tyros in the second half. The young team displayed fine defensive skills, holding off numerous charges by the Oak Ridge team down to the 5 meter line. The young Marauders enthusiasm did not wane, but they were unable to prevent three additional trys by Oak Ridge.

All the F/S members were able to participate in the game a one time or another. Their skills, strengths as well as their short comings were noted and from here on out we can predict a much stronger team through vigorous practice and self discipline.

Oak Ridge team was not able to muster a full team and several of our team members volunteered to play for them. It is obvious our players are truly bitten by the rugby bug, and to their credit, played very well for O. R. The final score was 25-14 for Oakridge.

A special thanks to Coach Tim Mullikin for acting as line coach for the team.

#### A Rugby Player's Prayer

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to slide in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and proudly proclaiming WOW, WHAT A GAME!!!!!!

#### Jesuit Disarms Trojans

2/13/04 Oakridge HS

Jesuit Rugby had a good run against the Mighty Trojans of Oakridge with a 31-5 win Friday night. With league play to start in one week, both teams were looking to bash heads in preparation for next week's league opener.

Captain Steve Lewis opened the scoring with a try after a series of pick and drives to the goal. Ryan Taylor then careened around the field, exhibiting some individual brilliance to score on a 40 yard run.

Paul Jesseman and the forwards drove in from a lineout near Oakridge's goal and the score stood at 19-0. The remaining tries were another from Ryan Taylor and a strong run from standoff Mike Morrison.

Also looking good were Justin Sweeney with some good in tight running and Zach Reed with his relentless pursuit from his flanker position. Eric Fry was a constant thorn in the Trojan horsehide with his strong running and tackling.

Many thanks are due to the parents that thoughtfully provided water to the boys during the game. At the post game presentations, Oakridge graciously chose Anthony Estrella as best forward and Ken Imwinkelreid as best back.

Jesuit 31

Tries: Taylor(2), Morrison, Lewis, Jesseman

Conversions: Collins 3/5

1-15: Estrella, Malim, Sweeney, Fry, Jesseman, Reed, French, Lewis, Bittner, Taylor, Imwinkelreid, McNamara, Bier, Renda, Collins

Bench: Colombero, Murchison, Booth, Nickerson, Read, Champion, Watje

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers - To all the parents that made the long trek to Santa Rosa Saturday. The sidelines at Elsie Allen were a sea of red and gold and there were 2-3 X as many Jesuit parentals as there were on the Elsie Allen side. Thank you for your support especially to the newcomers from the FS side.

Cheers - To Dr. David Miller for his contribution Saturday. The "Ironman" was there at 10AM to coach the FS, he touch judged the A game, then refereed the B game. To finish the day, he stayed and was the parent support for the post game barbeque that was generously provided by Elsie Allen and coach Allan Petty after all the games had been completed. What a guy!!!

Cheers - To Dr. James Sehr for his orthopedic clinic that was run on the sidelines during the Rio games. You must be good because everyone is still healthy.

Christian Lundholm and Mike Morrison must win the "Mr. Versatility" Awards at Santa Rosa. At various stages of the Senior B game they played halfback, standoff, center, winger and fullback. And both played very well in all positions.

Possibly a collector's item. Yes, jersey #200 should be in circulation shortly. Who would ever have thought that the numbers would ever extend to 200?

The numbering system for jerseys has its benefits - not the least one being a financial one for parents. Lost jerseys have been few and far between as records soon tell us who owns, say #168. The old system of only having numbers from 1-15 led to confusion when a jersey was misplaced.

We keep talking about our promising sophomores, but they keep producing the big performances. In Santa Rosa on Saturday, Joey Malim, Nate Floyd, and Alex Murchison played some fine Rugby in the Varsity game.

#### The Jesuit Alumni Report

By the esteemed traveling correspondent Mr. Doug Hamilton

A noted Jesuit rugby club official once commented, "No excuses offered, none accepted," so without further explanation, here is the belated first alumni news column.

At any time of the year it is possible to find a rugby match in some far off corner of the planet and the off season found Jesuit alumni circling the globe to improve their game. Over the summer our own Barry O'Connell hosted a group of college age players, largely from UC Davis but also including Jeff Reiman of Harvard. They spent the summer playing and observing top level rugby in Australia, even playing in front of television audiences.

In August the 2003 version of the All American Collegiate team traveled to New Zealand where they played two games and visited the famed International Rugby Academy. Kyle Khasigian and Jake Stanfill were privileged to be part of the team.

2003 featured the Rugby World Cup in Australia, where Barry O'Connell was able to return the favor and play host to Coach and Mrs. Khasigian. Playing on this year's Eagles team were Kirk Khasigian and Kort Schubert. For the first time since 1987 the USA won a match in World Cup play as they defeated Japan by a final score of 39-26. Both Kirk and Kort scored tries in the victory.

While we tend to think of rugby as a winter and spring sport, throughout the US and even in Northern California there is a considerable amount of rugby played in the fall. Two regions, the Northeast and the Midwest, go so far as to select their territorial representatives for the national championships in the fall, though the championships themselves will not begin until April. In the Northeast last years surprise collegiate finalist, Harvard, could not overcome the loss of 10 graduating starters, and the Crimson have already been eliminated from this season's Sweet 16 consideration. Jeff Reiman writes that he set the football shoes aside this fall and brought out the yellow boots to focus his attention on rugby. While he will miss the thrill of playing in the finals, he thoroughly enjoyed the summer in Australia and the fall rugby season in New England.

Jesuit rugby's presence in the college game continues to grow. Arizona hosted their annual invitational tournament last fall and there were Marauders on three of the four participating teams. The host Wildcats won the tournament with a victory over St. Mary's College of California. Mike Troughman plays for the Wildcats while Joe Midtyling, Pat Follett, Matt Leatherby and Kevin Adams play for the Gaels. Also in Tucson were the San Diego State Aztecs whose roster includes Ian Sullivan-Svetich and Kyle Miller.

Winter in Colorado requires that they split their season. Regis Coach Dan Hattrup has written to boast of the exploits of Dan Propheter. Coach Hattrup is very interested in talking to Marauder players who want to 1) continue their rugby at 2) a Jesuit university in 3) the shadow of the magnificent Colorado Rockies. Sounds hard to pass up. Those interested in the Regis program should check out the college links on the home page of the Jesuit Rugby website.

Next week we will try to catch up on the spring season. Interested players, coaches and fans are encouraged to write to Doug Hamilton at dragon1137@aol.com. Please include a mention of Jesuit Rugby in the subject line to discourage the quick "delete."

Marauders In Spirited Victory In Santa Rosa

It may not have been pretty but a win is a win and the Jesuit Marauders took some pride from their 24-3 win over a volatile Elsie Allen HS team in Santa Rosa on Saturday February 14th.

In what is now an annual clash, Jesuit showed some flashes of its running Rugby game but not enough to suggest that the upcoming League competition will be a week-to-week proposition.

A little short handed with three key backs and one forward missing, Jesuit's replacements stood the test manfully against a robust and tough Elsie Allen defense. Jesuit's performance again indicated that the team is "underdone". As such game this was only the second real hit out for the team this season and much hard work is needed to be done.

It took fifteen minutes for the Marauders to score. Firstly Jesuit then Elsie Allen had charges at the other's line but neither could score until the Jesuit finally got its rolling game going.

After winning five phases in succession, the ball was quickly transferred across the Jesuit backs, finishing in the hands of center Mike Bier, who raced over for the first try. With Ryan Taylor's conversion, Jesuit led 7-0.

Play became scrappy for the balance of the first half with both teams having trouble clearing the ball from the ruck. Jesuit broke the deadlock just before half time when after two drives at the Elsie Allen try line, #8/lock Paul Jesseman dived over.

The conversion was unsuccessful and Jesuit went to the break leading 12-0. Immediately after play resumed, Elsie Allen kicked a penalty and with the score now 12-3 launched a series of raids on the Marauder try line. The defense held and slowly Jesuit worked the ball up field.

Some crashing forward work resulted in captain Steve Lewis carrying two defenders over the line for the try. Promising sophomore winger Nate Floyd split the posts with the conversion and Jesuit led 19-3.

Tearaway flanker Zac Reed, who had an outstanding game, ended the scoring when he stole the ball in a tackle and raced 35 yards through the startled Elsie Allen defense to score.

With the first League game against Vacaville just a week away much hard work particularly in the forward area needs to be done.

Captain Steve Lewis had another outstanding game while Eric Fry, Brian French and Zac Reed had strong games. Half back Billy Bittner, winger Ken Imwinkelried and center Ryan Taylor, till felled in a late tackle and taken off, were the pick of the backs.

Jesuit 24

Tries: Bier, Jesseman, Lewis, Reed

Conversions: Taylor, Floyd

1-15: Estrella, Malim/French, Sweeney, Fry, Jesseman/Booth, French, Reed, Lewis/Jesseman Bittner, Collins/Taylor, Imwinkelried, McNamara, Taylor/Bier, Floyd, Renda/Collins

Elsie Allen 3

Valiant Fight Back in Vain

With a mix of experience, youth and total inexperience, the Marauder Senior B team provided great excitement as it fought back from 5-17 to eventually lose to a bigger, more experienced Elsie Allen team 17-20 at Santa Rosa on Saturday.

Outweighed greatly, the Marauders showed great spirit in its courageous fight back, with stand off Mike Morrison leading the way in a top performance. In the match, Jesuit scored three tries to Elsie Allen's two and may have been a little unlucky to lose. Jesuit opened the scoring in fine style when a series of rucks were won and eventually the overlap was created for Morrison to race over without a hand being placed on him.

Though Jesuit continued to play running Rugby, unfortunate handling breakdowns stopped many a promising move and allowed Elsie Allen into the game.

Elsie Allen ran in two converted tries and two penalties (a total of 20 points) without answer from Jesuit.

Not to be denied, Jesuit stormed home. From a driving maul that was cleverly spun by Jesuit, new found talent Ryan Misso launched a bull-like charge for 25 meters down the sideline for a fine try.

Winger Anthony Vitto set up the final Jesuit try with a slashing dash up field before delivering a well-timed pass to winger JD Demichei who raced across wide out for a great try. Sophomore Ted Watje coolly slotted the conversion to make the score 17-20 but time had elapsed.

Jesuit can be very happy with its performance, as some players had had no/little experience in Rugby before Saturday.

Jesuit 17

Tries: Morrison, Misso, Demichei

Conversion: Watje

Elsie Allen 20

Tries: 2

Conversions: 2

Penalties: 2

Rugby Around The World

Six Nations - Round 1

France 35 Ireland 17

Wales 23 Scotland 10

England 50 Italy 9