

February 20, 2003

Marauders Give Kansas City the Blues

Jesuit 27 Kansas City Jr Blues 5

It was a "Battle Royale" as two of the best High School teams in the nation locked horns on Jesuit's grassy field on Friday.

Kansas City, which has been to the National Championships for the past eight years, gave the powerful Jesuit team a very tough game that is not indicated in the final score line.

With their game built around a tough forward pack that does not take a backward step, Kansas City threw everything at Jesuit but the fleet footed Jesuit backs, well directed by halves John Parshall and Adam Collins, proved more than a handful for the Junior Blues.

The Junior Blues began with fire and passion and had the better of the early exchanges. Jesuit finally hit its straps and launched raids on the Kansas City line. However it took 19 minutes for Jesuit to register the first points of the game.

After a series of raids on the KC line, prop John Faletese picked up the ball at the back of the ruck and powered over for the first try. With a towering conversion by full back Derek Siegel Jesuit led 7-0.

Jesuit scored their best try of the season after 25 minutes. A cut and loop by stand-off and co-captain Adam Collins, stated the move. The sudden entry of full back Siegel into the back line gave Jesuit the overlap and winger Michael Bier powered away to dive over in the corner. It was copybook Rugby.

The unsuccessful conversion left Jesuit ahead 12-0 but Kansas City fought back right on half time. Jesuit, down to 14 players with #8 Louie Stanfill in the sin bin, found themselves pinned on their try line.

Eventually the KC #8 ploughed through the Jesuit defense to score and the teams went to the break with Jesuit leading 12-5.

Full-back Derek Siegel who again played splendidly scored the next try. This again was a great try, coming after the ball was won quickly from a series of rucks. Halves Parshall and Collins switched sides cleverly and good draw and pass work by the backs saw Siegel unmarked and off on a 40 meter run to the try line.

Somewhat miffed by the fact that his fellow prop John Faletese had scored several tries already this season, Dominic Green thought it time that he scored. After Jesuit had launched assault after assault on the KC line, Green positioned himself well to receive the pass from Parshall and crash over.

Co-captain Louie Stanfill finished off the scoring by powering his way over a number of would be defenders to make the final score line 27-5.

The hard game was exactly what Jesuit needed particularly considering that the team will meet the tough Davis team on Friday in a non-league game at Davis.

Referee Jim Roberts controlled play very well and his refereeing of the tackle allowed a great deal of ball movement in the game.

Jesuit suffered a major setback when dynamic flanker Pat Ramos left the field with a foot injury. The good news is that the injury is not as severe as first imagined and that he will be back in action shortly.

Lock Paul Jesseman continues to improve, having finally honed his tackling skills and developed his ability to link rather than die with the ball. Inside center Steve Lewis continues to develop his reputation as the original no-nonsense tackler.

Lamo Valiant But Unable To Hold Off The Marauder Raids

Jesuit 38 Lamorinda 15

The Rugby weather gods shined on Sunday at Miramonte High School as traditional rivals, Jesuit and Lamorinda locked horns in what is now an annual event. The sunshine must have had an effect as the two games played were dashing and bright affairs.

Lamorinda began strongly and had the better of the early exchanges but it was Jesuit that had first points on the board when big #8 Louie Stanfill crashed over after Jesuit had raided the Lamo line for a period of time. Stand off Adam Collins' conversion took the score to 7-0.

It took Jesuit ten more minutes before it scored again. This time Stanfill instigated the try with a "monster" tackle on an unfortunate Lamo player. The ball spilled loose and Jesuit grabbed it for the ever-present Siegel to race down the left wing to score. Again Collins converted and Jesuit led 14-0.

Jesuit went to the break with a 21-0 lead after prop and now scoring machine John Faletese crashed over for a try after a bruising run. Collins again converted.

The second half was a different story as Jesuit had trouble clearing ball from rucks and ran into volleys of penalties against it.

Jesuit however began the second half as it had played the first and it took only four minutes for its pack to drive a maul 20 meters from a lineout over the Lamo try line for the try. Both prop John Faletese and flanker Joe Welch are still claiming the try.

Six successive penalties saw Lamo move the ball from deep in defense to the Jesuit line. After a series of charges at the line, they managed to score to make the score 26-5.

Again a series of penalties saw Jesuit pinned on their line for a period of time before the dangerous Lamo stand-off crashed over to make it 26-10.

Jesuit half back Billy Bittner, a last minute replacement on the wing, scored a neat try wide out after a quick tap to restore some sanity to the proceedings.

Stand off Adam Collins capped a smart game by slicing through the defense to cross. He duly converted the try to make the score 38-10.

Lamo scored a try in the corner to end the scoring at 38-15.

With games against Kansas City and Lamorinda in the space of four days, it was just what the doctor (in this case Khasigian) ordered - two tough games.

Lamorinda was very competitive with hard forward play that kept Jesuit off balance for some of the game.

Hooker Ryan Fry made a welcome return to action for the first half of the game, Kevin Adams and Anthony Estrella played constructively as locks, Paul Jesseman had another improved game at weak side flanker while Anthony Vitto was a surprise last minute inclusion on the wing and tried manfully.

The back five of Parshall, Collins, Lewis, Powell and Siegel continue to be handfuls for opposing teams, moving the ball consistently into space and creating overlaps.

Number eight Louie Stanfill and open side flanker Joe Welch had exceptional games often being the links between the forwards and the backs.

Second Squad Sparkles In Miramonte

Jesuit 27 Lamorinda 5

Jesuit's second squad threw the gauntlet down to the Varsity squad by producing an outstanding display of Rugby to down a very competent Lamorinda team by 27-5.

Jesuit's coaches present agreed that it was the best game of second squad Rugby that they had seen for a long time. The game was full of ball movement with top class attack and defense.

Jesuit's pack, with Karakozoff, Read, Griga, Malhoski, Marzel, McCoy, Dundon and Sweeney leading the way provided an ample supply of ball for the aggressive running backline. Dundon in particular showed great organizational skills on field.

Newcomers Arrietta, Ferro and Llewellyn have improved with each game and added power to the pack.

Will-o'-the-wisp half back, Billy Bittner, simply "ran the show". He drove his forwards relentlessly, delivered quick, snappy ball to his backs while testing the defense with quick, darting dashes in general play.

Considering Billy played the bulk of the Varsity XV game, he showed just how fit he is by playing through the whole B squad game.

Stand off Mike Morrison improved greatly on his Saturday performance and linked well with explosive centers Sean McNamara and Dean Drobny.

The likes of Shaun Barron, Anthony Vitto, Christian Lundholm and "Flo" Florita provided finishing touches out wide.

From a penalty play, Ryan "The Hulk" Malhoski rumbled over from 20 meters out, taking several Lamo defenders with him to make the score 5-0.

Against tough defense, Jesuit could score only once more before half time. It was the "Russian Bear", John Karakozoff, who took the ball at the back of a driving maul to crash over for an unconverted try.

Coach Tim wielded the changes at the break to get all Jesuit players into the action but the Jesuit momentum continued.

Flanker Justin Sweeney, on realizing that Lamo was short on the weak side, picked up the ball at the back of the ruck and "dashed" slowly for 25 meters to score without a hand being laid on him.

Having scored in the Varsity game, Billy Bittner thought that he must score in this game and when the ball came out of the Lamo scrum untidily, Billy was on hand to dot the ball down for the try.

Not to be denied, Lamo hit back with a try when their very large prop literally ran over the top of Jesse Dundon on his way to the tryline.

Derek Siegel capped off the scoring with a dashing run of 50 meters down the right wing to outpace the opposition to score a great individual try. He converted his own try to leave a final score of 27-5 and the completion of a great day's Rugby.

Lamo selected Adam Marzel as the best forward and Billy "Yappy" Bittner as the best back.

The performance by the second unit is testimony to the depth of the program at Jesuit.

Lamorinda parents topped off the day with a barbecue with sodas for the Jesuit boys that topped off the whole proceedings.

College Park Claims Holy Bowl

College Park 44 Jesuit 27

College Park was worthy winner of the annual Holy Bowl game played at the Watson Bowl in San Jose on Saturday.

Jesuit held a narrow lead at the half time break but a bigger and stronger College Park team finished too strongly to run out comfortable winners and are the new holders of the trophy.

College Park scored early through their speedy stand off but Jesuit replied with a powerful run by lanky flanker Jesse Dundon.

Jesuit took the lead midway through the first half and went to the break with a 12-10 lead.

The big College Park forwards started to take their toll on the lighter, younger Jesuit team and this coupled with injuries to Karl Secco, Robbie Chappell and Craig McCoy further complicated matters.

Dundon was Jesuit's leading light with three tries and clearly demonstrated that he may see some time in a Varsity XV game throughout the season. His ability to organize matter on field was also impressive.

With the Varsity squad having played Kansas City Junior Blues the previous day and the Lamorinda game in two days' time, it gave the coaches the chance to see a host of new faces represent the school.

Sophomore Eric Fry celebrated his first appearance in the higher echelons by scoring the final try for Jesuit.

Although beaten by a bigger and better team, all boys are to be congratulated on putting in a whole hearted effort on the day.

Cheers and Jeers

- Cheers and our sincere thanks to the Seccos, the Ferros, Sue Gamache, the Lashers, the Marzels, the Booths, the Malhoskis, the Frys, the Barrientes and the Ramos' for taking billets from Kansas City for two nights. Reports are great both ways - great kids from KC, great billets at Jesuit.

- Cheers and good luck to one of our stars from the past in Kyle Khasigian. Kyle unfortunately broke a bone in the lower leg/ankle area while playing for Cal against the University of British Columbia on Saturday. It was a bleak day for Kyle and Cal, beaten 30-17 by the top Canadian team. Kyle has undergone successful surgery and is looking forward to returning to action.

· Cheers to the large number of parents who took our "army" of frosh/sophomores to Davis for the games last week. And congratulations to all players on displaying such skill in Rugby in such a short time. The Rugby future at Jesuit looks bright with such good players coming through the ranks.

· Cheers to Pat Ramos and Karl Secco, who despite suffering injuries in earlier games on the weekend, fronted on Monday at Lamorinda with gear ready to play if needed. They couldn't convince Jamie that they should see action but their intentions were certainly appreciated.

· Cheers to our "Bookends", John Faletese and Dominic Green, who have taken to the game of Rugby like the proverbial ducks to water.

· Welcome back to our soccer boys from the big tournament in Phoenix. The inclusion of Matt Leatherby, Eric Forner, Alex Spinoso, Chris Sardon and Adam Mariani can only strengthen our teams for the balance of the season.

· Cheers to sophomore Eric Fry, who went one better than big brother Ryan, by scoring a try for the Jesuit team against College Park on Saturday. Eric made quite an impression when he went on the field with the bigger boys. Maybe Ryan will make his try-scoring reply shortly as he is back in action after a shoulder injury.