

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol 14 No. 2

Jesuit Strikes Gold Against Mother Lode

Friday 26 February 2010

Jesuit Rugby Field

Jesuit 68 - Mother Lode 5

It rained, it poured, a vivid rainbow encased Jesuit High and finally the sun shone – four seasons in one seventy minute game of Rugby. And what a game of Rugby it was considering the conditions – the first half in particular when a full strength Jesuit team ran in 54 unanswered points. Jesuit's Rugby defied the weather conditions underfoot.

Mother Lode, willing as ever, simply had no answer to the Jesuit onslaught. It took just over one minute before Jesuit center Dominic Ferri split the defense to cross for the first of Jesuit's ten tries. Eight minutes later prop Wyatt Himmelmann crashed over after some great support play by the Jesuit forwards.

Jesuit moved the ball as if playing on a bone dry field. No 8 Jason Fry scored next, quickly followed by tries from prop Joey Donaldson, flanker Michael Bush, Dominic Ferri added a second before center Jackson Welch and half back Grant Penney closed out the first half try scoring.

In atrocious goal kicking conditions Penney converted the first six tries – a goal kicking feat in itself. With the Varsity team having a challenging game against San Francisco/Golden Gate the following day, playing changes came thick and fast.

This did not deter Jesuit early in the second half as Russell Magnani crossed in the second minute after the resumption. To its credit, Mother Lode kept pressure on Jesuit and it took another eighteen minutes before scored its tenth and final try through Daniel Cairns. It was Rugby justice that Mother Lode scored the final try of the game on the final whistle.

Altogether it was an eye-catching performance in atrocious conditions by Jesuit and a meritorious defensive performance by a ball starved Mother Lode team. It did allow Jesuit to give playing time to almost 45 players.

Mother Lode nominated Grant Penney as the best back and Jason Fry as the best forward – tough decisions when so many Jesuit players had strong games.

Jesuit 1-15:

Himmelman, Casanova, Donaldson, Wallace, Fry C, Bush, Torres, Fry J, Penney, Esch, Chipman, Welch, Ferri, Cairns, Magnani.

Bench – Colwell, Chacon, Leif, Kuppenbender, Cowie, Carlson, Hollis T, Heath, Rockwell, Brown, Poindexter, Ainsley, Breault, Boyer, Bos, Celli, French, Meijia, Casterton, Sanchez, Coston, Lagomarsino, Marsch and others unfortunately missed.

Jesuit 68

Tries: Ferri 2, Himmelman, Donaldson, Bush, Fry, Penney, Welch, Magnani, Cairns

Conversions:- Penney 6, Poindexter 3

Mother Lode 5

Tries:- One

Senior B v Mother Lode

Due to the impending darkness and a shortage of players for Mother Lode, it was agreed that the Senior B game will be played but at a later date.

Marauders Strike Gold On Treasure Island

Saturday 27 February 2010

Treasure Island Rugby Complex

Jesuit 22 - San Francisco/Golden Gate 10

The drive through the valley to Treasure Island was initially nightmarish. Thoughts were that there may not be a game today but ..... over the hills and blue skies appeared over San Francisco. Rugby would go ahead in surprisingly good conditions underfoot.

A large and determined SF/GG team awaited Jesuit and a battle would be on the Marauders hands. Jesuit began the game as they had begun the Mother Lode game the previous day – attack, attack and more attack. Unfortunately this time crucial handling errors crept into the Jesuit game.

All began well when in the third minute a clever kick ahead was put through and winger Russell Magnani won the race to the ball to dive over between the posts. Grant Penney converted and Jesuit led 7-0.

Jesuit created three great scoring opportunities in the next five minutes but in each case the vital pass went to ground. The SF/GG defense was hard to crack. A penalty kicked by Penney took the lead to 10-0 and when stand-off Steve Esch charged down a kick near the SF/GG try line and dived over it was 15-0 at half time.

Jesuit began the second half with a flourish and center Jackson Welch crossed for well deserved try in the twelfth minutes that was converted by Penney to give Jesuit a 22-0 lead. The final twenty minutes of the game belonged to SF/GG as they got their rumbling game into gear.

Two individual breaks led to two deserved tries for the Bay men and the score line finished 22-10. These two teams meet again in three weeks time at Jesuit in what should be another tough battle.

SF/GG nominated Grant Penney as best back and Jason Fry as best forward. The game was very well refereed by long-time whistle blower Bruce Carter.

Jesuit 22

Tries:- Magnani, Esch, Welch.

Conversions:- Penney 2

Penalty:- Penney

San Francisco/Golden Gate 10

Tries:- 2

Jesuit 1-15: Himmelmann, Casanova, Donaldson, Wallace, Fry C, Brown, Bush, Torres, Fry J, Penney, Esch, Chipman, Welch, Ferri, Colwell, Magnani, Cairns, Poindexter.

Senior B's Surprise All

Jesuit 11 - San Francisco/Golden Gate 0

It looked like a replay of David and Goliath. Jesuit's smallish team lined up against a SF/GG team probably bigger than its rather large Varsity XV. Maybe some feared for injuries for Jesuit players but what a surprise it turned out to be.

In a game that would be shortened as League games were scheduled to follow, Jesuit spent the first ten minutes in dire defense. SF/GG camped on Jesuit's line and how it did not score at least one try was baffling to say the least.

Jesuit defended for almost the whole first half but on its first visit deep into SF/GG's territory, it scored. The half time whistle followed and it was hard to believe that Jesuit led 5-0. The game changed somewhat in the second half – Jesuit did much of the attacking and helped by some good tactical kicking spent much time camped in SF/GG territory.

The reward was two penalties to Nick Boyer and the lead blew out to eleven points. The smaller Jesuit pack covered itself in glory by way of some ferocious rucking that had the much bigger opposition forwards very much on the back foot.

A memorable victory if ever there was one.

### Sophomores Down In Thriller

Jesuit 17 - San Francisco/Golden Gate 19

The last ten minutes supplied more excitement than the previous sixty as Jesuit threw everything at a determined SF/GG team as it attempted to pull off a classic come-from-behind win but despite being held up on the SF/GG try line failed to breach the defense and SF/GG came away with a deserved win.

The first twenty minutes looked like Jesuit was heading for a very big loss. SF/GG applied non-stop pressure that resulted in two well deserved tries and a 14-0 lead for the Bay team. Jesuit rallied in expected style and fought its way back into the game. It was rewarded with a try before the break and went to the break down 5-14.

It took only five minutes of the second half for Jesuit to launch itself back into the game and score a second try that was converted to narrow the gap to 12-14. Then the dramas began. Jesuit scored an unconverted try to lead for the first time in the game 17-14. It had a golden opportunity to extend the lead but the Jesuit player incorrectly grounded the ball between the posts with not a defender in sight and a vital seven points was lost.

SF/GG appreciated the let-off and charged back into the lead with a well earned try to retake the lead 19-17. Jesuit threw everything at SF/GG as the supporters of both teams became vocal. Jesuit players were held up on and over the SF/GG line but the match-winning try just did not eventuate.

Player and scoring details were not available.

Freshmen In Impressive Win

Jesuit 27 - San Francisco/Golden Gate 19

Playing on a pitch away from the Varsity pitch, Jesuit's freshmen gave warning that they intend to continue the tradition of quality Jesuit Rugby with a comprehensive defeat of SF/GG freshmen. By all reports it was one of the team's best performances.

Fuller details will hopefully be in the next newsletter.

Frosh/Soph V McClatchy

Act 1 Scene 1

Wednesday February 24 Land Park

Jesuit 10 - McClatchy 5

A win is a win in any language and somehow Jesuit managed to record one in a game that had few highlights. The best feature for Jesuit was the large number of players who saw action. McClatchy showed that they have improved greatly as a team. Maybe a draw would have been a fair result.

Casey Reilly was nominated Best Forward and Matt Ternan Best Back.

Act 1 Scene 2

Monday March 1 Jesuit Rugby Field

Jesuit 27 - McClatchy 17

Again a combined Jesuit frosh/soph squad of legion proportions outstayed a willing McClatchy team on Jesuit's Rugby Field. The appearance of several new faces who look to have talent brought smiles to the faces of the Jesuit coaches.

Jesuit ran in five tries to three but McClatchy again proved that they are a very much improved team and caused the Jesuit defense many problems. The game was refereed by coach Steve Heberle who kept it flowing as much as he could in trying conditions.

Would you believe?

The headcount on Thursday at practice topped the 100 mark. Congratulations coaches on achieving progress with so little room in which to work .

Rugby Around The World

Six Nations

Ireland 20 - England 16

France 26 - Wales 20

Italy 16 - Scotland 12

Table

France 6

Ireland 4

England 4

Italy 2

Wales 2

Scotland 0

Super 14

Crusaders 35 - Sharks 6

Brumbies 19 - Stormers 17

Hurricanes 33 - Lions 18

Blues 27 - Reds 18

Chiefs 37 - Force 19

Highlanders 31 - Cheetahs 24

Bulls 48 - Waratahs 38

Table

Bulls 15

Hurricanes 14

Chiefs 14

Crusaders 10

Stormers 9

Blues 9

Brumbies 8

Reds 6

Waratahs 5

Cheetahs 5

Lions 2

Sharks 2

Force 0

## More And More Jesuit Rugby

In an attempt to get enough Rugby for our 150+ players, that indomitable “match-maker” Coach Fred at Rugby Central and others have gone into overdrive to find additional games.

This weekend

Today - (Friday) we have two League games at Jesuit against El Camino

Tomorrow - we have the BIG clash with perennial challengers Lamorinda at Jesuit. Frosh/Soph at 10am, Varsity at 11.30am with the varsity B to follow. This should be another memorable clash well worth watching.

Add the recently organized games

Tuesday March 9 Varsity B @ Vacaville 6pm

Friday March 12 Varsity @ De La Salle 4.30pm with Varsity B to follow

Monday March 22 Varsity B v Stockton Saints @ Jesuit 4.30pm

Jesuit Rugby 2010 rolls on.....and on.