

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.X No.2

March 2, 2006

Marauders Un-Lode on Mother Lode

Feb 24, 2006 - Jesuit High School, Carmichael, CA

Following-up the success from last Saturday nights win in Santa Rosa, against rival Elsie Allen High School, the Jesuit Marauders demonstrated a bit of a let down as the first ten minutes showed a sluggish start in which there was a clear lack of execution from the ruggers in red and gold. Though as the game progressed, the boys settled in and they began to display the beautiful style of rugby fans and coaches have quickly come to appreciate.

At the ten minute mark, co-captain and outside center, Tyler Siegel, executed a perfect tramline kick which forced pressure on the Mother Lode back three, eventually ending with a handling error by their fullback. From the Jesuit scrum, and three phases later, speedy and powerful winger, Will Wegner, led off what was eventually going to be an onslaught of consistent scoring throughout the afternoon with the first try. With the conversion failed Jesuit led 5 - Mother Lode 0.

The second try was set up by a wonderfully executed double-switch play with fly-half, Nate Floyd, Wegner and Siegel. Siegel finished the try after breaking two tackles. The conversion was made by "He hasn't hit the canvas in awhile 'Floyd' Patterson" and the score went to Jesuit 12 - Mother Lode 0.

The scoring continued after loose forward and Tom Cruise look alike, Zeke Sulzen, took advantage of a poached ball from the Mother Lode inside center. He distributed the ball to Wegener, who then fed to co-captain, #7, Alex Murchison who dotted the ball down for the score. Floyd "Patterson" again converted and the score went to Jesuit 19 - Mother Lode 0.

With the first half coming to a close, Jesuit implemented ten phase rugby as scrum half, Pierce Cooley, stretched his arm across for the fourth Jesuit try. Conversion missed, score at the half Jesuit 24 - Mother Lode 0.

With a professional attitude that has been displayed throughout this young season, the Gold Varsity Team continued where they ended the first half. With a put-in to scrum by Mother Lode stolen, Jesuit immediately went to the weak side and spread the ball to winger, "Big" Ben Markham. Markham straightened up the defense with forceful running and fed the ball back to Floyd. Floyd found the largest player on the field the prop, Julian "Colossus" Colombero, who lumbered through the next wave of battered Mother Lode backs and then found guess who, Markham, who started the attack. Markham placed the ball down just past the try line in the northeast corner of the field. All of this occurring along the Jesuit sidelines with fans cheering away. Conversion failed, Jesuit 29 - Mother Lode 0.

The next score occurred because Mother Lode failed to clear a kick behind the 22 meter, which landed in the hands of back replacement back, Brian Gagliardi. Gags quickly countered by spreading the ball to Cooley who performed a pressure kick that rolled into goal. It clearly appeared the Mother Lode fullback was going to place the ball down to stop play, but from nowhere, Wegner shot under the players hand and tapped the ball down for a try. Floyd converted his third kick and the score went to Jesuit 36 - Mother Lode 0.

With the fans buzzing about Wegner's second try, Jesuit quickly found the goal line again. With a classic example letting the ball work for the player, Floyd received a ball out of a ruck and swiftly spread it with a long pass to Sulzen who broke through the only line of defense to center the ball under the posts. Floyd "Patterson" converted his fourth kick and the score went to Jesuit 43 - Mother Lode 0.

With Mother Lode realizing the game had slipped away, the Marauders did not hesitate and in seconds took the kickoff by again entertaining the Jesuit sideline with clever ball handling skills that were practiced and preached throughout the week. Murchison who received the kickoff was not going to be stopped as he broke for 30 meters passing to Colombero, who passed the ball to Floyd, who then went back to Murchison. Murchison placed the ball down in the northeast corner again, with fans celebrating and coaches shaking their heads in admiration. Floyd "Patterson" converted his fifth kick from the corner and Jesuit broke into the half-century mark. The whistled sounded and the score concluded, Jesuit 50 - Mother Lode 0.

The match was a display of well rounded rugby but the Jesuit staff and fans have reason to be concerned with injuries that occurred to 8-man, Joe Malim, who suffered what appeared to be a serious knee injury, and center/wing, Zach Kaufman, who received a broken nose.

Mother Lode chose Nate Floyd as Back of the Match and Julian Colombero as Forward of the Match. Both sides thanked referee Sam Regal for the game.

Jesuit 50 - Mother Lode 0

Trys: (2) Wegner, (2) Murchison , Siegel, Cooley, Markham, Sulzen

Conversions: Floyd 5/8

Penalty Kicks: -

Starters 1 - 15: Colombero, McFarlane, Deterding, Nicodemus (Steeb), Watje, Sulzen, Murchison, Malim (Miller), Cooley (Gagliardi), Floyd, Wegener, Reuter, Siegel (Kaufman), Markham, Champion

Varsity II Win In Last Play Of Game

Rio HS 2/24/06.

The Varsity II rugby team pulled off a surprise win on Friday afternoon against the more physical Rio Rugby Varsity team. The final score of 12 - 8 was achieved with time expired on the game clock.

From the start of the game until the final whistle, only the tenacity and the aggressive tackling of the smaller and younger Jesuit team kept Rio from running away with the game. Rio won the lion's share of the ball, especially in the loose, but were thwarted on numerous occasions because of the good tackling, by both forwards and backs. Standing tallest amongst the Jesuit players was the smallest player on the field, Vince Longo. Very early in the game he took on Rio's largest player and brought him down with a text book tackle. The rest of the team followed his example.

Rio kept on attacking and after 9 phases they worked the ball to the weak side where they scored on a 2 vs.1 overlap with a well worked play. The conversion was missed. Jesuit 0 - Rio 5. From the kick off Rio piled on the pressure with wave after wave of attack. They continued hitting the rucks hard, driving the Jesuit players off the ball. Rio were awarded a penalty in front of the posts when the Jesuit players went off sides. They converted and the score was Jesuit 0 - Rio 8.

Jesuit began gaining more confidence and starting hitting the rucks with a lot more aggression. They were awarded a penalty 20 meters out and in front of the posts. Electing to use the penalty play instead of kicking for points, the forwards took the ball up with Ryan DeAnda playing a prominent part in the attack. After 3 phases the ball was spun wide and Trent Fisher dove in for a try in the corner. The conversion was missed. Score Jesuit 5 - Rio 8.

The start of the 2nd half began much the same as the first with Rio attacking with their forwards. Jesuits picket line was well organized and contained these forays into Jesuit territory. Jesuit began putting some phases together and began spinning the ball out wide at every opportunity, spreading the opponent's defense thin. Jesuit came close to scoring on 2 occasions from good backline movements. With the clocking ticking down to fulltime, the backs and forwards put multiple phases together with impressive inter-passing between the players with Alex Illium prominent in the phases. The ball was spun first to the right wing and then after good ruck ball was won, it came back down the line. Craig Fugina took a pass 22 meters out at pace and with the goal line in front of him as well as 3 defenders he barged his way over the line with all 3 defenders hanging onto him. Trent Fisher converted which gave Jesuit the victory by the score of 12 - 8.

Team: DeAnda, Sehr Paquette Barnes Willmes (Westerman) Bennet (Calhoun) Lucas (Wyllie), Illium, Worden, Charter (Heaphy), Tucci (Driver), Telford (Davies) Heaphy (Fugina), Longo, Fischer.

Scorers: Try's: Fisher, Fugina

Conversions: Fisher

Battling B's Rack Up Vacaville

2/22/04 Vacaville

The Jesuit Jr. Armada stunned Vacaville behind 2 Rob Davies tries in a grueling test of wills against the Blackdog novices. Our forwards incorporated the new rucking drills and found immediate results. Rob Calhoun demonstrated the technique to the fullest and made clean ball available to scrumhalves Michael Stevens and Kevin Rapport.

Evan Sheehan had a blinder* at Standoff, running and kicking with verve, and controlling the game for his team. Both centers, Elliot Telford and Rob Davies, pounded for yardage, and made the game a "go-forward" for the red and gold.

Props Paul "Chuckles" Heran and Kyle "USC" Paquette had top games and hooker Rob "The Swede" Lopez was as accurate as a laser in lineouts.

Robert Willmes made the most of his first start at #8 and won forward of the match honors. Back of the Match was well earned by Evan Sheehan.

* Blinder is rugby speak for an incredible performance.

Battling B's Lose In Last Minute

Jesuit HS 2/25/06

On a warm spring morning at the Jesuit rugby field, the B team made up of juniors and sophomores took on the Motherlode team from El Dorado Hills. Motherlode was fired up from the start and ran straight and hard at the Jesuit players.

10 Minutes into the game, 4 missed tackles allowed Motherlode to breach Jesuits defense and score their first try. The conversion was missed. Motherlode continued to attack and soon afterwards were awarded a penalty which they converted to increase their lead to 8 - 0.

7 Minutes before the end of the first half, Jesuit began putting phases together. McFarlane peeled off from the side of the ruck, beat 2 defenders and passed to a flying Clark on his outside. Clark sidestepped the last defender to score in the corner. The conversion was missed and Jesuit was back in the game. Jesuit 5 - Motherlode 8. Soon thereafter Jesuit were awarded a penalty which Franco converted to make the score 8 - 8. But on the stroke of halftime, Motherlode converted a penalty for an offside infringement to increase their lead.

Score: Jesuit 8 - Motherlode 11.

The second half was played at a frantic pace with both sides playing hard and unforgiving rugby. Jesuit was rewarded for their good play by a very good individualistic try. Kellen Holmes picked up a ball from loose play, chipped over the oncoming defense, collected his own kick and scored under the posts. The conversion was unsuccessful.

Score: Jesuit 13 - Motherlode 11.

With only 5 minutes remaining Motherlode threw everything into the attack. Both teams tackled hard, however Motherlode put together a number of phases which sucked in the Jesuit defense and their rampaging number 8 broke from a loose scrum and smashed his way over for an unconverted try.

Final Score: Jesuit 13 - Motherlode 16.

Teams: Johnson (Paquette), Stevens, Heran, Obana, Kesich, (Carmedy), Reyes, McFarlane, Wyllie, Rapport, (Pidd) Franco, Esch, Davies, Driver (Holmes), Clark, Sheahan

Scorers:

Try's: Clark, Holmes

Penalties: Franco

Late additions to the newsletter:

Jesuit Wins Sacramento Kick Off Tournament

February 4, 2006 - Granite Park, Sacramento, CA

The Jesuit Varsity took top honors with a Championship Game win over Live Oak (Silicon Valley, CA) 19-3. In the course of the day, Jesuit also defeated Rio and The Islanders (Burbank) to become the Champions of the 22nd Annual Tournament. In addition, they won a set of Kudu rugby jerseys for the school.

Throughout the day, it was a team effort with the forwards retaining constant position of the ball, and the backs using it wisely with spinning it to the wings and kicking strategically.

In the Championship Game, Live Oak was a large and strong team that gave the Jesuit Rugby Team a stiff test. However, in the end, it was Jesuit adapting to the Live Oak strategy and finding an answer for the defense that led to the victory.

The B Team was also triumphant at the Sacramento Tournament, turning in three defensive gems with no points scored against them in three games. They beat Vacaville 29-0 in the first game with quick handling in the back and strong running by Ben Markham. Against the Live Oak B Team, the Jaguar Jontucci gave a Reggie Bush impersonation with multiple slicing runs through the defense. In the third and final game against Rio, the score was 32-0 with the entire back line served constant clean ball by the rampaging forwards to allow them to advance at will against the Rio defense. Tanner Heaphy saw his first B experience in this game, as well as Ryan DeAnda and Chris Fugina.

Varsity Takes on UC Davis C Team

February 11, 2006 - UC Davis Campus

The Varsity faced an open week because of Fairfield's forfeiture from league play. The UC Davis Aggies Rugby Team, which has a very large following and highly skilled team this year offered to play a C game against the Jesuit Varsity and to provide some recruiting of players at the same time.

Referee Sam Reagle provided an interesting and open game for the players, and there was a lot of excitement and excellent rugby to be seen from both sides.

UC Davis came at Jesuit with a tight forward game with excellent ball retention, pick-n-drives straight ahead, and then spinning it out to the backs. Since Australian guru Barry O'Connell has been known to coach both sides, it was not surprising that the style of play was very familiar.

In the first half, Jesuit seemed to be make close to 100 tackles, but Davis was only able to break the line and score in the last two minutes of play. From the opening kickoff to the halftime whistle, it was a constant attack on the line of scrimmage, with Jesuit beating them back constantly with multiple tackles. However, the Jesuit backs were able to kick strategically, particularly with strong catches of high balls by fullback Travis Champion and strong running by centers Tyler Siegel and Evan Reuter. Jesuit was again dominant in line outs and appeared to get the measure of the Davis scrum with an occasional tighthead.

The half ended 5-5 with Jesuit anticipating another hard-hitting second half.

At halftime, Coach John Shorey and Coach Tom Janis analyzed Davis' game plan and made some strategic changes in order to take the pressure off of the defense. Opening the second half, Jesuit attacked with greater precision and started putting the ball out to the backs who ran and kicked to the open areas, keeping Davis on the back foot. There were many second half highlights, which include Alex Murchison chasing down a wing, preventing a 50-meter scoring run; Travis Champion taking multiple high balls with aplomb; props Matt McKay stealing the ball from Davis as they attempted to score from the 5-meter line; and Spencer Puente bowling over a Davis player with a bull-like charge.

Jesuit's second half score came with a break through the line by #8 Jason Law, as Jesuit constantly recycled the ball. Tyler Siegel kicked the point after and extra point for a 15-5 margin Jesuit over UC Davis C Team.

Following the game, the UC Davis coach presented the players at the post game function with food and refreshment, and found time for a short recruiting talk encouraging the Jesuit players to attend and play for UC Davis. With coaches Tom Janis and John Shorey as former Aggie players, it was not a hard sell for the UC Davis coach.

SVHSRC - Varsity Records and Standings

Cheers and Jeers:

Cheers - to Louie Stanfill-former Jesuit Rugby Superstar and current Cal Rugby Hero-for his profile in Rugby Magazine this month. Read it online www.rugbymag.com for updates on the Boy Wonder.

Cheers - Mike Gamache, freshman scrumhalf for the University of Oklahoma and Jesuit's 2005 varsity scrumhalf, has been awarded the following in his first season:

OU Rookie of the year;

1st Team, Big Twelve Conference;

1st Team , West U-23.

Congratulations on a great season

Cheers - to Mrs. Deterding-the only parent to answer our most recent plea for parent help with the team. Thanks very much.

Cheers - to Mike Harris, Lisa Malim, and the rest of the varsity parents for organizing and hosting a post game function for the L.A. Cougars to follow the game Saturday at Stanford. Thank you for your efforts.

Regis Coach to Recruit Jesuit Players

From Dan Hattrup, head coach of Regis University and current coach of former Jesuit Rugby Stars Derek Siegel, Craig McCoy, and Dan Propheter: He will be the referee for the Jesuit Varsity game v. Davis Friday March 3 and the Jesuit v. Loyola game at Stanford on Saturday March 4.

Coach Hattrup writes:

I'm refereeing the Davis - Jesuit game, and then refereeing the Jesuit - Cougars game down at Stanford. Parents are more than welcome to come interrogate me regarding why Regis University is a wonderful choice for their sons.

Also, we beat Mines 36-7 today while breaking in our rookie players... Derek Siegel was good for 11 points, as well as providing solid play at inside center, fullback and wing, as I was able to move players into different positions. I'd mention a 65 meter run where he sidestepped 6 different players on the way to the in goal, including almost breaking the fullback's ankles on a slick outside in sidestep, but Derek would hate the attention. Craig McCoy and Dan Propheter were solid as well, doing all the dirty work that forwards have to do, while never getting the glory that the kids with hair gel get.

Dan will be easily recognizable with a large black cowboy hat and a margarita in his hand.

U-17 Select Side Tryouts

Anyone interested in participating in the SVHSRC Under-17 Select XV team tryouts, please contact Coach Dave Miller or Coach Khasigian with your birthdate, parent's phone number and email address and well as your email address.

This team hopes to play some other conferences and to elevate the level of play for this age group. The first practice is Saturday March 18 and all submissions of interest must be into the coaches by March 10. To be eligible your birthday must be on or after Jan. 1, 1990.

It should be a lot of fun and expose you to a lot of good rugby. Please let us know if you are interested as soon as possible.

Other Scores:

Lamorinda 27 - DeLaSalle 5

Golden Gate 52 - DeLaSalle 10

Golden Gate 33 - Hayward 24

Lamorinda 17 - DeLaSalle 5

The Alumni and Collegiate Report

By Doug Hamilton

Off season: Over the several months since the close of the 2005 season Jesuit Rugby alumni have stayed in the news. Frank Sharpe and the New York Athletic Club won the US Super League title last Spring. Over the summer Louis Stanfill was "capped" as he played in an international tournament in Japan as a member of the US national men's team, the Eagles. Kort Schubert has been selected as the captain of the Eagles, and when the Eagles are not playing, Kort is playing in Wales. The February 2006 issue of Rugby Magazine has an article on the first ever All Pac 10 rugby tourney, held at UCLA in January. Prominently featured in accompanying photographs are Louis Stanfill and James Sehr. Not content with the tourney coverage, Louis is also featured in the Men's Profile article, where he gives proper credit to several Jesuit coaches and teammates. Dominic Cooke has continued to garner publicity as he turns misfortune into good fortune with his "Try for Others" campaign, dedicated to helping rugby players who sustain serious injuries, on or off the pitch.

College season: Regis University in Colorado plays a bifurcated season with matches in the Fall and in the Spring, seperated by some of the finest skiing anywhere in the world. Several Jesuit

players continue to distinguish themselves for Regis, and are no doubt eagerly awaiting the Spring thaw so that they can get back out on the pitch.

In California, this past weekend featured games between top teams as in both Northern and Southern California the top two teams met with first place on the line. Things played true to form in Northern California as Cal defeated St. Mary's College, 40-7, in Moraga, but not before the Gaels earned strong praise for giving the Bears a game. Cal was kept out of the goal for 25 minutes and at the half led by only 12-0. As usual, at some point in the second half the floodgates opened for Cal and they scored three relatively quick unanswered tries. However the Gaels did not back off and scored on a crowd pleasing Garry Owen which left several Cal players in the wake of a speedy St. Mary's fly half. St. Mary's took a holiday trip to Ireland in December where they played games against Trinity and UC Cork.

In Southern California host Cal Poly defeated UC Santa Barbara in a battle of previously unbeaten teams to secure first place.

This coming weekend Cal takes a step away from the college ranks as they host the visiting New York Athletic Club in a game where the Bears are the rare underdogs. Meanwhile in what should be a very exciting game, St. Mary's travels to Davis for a game with second place and a favorable territorial playoff seeding on the line. Both the Gaels and the Aggies have shown great offenses this year and this game should be a good one.

Sacramento State, featuring some Jesuit players and coached by Chris Miller, has had the bad luck to meet league leaders St. Mary's and Cal early in the season. With those teams behind them, their record should improve as they take on the rest of the league.

As always, several Jesuit players are now playing for Cal. Seeing considerable action in the season thus far are Andrew Lindsey, Louis Stanfill, Joe Welch, Eric Fry and James Sehr. Injuries may give Ryan Taylor a start against NYAC this coming weekend. Louis' brother Jake has seen some action as he continues to work his way back from an injury that cut short his season last year. James Sehr has shown great versatility playing at hooker, back row and even at prop.

Didn't see your name here, but want to let people know about your post Jesuit accomplishment?
Write! Send your comments to dragon1137@comcast.net. Please mention Jesuit Rugby in the
subject line to avoid the quick delete.

Any comments or questions-email sheldonoaks@hotmail.com