

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol VIII, No 7

Marauders Blitz Burbank In Classy Performance

Jesuit HS 3/5/04

In an amazing turnaround of form, the Jesuit Marauders fired on all cylinders to overrun a surprised Islander of Burbank team to the tune of 36-15 at Jesuit on Friday.

In front of one of the biggest crowds ever to see a game at Jesuit, the Marauders began in whirlwind style and maintained a defensive pressure on Burbank that they simply could not break until the final three minutes.

Jesuit, hamstrung by a lack of practice sessions and games so far this season, had looked to have the job in front of it to beat a big and strong Burbank team but they defied critics by overpowering Burbank to lead 36-5 at one stage well into the second half.

The Burbank haka fired everybody up and the early exchanges saw some big hitting by both sides. However it took Jesuit only three minutes to open the score.

A Burbank player, fielding a well-placed kick, was caught inside his 22. Jesuit had a number of drives at the Burbank line but its tough defense held until lock, Paul Jesseman, who was Jesuit's Man of the Match, broke from a ruck, powered through the last line of Burbank defense to dive over for the try.

Stand off Chris Sardon, who had a great tactical kicking game, converted the try and the crowd was abuzz with Jesuit leading 7-0. Jesuit continued to play a controlled kicking game that, coupled with its ironclad defense had Burbank continually on the back foot.

Jesuit, controlling play and causing additional problems by taking some of Burbank's lineout ball, played long periods of the game deep in Burbank territory. Quick ball movement gave Jesuit's flying winger, Adam Mariani, room to move and he stepped his way through the bewildered defense to score Jesuit's second try.

The conversion missed narrowly but Jesuit had some breathing space with a 12-0 lead.

That lead became 17-0 in the 24th minute when Jesuit's Mr Perpetual Motion, Zack Reed, broke through the Burbank first line of defense and when finally tackled off-loaded superbly to the trailing Jesseman who crossed for his second try.

Just to illustrate how dangerous they can be, Burbank struck back with a classis try. Jesuit turned over the ball and Burbank moved the ball with surprising quickness deep into Jesuit territory.

After several drives at the Jesuit try line a Burbank forward managed to crash over for his team's first points of the game.

With half time rapidly approaching, Jesuit's answer to World Cup hero, Jonny Wilkinson, stand off Chris Sardon, did what is known in Rugby circles as "a Jonny Wilkinson".

From a scrum about 25 meters out, he received the ball from half back Billy Bittner and coolly slotted a field goal to a rapturous roar from the Jesuit crowd. Jesuit went to the break immediately leading 20-5.

Jesuit set itself for a torrid first ten minutes of the second half against a fired up Burbank team but Jesuit scored within five minutes of the resumption of play. It again was the hard-nosed Jesuit defense that rattled Burbank and caused handling turnovers.

Adam Mariani set up Chris Sardon for his try shortly after and Jesuit looked like taking total control of the game.

Try though they might, neither team could score for another 15 minutes. It was Jesuit's long-range goal kicker, winger Adam Mariani, who slotted a 45-meter penalty to keep the scoreboard ticking over at 28-5 to Jesuit.

Almost immediately center Eric Forner scored a great individual try when he displayed some of his rather considerable soccer skills. Burbank lost the ball in a center field tackle. Forner deftly toed the ball ahead, neatly grubbering it over the Burbank before grounding the ball for the try. Sardon's conversion was unsuccessful but the game was safe at 33-5.

As safety insurance, Mariani added another long-range penalty to stretch the lead to 36-5 before Burbank showed how deadly it could be in attack with two tries in the last three minutes. The ease of the two tries is a warning to all sides of the attacking explosiveness of this Burbank team.

Jesuit went into the game with a clearly defined game plan and stuck to that plan for almost the whole game. The open field kicking of Chris Sardon and Eric Forner proved a match winner.

It is not easy to single out individual stars for Jesuit as all who made it on to the field gave it their all but locks Paul Jesseman and Eric Fry with flankers captain Steve Lewis and Zack Reed had outstanding games in attack and defense.

Warrior prop Anthony Estrella continues to improve with each game and caused Burbank headaches while hooker David Read vindicated the coaches faith in him by having a fine all-round game.

The Three Soccer Musketeers - Chris Sardon, Eric Forner and Adam Mariani - were standouts. Each of the three contributed through their vision on the field, their smart heads-up plays and, surprisingly, their hard-nosed tackling.

Center Sean McNamara's defense was top class and his hard, straight running caused Burbank headaches. Half back Billy Bittner had his best ever game for Jesuit, winger Ken Imwinkelried did nothing wrong while full back and backs captain Ryan Taylor had a splendid game despite the handicap of a broken rib.

Jesuit 1-15

Jesuit 36

Tries Jesseman 2, Forner, Sardon, Mariani

Conversion Sardon

Penalties Mariani 2

Field Goal Sardon

Burbank 15

Tries 3

Referee Pete Smith (NCRRA)

Jesuit Does It Twice In Two days

Southern California #1 falls to the Marauders

Stanford, CA 3/6/04

As if the game against chief rival on the Friday wasn't enough, Jesuit headed to the beautiful Stanford pitch to fend off the challenge of Southern California's #1 team, the LA Cougars (aka Loyola) in what was a hard-nosed encounter.

Though many bore the marks of the Burbank game, almost the full Varsity XV fronted for this "bragging rights" game. Loyola had been with Jesuit at the 2003 National Championships in Fort Worth.

As happened in 2003, Loyola had the better of the early play and led Jesuit 3-0 after a second minute penalty.

Not to be denied Jesuit struck back ten minutes later after a clever cross kick by outside center Eric Forner. From the ensuing ruck, much improved hooker, David Read, charged over for the try in the corner. Chris Sardon converted magnificently from the side line.

Sardon, who had a game English World Cup stand off and hero would have been proud, cleverly chipped over the charging Loyola defense, caught the kick and scooted over for the try, which he converted.

Loyola was having problems with the Jesuit's good ball control and the Jesuit defense that continually felled Loyola players behind the line of advantage.

This was amply illustrated when Jesuit won a number of rucks in succession. The ever-present Sardon again instigated the try when he slashed through the Loyola defense to send the flying Forner in for the try.

From a tap move, powerhouse prop Anthony Estrella, charged the ball ahead. Jesuit made a number of charges at the Loyola line before captain, Steve Lewis, dived over for the try. With Sardon's conversion, Jesuit led 28-3 at the break.

It took only eight minutes of the second half for Jesuit to extend the lead to 33-3 after Read again was on hand to crash over from a ruck close to the Loyola line.

To its credit, Loyola would not give up and the team was rewarded when it strung together a number of phases and its rugged #8 raced over for a converted try.

Winger/full back Adam Mariani closed out the scoring when Jesuit stole the ball from a Loyola throw into a lineout. The ball "flew" across the Jesuit backline for Mariani to outpace the Loyola defense for the try that he converted himself.

All in all it was a great performance from a somewhat leg-weary Jesuit team. Chris Sardon was the undisputed "Man of the Match" while Eric Forner was not far behind. Center Sean McNamara ran and tackled with power while half back Billy Bittner continued his improved form.

In the forwards, Anthony Estrella had another strong game, lock Eric Fry was everywhere in attack and defense, captain Steve Lewis was tough while Zack Reed got through a power of work.

Jesuit took the opportunity in the second half to blood a number of their up-and-coming young players. Loyola may have been lucky that Jesuit did not unleash "secret weapon" Jake Sehr until the latter stages of the game.

The game was excellently refereed by head coach of Regis (Jesuit) University, Dan Hattrup.

Jesuit 1-15 Estrella, Read/French, Nickerson/Welch, Fry/Beebe, Jesseman/Booth, Llewellyn/McCoy, Reed/Murchison/Sehr, Lewis/Jesseman, Bittner/Hawley, Sardon/Cooley, Mariani/Morrison, McNamara, Forner, Imwinkelried/Scott, Renda/Collins/Mariani

Jesuit 40

Tries Read 2, Sardon, Forner, Lewis, Mariani

Conversions Sardon 4, Mariani

LA Cougars(Loyola) 10

Try 1

Conversion 1

Penalty 1

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers to the huge crowd that attended the Jesuit v Burbank game. We hope you all enjoyed it. Up-and-coming Jesuit rugby players note - that's the game you set yourself for.

Congratulations to our Three Musketeers - Chris Sardon, Eric Forner and Adam Mariani. Make the most of your last season as Rugby players. In all likelihood Chris is headed to Dartmouth, Eric to Yale and Adam to Notre Dame but they will be chasing the round ball at those schools not the oval one.

Cheers to Athletic Director Ron Nocetti and staff who helped us get through the "BIG ONE" on Friday without a hitch.

Jeers to Tyler Collins, who forgot where the half way line was during the haka. He soon found out however.

Would you believe? This week's update of the playing roster had 158 names on it!!! No that couldn't be right. Again cheers to Lynda Khasigian on handling the paperwork and gear requirements for all the "mob".

Congratulations: To the mob that played 6 games last week and went 5-1 and has 6 games plus and intrasquad game planned for this week.

Don't forget! Photos on Tuesday in full clean uniforms. Please bring the form from practice to buy any photos that you want.

Desperately Needed-parents with some modicum of writing talent to help Coach Andy and Coach Marty write up the game summaries for the B and FS teams on occasions when coaches with some acquaintance with the English language are absent from the game. Please apply immediately to sheldonoaks@hotmail.com for the position.

Rugby around the World

Sacramento Valley League

Round 3-Results

Jesuit 36 Burbank 15

Del Campo 22 Ponderosa 21

Davis 30 Vacaville 26

Oak Ridge 17 Rio Americano 7

Table

Jesuit 3/0

Del Campo 3/0

Burbank 2/1

Grant 1/1/bye

Ponderosa 1/1/bye

Oak Ridge 1/2

Rio Americano 0/2/bye

Vacaville 0/3

Jesuit 40 Loyola 10

Jesuit B 39 Rio B 14

Jesuit Soph 15 Rio 7

Jesuit B 19 Fairfield 10

Fairfield FS 27 Jesuit 17

Super 12-Round 3

NSW Waratahs(Aust) 46 Cats(Sth Afr) 10

Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 27 Auckland Blues(NZ) 20

Blue Bulls(Sth Afr) 16 Otago Highlanders(NZ) 16

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 20 Queensland Reds(Aust) 17

Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 25 Western Stormers(Sth Afr) 19

Points Table

Waratahs 15

ACT Brumbies 14

Western Stormers 10

Blue Bulls, Waikato Chiefs 8

Highlanders 7

Reds, Blues 6

Coastal Sharks 5

Crusaders, Hurricanes 4

Cats 2

Round 4 (this weekend)

Highlanders vs. Sharks

Hurricanes vs. Cats

Reds vs. Blues

Bulls vs. Brumbies

Stormers vs. Waratahs

Byes - Chiefs & Crusaders

Rugby on cable TV - channel 613 (Fox Sports Network) covers Super 12 Rugby - Monday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Unfortunately the coverage is late on most days.

Six Nations-Round 3

Ireland 19 England 13

France 29 Wales 22

Italy 20 Scotland 14

Points table

France 6

Ireland 4

England 4

Wales 2

Italy 2

Scotland 0

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By the Intrepid Doug Hamilton

The Jesuit Rugby Alumni is not limited to alumni of the Jesuit Rugby Team. Recognition is properly due to Jesuit graduates who may not have played rugby in high school, but took up the game later. In the USA in fact most college rugby players did not play rugby in high school.

In the mid-1970's Jesuit High School's enrollment included the remarkable Brooks brothers. Their father was a career military man, eventually rising to the rank of Major General in the Army. During the 70's he was stationed in the Sacramento area and his sons, Leo, Jr., and Vincent were enrolled in Jesuit. Both boys excelled in the classroom and on the playing fields and followed their father to distinguished careers in the Army. Leo, Jr., attended the US Military Academy at West Point, where he now serves as the Commandant of Cadets, the academy's

second in command. Younger brother Vincent was a familiar face on American television at the outset of the most recent Iraq conflict as the spokesman for the Army's Central Command. Both are Brigadier Generals. There was no rugby at Jesuit when the Brooks boys were students, but Leo took up the sport at West Point. There he played in the back row putting to good use the talents he displayed in football and track at Jesuit. He still plays for the Academy's Masters team, the Old Boys.

There is a lengthy interview of Brigadier General Brooks in the current issue of Rugby magazine. It can be found on the Internet at www.rugbymag.com/archive/2004/march/intervw.htm. When asked whether he was surprised to learn of the success of the Jesuit rugby program he replied, "Jesuit High School has a tremendous academic reputation, and it is also a sports' Mecca. It was a great football, track, cross country and basketball school when I attended. I played football and ran track at Jesuit.

I didn't realize that rugby was so successful there, but it doesn't surprise me because they focus on excellence in everything they do. When Jesuit develops a program, they'll put excellent resources into it, get the best coaches, and train their student athletes hard. The results are evident. So I'm not surprised that they're so competitive on the national level."

On the prevalence of successful Jesuit high school rugby programs throughout the country he continued, "I attribute it to the Jesuits' focus on excellence in all dimensions of a person's growth. One of the reasons they probably picked rugby is because it builds teamwork and camaraderie. It is a great sport to teach a person about citizenship because you are learning to work with other people in a fast-paced, action-packed tough sport. It's a great way to develop a young man or woman."

For an enjoyable look into West Point, the role rugby has played in Brigadier General Brooks' life, and the role he has played in the game, check out the latest issue of Rugby at www.rugbymag.com. While you're at it, consider a subscription.

General Brooks will return to Jesuit on Friday, April 2, for the first Alumni Recognition Dinner. Perhaps he can be persuaded to suit up that afternoon for the Carmichael Cup match against Del Campo.

College Report.

While Cal's traditional rugby rival may be the University of British Columbia, the Golden Bears will always be rivals with Stanford in every endeavor and rugby is no exception. In 2001 Stanford sent shock waves through the world of rugby and collegiate sports when they chose to forfeit rather than meet the Bears on the pitch. The teams did not meet in 2002, but since then Cal has seemed determined to remind the Cardinal of the error of forfeiting. In 2003 Cal came close to a 100 point shut out as they defeated Stanford in Berkeley, 97-0. This year the Bears traveled to Palo Alto, the sight of their semifinal loss to Air Force in last years' collegiate

tournament. Stanford is a team trying to rebuild it's former glory, notably in a brand new facility, and under the leadership of Rob Holder, the coach who defeated Cal when he was at Air Force. In a game last Saturday that turned out to be the curtain raiser for Jesuit's match against the Los Angeles Cougars, Stanford fared only slightly better than the previous season, losing by only 86 points, 91-5. Andrew Lindsay and Louis Stanfill played for the Bears, though Andrew left the pitch in the first half with an injury.

Second place UC Davis had the week off. In Reno the Wolfpack hosted Saint Mary's College in a rematch of the opener of Saint Mary's own Pat Vincent Cup held in February. That game was won by Reno 17-15. Saturday Reno won again, 26-19. In a battle of fifth place teams, Chico defeated Sacramento State, 31-13, in Chico.

This coming weekend Chico hosts Saint Mary's, Sacramento State travels to Cal, and in what should be a very good game, and help decide second place in the league, Davis will play host to Reno.

Keep your friends at Jesuit Rugby up to date on your accomplishments, write to dragon1137@aol.com. Be sure to include the words Jesuit Rugby in the subject line.

Any questions or comments email to sheldonoaks@hotmail.com

The Management