

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol 14 No. 4

The “battle” Is On - Come One Come All

This Saturday March 20 - Jesuit Rugby Field – A Rugby Bonanza

One of the Bay’s best – the San Francisco/Golden Gate Rugby Club is bringing its

Freshmen (10:00am), Sophomores (11:30am), Varsity A (1:00pm) and Varsity B (2:30pm) to challenge the Jesuit Rugby juggernaut.

Assess our chances of Sac Valley, Northern California and National Championships. Do join us for the last real challenge to Jesuit Rugby at representative level.

See you there

Jesuit Overrun Spartans

Jesuit 26 De La Salle 0

In conditions more befitting the Winter Olympics, the Jesuit “biathletes” overcame the cold and wet to register a stirring 26-0 win over the tough tackling Spartans of De La Salle at Concord Friday.

The Marauders produced a blistering first half display of controlled Rugby to charge to a 19-0 lead before being fully tested in a tough second half and could add only one try.

Jesuit applied the pressure early in a scrum close to the Spartan line. The ball spilled out of the back for Jesuit flanker Chris Colwell to scoop up and dive over for the try. Standoff James Poindexter converted from wide out and Jesuit led 7-0.

Jesuit was playing quality ten phase Rugby that was causing De La Salle to be under continual pressure. A pass was knocked down and Jesuit towed the ball ahead. In a dash for the ball that was over the try line center Matt Ference won the race to claim the try. Again Poindexter converted from wide out and Jesuit led 14-0.

Close to the break Jesuit added a third try when #8 Jason Fry worked the blind side from a scrum, made the initial break to send half-back Steve Esch over for the try. This time the conversion was unsuccessful but Jesuit took a 19-0 lead into the break.

It took only six minutes of the second half for Jesuit to add to its score. Its hard working pack took a scrum tight head – again Fry went the weak side and again Esch was on hand to take the final pass for the try.

Play ebbed and flowed for the balance of the half. The De La Salle defense throughout this time was uncompromising and Jesuit found itself in heavy defense on a number of occasions but it likewise held up well.

De La Salle voted Chris Fry best forward and James Poindexter best back. “Mr Versatility” Steve Esch likewise had a top game. A great deal of the credit for the game being as entertaining as it turned out to be was due to the excellent refereeing of top whistle blower Pete Smith.

Jesuit 26 (Esch 2, Colwell, Ference tries, Poindexter 3 conversions) def DE LA SALLE 0

Jesuit – Himmelmann, Lagomarsino, Donaldson, C.Fry, Bush, Colwell, Torres, Fry J, Esch, Poindexter, Cairns, Ference, Welch, Barrientes, Chipman, Wilson, Kuppenbender.

Setting Up Match Winning Tries – A “kupper” Tea

Jesuit 10 - De La Salle 8

It was one of those “you had to see it to believe it” tries. Jesuit fullback Mark Kuppenbender in full flight down the right wing then setting off across field on a dazzling sidestepping run that left eight DLS players and the referee in his wake.

When corralled close to the try line, he finds ruck support in a charging Monty Chacon who barrels over the line for what turned out to be the match winning try. Simply great Rugby.

De La Salle began the game in whirlwind style and took the early lead through a penalty. This turned out to be the only score in a half of Rugby that flowed from one end to the other. Again tough defense from both teams was the feature.

Kuppenbender’s electric try gave Jesuit a 7-3 lead when Chacon converted the try but De La Salle fought back to score a try themselves and retake the lead at 8-7. A Chacon penalty gave Jesuit back the lead at 10-8.

Jesuit had to withstand a last minute scare when the Spartans were awarded a penalty on full time, 30 meters out and almost in front. The kick swung wide and the Marauders had prevailed in an entertaining game.

Monty Chacon was voted the best back and Andrew Cowie the best forward by the DLS captains. Again the refereeing of Pete Smith helped make the game flow.

Jesuit 10 (Chacon try, conversion and penalty) def DE LA SALLE 8 (try, penalty)

Jesuit – Mejia, Brown, Cowie, Briand, Breauit, Ainsley, French, Leif, Brown, Taylor, Barrientes, Welch, Bos, Chacon, Smith, Rozowski, Kuppenbender, Phillips. Holbus, Hansen.

Sophs Tie Dixon In Rugged Clash

By renowned Rugby correspondent, Rich Sardon.

Jesuit 17 - Dixon 17

Monday at Jesuit's Rugby Field, the Jesuit sophomores too on the Dixon sophomores in an attempt to avenge a thorough thrashing by Dixon a month prior. Dixon entered the game undefeated and Jesuit at less than full strength for disciplinary reasons.

Jesuit began the scoring with an excellent individual effort by forward Jack Bayless. Playing a grubber through the powerful Dixon forward line, Jack outraced the Dixon pack, controlled the ball with his feet and scored. The kick failed but Jesuit led 5-0.

Dixon scored immediately after on a series of power moves by their forwards and some untimely penalties against Jesuit. Half time ended tied at 5-5.

Dixon scored first in the second half to take a 12-5 lead. Again it was their powerful inside game that mattered. Jesuit struck back rapidly again with a series of great passes by the backs culminating in a great run by Steve Tavnener and the eventual try by John Mezger. Again the conversion failed.

Dixon hit back again with another power drive that saw them again score but the kick again was unsuccessful and Dixon led by seven.

Not to be denied great back play again led to Jesuit's next score. A great kick by full back John Mezger gained the Marauders great field position. The Jesuit backline moved the ball quickly again across to Steve Tavnener who crossed for the try. With Pat Barrientes' successful conversion the game was tied at 17-17.

Jesuit ended the game within the Dixon 10 meter area but was unable to steal the victory. The game was a classic game between power and finesse – neither style won the day. The 17-17 draw was a just reward for both teams.

Jack Brown was named back of the game with Blake Haynes named best forward. Other standouts were Alejandro Torres, Jack Bayless, Steve Tavnener, Trey Gentner, Tim Dallosta and super cocker star John Mezger whose kicking bordered on incredible.

Jesuit 17 (Bayless, Mezger, Tavnener tries, Barrientes conversion) drew with DIXON 17 (3 tries, conversion).

Rugby Around The World

Super 14 Round 5

Waratahs (Aust) 73 - Lions (SA) 12

Crusaders (NZ) 26 - Chiefs (NZ) 19

Brumbies (Aust) 24 - Sharks (SA) 22

Bulls (SA) 50 - Highlanders (NZ) 13

Reds (Aust) 50 - Force (Aust) 10

Ladder Bulls 20, Stormers 19, Crusaders 18, Brumbies 16, Chiefs 16, Reds 15, Waratahs 14, Hurricanes 14, Cheetahs 9, Blues 9, Highlanders 6, Sharks 4, Lions 2, Force 0

Six Nations Round 4

Ireland 27 - Wales 12

Scotland 15 - England 15

France 46 - Italy 20

Ladder France 8, Ireland 6, England 5, Wales 2, Italy 2, Scotland 1

Final Round

France v England, Ireland v Scotland, Wales v Italy

From Near And Far

Romania 22 - Georgia 10

Portugal 33 - Spain 15