

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.IX No.5

March 17, 2005

Cougars Snarl but Jesuit Slips By

Jesuit HS 3/11/05

The Cougar RFC came highly acclaimed and did not disappoint as they held the potent Marauders to a single try and had the defending National Champs on the ropes for most of the game. With the score 9-5 with 4 minutes to go, it was anyone's game. The Red Armada found some last rounds of ammunition and scored the final try to seal the important win 14-5.

The Del Campo squad was very fast in the deep Backline and constantly probed the Jesuit defense which bent but didn't break. Ryan Taylor kicked strategically to keep the Cougars at bay, with wings Dimitri Godamunne and Colin Hawley pressuring the Backline into errors. The forwards kept constant pressure on but had a few crucial dropped balls to prevent tries. Nate Floyd made a try saving tackle on a rampaging forward and then moments later made a 50 meter kick to touch under heavy pressure. Those heroics kept the Cougars off the board in the first half.

The first half ended with Jesuit ahead 3-0, but added some penalty kicks in the second half to make it 9-0. Del Campo then mounted a spirited attack that camped on the Jesuit goal line and finally scored to make it 9-5. It was a game up for grabs and the pressure was intense. Jesuit finally broke through for the breathing room try by Eric Fry and that was the game.

The Cougar RFC showed tremendous skill and size and were a formidable opponent throughout the game. Referee Tony Latu was at his best in this critical league showdown and won the appreciation of the crowd and the players.

At the post game function, Cougar RFC chose Fry as best forward and Taylor as best back.

Jesuit 14

Trys: Fry

Penalty Kicks: Watje 1/2, Floyd 2/2

Conversions: Floyd 0/1

Referee: Tony Latu

Jesuit 1-15: Columbero, Frandrup, Harmon, Watje, Murchison, Malim, Reed, Fry, Gamache, Taylor, Hawley, McNamara, Siegel, Godamunne, Floyd

Jesuit B's Fast and Furious

Jesuit HS 3/11/05

The B Backline showed the starters how it was done. Tim "The Franchise" Harris and Co put some air under the ball and had the horses in the Backline off to the races. Harris got them going, Spencer Puente crashed through them, and Travis "The Idol" Champion weaved through them for a quick 19 points in the first half.

With the ball going wide, Will Wegener was the recipient of excellent ball handling and whizzed by his opposite number for the first try of the game, with Jake Scott adding the conversion. At 7-0, Mitch DeAnda scored in the far corner after beating 3 defenders from great passes inside. The final try was Travis Champion diving over for a solid score and a Scott conversion.

The Cougars did not give up and came back with 2 excellent trys, one wide and one a picture perfect #8 move near the goal. The final was 19-10 as the sun set and the game ended early due to lack of light.

At the post game function, Cougar RFC chose Zeke Sulzen as forward of the game and Tim Harris as best back. Both awards were well earned but also standing out were Travis Champion

with some scything runs through the Cougars and then frustrating them with quick throw ins for the lineouts. Tim Harris had an outstanding tactical game and forwards Caleb Jue and Michael Marsh constantly drove forward to keep the ball moving.

Well done effort for the Killer B's!!

Jesuit 19

Trys: Wegener, DeAnda

Conversions: Scott 2/3

Referee: F. Khasigian

Jesuit 1-15: Harmon, Jue, Welch, Chen, Law, Sulzen, Marsh, Nicodemus, Scott, Harris, DeAnda, Puente, Hirai, Wegener, Champion.

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers-to Craig McNamara for always providing the players with water for the games. Everyone appreciates your thoughtfulness!!!

Cheers-to Renate Fry for organizing the billets for Erindale from Canada. It's a big job and was performed flawlessly. Thank you very much!!!

Cheers-to Joe Casanova for all his help preparing things for games while recovering from his ankle injury. Thanks and get back on the field as soon as you can.

LA Cougars Claw but Jesuit Survives

Stanford Univ. 3/12/05

In the second Cougar encounter in 2 days, it again was a dogfight with the Big Cats as the LA Cougars (Loyola HS from Los Angeles) charged, battered, and thumped the Red and Gold Express but still came up slightly short as the Marauders gave back just what they received. The

LA team was large and motivated and the spirits were high on the perfect turf at Stanford. Jesuit's forwards drove forward repeatedly but were stymied at times by slow ball out of the rucks. The backs spun the ball wide but were met by an equally intense backline that thwarted all of the moves. Dimitri Godammune had several long runs down the sideline but lacked support when he was finally tackled. Eschewing kicks, Jesuit tried penalty plays but were stopped by the determined Cougar defense. Finally, Ryan Taylor ran a try through with a nifty sidestep to give Jesuit some breathing room and Jacob Scott added the conversion.

LA then ran a neat move in the back of a 5 meter lineout to score from a maul. Colin Hawley, taking over at standoff, got the ball in goal after a series of passes in the backs. As the game wound down, LA picked off an errant kick and ran unmolested into the goal to make it 14-12 with 4 minutes to go. Reaching deep, the Red Brick Wall stood strong against repeated thrusts from the Cougars. The forwards kept the pressure on and finally the whistle blew to finish the game with Jesuit on top.

At the post game function, LA chose Winston Welch as best forward and Sean McNamara as best back. LA was very kind to give all of the players t-shirts depicting the North v. South competition of the game. Both teams vowed to continue the tradition that has become an intense rivalry and highly competitive game. Stanford coach Rob Holder, the gracious host, was happy that rugby was served through the game.

Many players gave strong performances, the second of the week. Ted Watje and Alex Murchison played a full 70 minutes for the second day in a row against top competition. Joey Malim and Brian French were strong when it counted and French gave a good effort with his lineout throw-ins. Colin Hawley was entertaining at standoff and Ryan Taylor showed flashes of brilliance at outside center. Nate Floyd saw a lot of high balls come his way and handled them flawlessly.

Both teams thanked Rob Holder and Stanford University for allowing them to play the game yearly on the field and for their hospitality. Both teams appreciated the fine refereeing from Dan Hattrup, the head rugby coach of Regis University.

Jesuit 14

Trys: Taylor, Hawley

Conversions: Floyd 2/2

Penalty kicks: Floyd 0/1

Referee: Dan Hatstrup

Jesuit 1-15: Colombero, Frandrup, Welch, Law, Watje, Murchison, Reed, Fry, Gamache, Taylor, Hawley, Siegel, McNamara, Godamunne, Floyd

Team to Face Burbank Named

Head Coach John Shorey handed out jerseys to the 15 Jesuit Stalwarts that will face Burbank in the annual clash of the Titans on March 18 at Garcia Bend Park 4 PM kickoff. The game jerseys for this Friday were last worn to win the National Championship in Dallas, TX in May 2004. These jerseys have never lost.

The starting XV 1-15: Colombero, Frandrup, Welch, Watje, Murchison, Malim, Reed, Fry, Gamache, Taylor, Hawley, Siegel, McNamara, Godammune, Floyd.

Reserves: Misso, Law, Puente, Scott, French, Mackay

Please plan to attend and support the Red Armada as they take on the always formidable Islanders.

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

California and UC Davis completed conference play as James Sehr led a largely freshman and sophomore team in a 34-0 shutout of the Aggies in Davis. James received some nice comments in the California student newspaper, and for those who rely on the Cal athletic website for their news, the Alumni and College Report wants to set things straight; James is a junior at Cal, not a sophomore.

In Southern California Long Beach State defeated San Diego State to earn the territory's only spot in the collegiate round of sixteen. UCLA easily defeated UC San Diego and Cal Poly defeated Army in other matches.

Elsewhere across the country Washington defeated Washington State to finish first in the Pacific Northwest and Air Force defeated BYU in a match that has a lot of bragging rights on the line but does not effect the national playoff picture.

There will be some outstanding college rugby in Northern California this weekend. At Berkeley on Saturday Cal will take on Oregon and Ohio State will meet Dartmouth in the Cal Invitational. Cal, Ohio State and Dartmouth are already assured of playing in the Sweet Sixteen. In nearby Moraga, host St. Mary's will meet Loyola Marymount and Washington will meet Cal Poly in the first day games of the Pat Vincent Cup. St. Mary's and Washington will be hosting territorial playoff tournaments the first weekend in April, while Cal Poly, coming off a slow start to the season, will be using matches like this as their post season. Across the bay in Palo Alto Air Force is scheduled to meet Army as the military academies test each other and the Stanford pitch. In other Northern California league play, Sacramento State travels to Stanford and Chico State hosts Nevada with fourth place at stake.

The Alumni & College report apologizes for the short column this week, however osemite Park and a brief vacation looms. Please share your adventures with fellow Jesuit fans and grads. Write to dragon1137@comcast.net. Include the words Jesuit Rugby in your subject line.

Canucks Can't Hang

Jesuit HS 3/15/05

The Erindale Raiders from Toronto, CA left home to get away from the snow, but encountered more heat than they had planned upon in Sacramento. A mixed developmental team put on a show with running rugby to take a 46 -14 win at the Jesuit Pitch.

First, many thanks to the families for billeting the players for the 3 days spent in Sacramento. Hopefully it was rewarding for all. Thanks to the generosity of the following families: Pierce Cooley's , Jake Scott's, Julian Colombero's, Travis Champion-Fritz's, Jeff McGrew, Colin Hawley, Ted Watje, Zach Reed, Alex Murchison, Joe Casanova, Matt Tarzwell, and Joey Malim.

The game began inauspiciously as Erindale blocked a kick and fell on it in the goal for a try. Following that it still took some time to get the slumbering Red and Gold Express up to speed. Colin Hawley got the backs running with long cut out ball and Travis Champion had a blinder running through and around the Canadians. Ben Markham, starting at wing, scored two excellent tries after nifty back work inside. The first saw him outrun the opposition and the second had him go over and through the Green clad Raiders. Many enthusiastic ruggers got a chance to play an international game and reveled in the competition. Zeke Sulzen was a terror on the field, Matt Klopfenstein made the ball move like lightening, and Ben Dodd had his best outing constantly driving forward to start multiple phases and controlling the lineouts.

Following the game, the post game pizza party saw the players devour 22 large pizzas and rollick in some good times with the opposing team. Spirits ended high and a good time was had by all.

From the Lutwyche Road Cyclone Warning Center

The most severe cyclone of the season arrives 2:45 PM Monday March 21 and will be seen the following day at 3:15 at the Jesuit Rugby pitch as Cyclone Barry hits the Sacramento time zone. All Jesuit Rugby players are advised to prepare appropriately and in advance.

Upcoming Events

Friday March 18 Jesuit v. Burbank at Garcia Bend Park 4 PM kickoff

Saturday March 19 Jesuit F/S v. DeLaSalle 11 AM kickoff

Wednesday March 23 Jesuit A v. Del Oro 4 PM kickoff at the Jesuit Pitch

Any comments or questions??

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The Management