

March 20, 2003

Marauders Survive Surprise Ambush

Jesuit 25 Vacaville 12

Jesuit HS 03-14-2003

The Jesuit Varsity XV discovered just how tough life can be at the top when it had to pull out all stops to defeat the Black Dogs of Vacaville in the third round of the Sacramento Valley Conference and remain undefeated.

The final score line of 25-12 might convey a fairly comfortable win but it was anything but that. The Black Dogs came to play and play they did. They took it to the defending champions mightily all game.

They led for much of the first half and it was only a three tries effort from junior winger Derek Siegel that took Jesuit to victory.

With rain coming down for much of the first half, Jesuit somehow managed to turn the ball over some 19 times and found themselves as a direct result of that tackling for almost the whole first half.

Vacaville gave Jesuit a dose of its own medicine when it won eleven mauls in a row that led to its first try and a well-deserved 5-0 lead.

Jesuit, not adapting to the wet weather conditions well continued to struggle and it took a Vacaville error for Jesuit to score its first try. A wayward release in a tackle by Vacaville saw the ball in Jesuit hands with Siegel picking up the loose ball to race away for try #1.

The conversion by Chris Sardon was unsuccessful and the scores were tied at 5-all when Siegel crossed for #2 after the Jesuit backs for once moved the ball swiftly across its back line. Full back Sardon made the extra man and his timely pass put Siegel into space and he had too much pace for his challengers.

Jesuit led by 10-5 at the break but can consider itself very lucky to be ahead after a forgettable first half display.

After blustery half time discussions with coaches, Jesuit opened the scoring in the second half with a classic try. A series of cuts and loops inside the one movement saw Siegel with the overlap and again showed a clean pair of heels to his chasers. The conversion again was unsuccessful and Jesuit held a 15-5 lead.

Chris Sardon extended the lead to 18-5 with an easy penalty shortly afterwards before the Rugby "wobbles" returned to Jesuit's game.

Some poor option taking saw Vacaville grind its way to the Jesuit line and after two back-to-back penalties on its line, the Jesuit defense could not hold the big Vacaville #8 who plunged over for the try. With the successful conversion, Jesuit led 18-12 but the game was not yet won.

Jesuit continued to turn over the ball and Vacaville pounded away at the Marauders through their big forwards.

It was not until winger Adam Mariani crossed for a try from a quickly taken tap that the Jesuit players, coaches and supporters could breath a sigh of relief. If the Black Dogs maintain the intensity that they did against Jesuit they could be the team to provide some upsets in the remaining games.

Not surprisingly Vacaville selected Derek Siegel as the best back and Joe Welch as the best forward.

With the game against Grant coming up Friday Jesuit will welcome the return of tough center Steve Lewis and elusive full-back Matt Leatherby while winger Eric Forner is back in action after minor knee surgery.

What has pleased the coaching staff greatly over the past three weeks has been the excellent form displayed by sophomores, Sean McNamara and Ryan Taylor. Both have had excellent games when starting for the Varsity XV and certainly look to be cornerstones of Jesuit Rugby in the future.

Jesuit 25

Tries: Siegel 3, Mariani

Conversion: Sardon 1

Penalty: Sardon 1

Vacaville 12 Two tries, one conversion.

Jesuit 1-15 Faletese, Dundon, Green, Jesseman, Adams/Estrella, Ramos, Welch, Stanfill Parshall, Collins, Mariani, Powell, Taylor, Siegel, Sardon

The Canadian Tour

The Jesuit Rugby coaches were delighted with the response from players to travel on the tour to Seattle and Canada over Easter. So great was the response that not all the boys who volunteered to go could be accommodated.

With only two games being played each day at the three venues and with limited seating on the coach, the touring party had to be cut to 44. This understandably left us with some very disappointed boys.

We thank all for their interest.

Rugby Around The World

Super 12

NSW Waratahs(Aust) 26 Blue Bulls(SA) 16

Cats(SA) 33 Highlanders(NZ) 21

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 36 Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 29

ACT Brumbies(Aust) 37 Western Stormers(SA) 22

Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 35 Natal Sharks(SA) 20

Queensland Reds (Aust) and Auckland Blues (NZ) byes.

Points Table

Team Games played Points

Auckland Blues 3 15

NSW Waratahs 4 15

Canterbury Crusaders 4 15

Otago Highlanders 4 13

Wellington Hurricanes 4 11

ACT Brumbies 4 10

Blue Bulls 4 10

Cats 4 9

Waikato Chiefs 4 7

Western Stormers 4 5

Natal Sharks 4 5

Queensland Reds 3 1

Rugby World Cup Qualifying Game

Spain 33 Tunisia 16

Spain now meets USA home and away to decide who goes to the World Cup.

Jesuit B's Shoot Down Trojan Horse

Jesuit HS 3/12/ 03

The Battling B's got out to a large lead of 32-0 and then fought off a surging Trojan 15 in the second half to finally prevail 39-27. The second half heroics of the Oakridge boys made it an entertaining and exciting game.

In the opening stanza, it was all Jesuit with standoff Tyler Collins pushing it wide to his wings and fullback for long runs. Mike Morrison filled in admirably at scrum half and there was plenty of ball supplied by the Marauder pack. T.C.'s strategic kicking and vision helped to open up the field for the Red Armada back line. Mike Bier had several breakaway runs and was supported by the fine open play of Brian French and Greg Loflin. Scoring for the Red and Gold were Michael Bier, Cole Valadez, Tyler Collins, Ryan Taylor and Scott MacDowell in the first half.

The Second half saw Oakridge come back with vengeance. However, Andrew "Mammoth" Booth scored and Andre Thompson scored to put the Trojans away.

Vacaville chose David Read as best forward and Tyler Collins as best back.

Red Armada Closes Dog Pound

Jesuit HS 3/14/03

The Battling B's shut the doors to the Black Dogs Kennel today 48-0 with a good performance improved by a strong Thursday practice. With 10-phase rugby imprinted on their frontal cortex, the Red Armada forwards game constant possession to the Jesuit backs and the result was a flurry of trys.

In the rain, the handling was surprisingly good and sure fingered. Richard "the Lion Hearted" Lucas open the scoring with a never- before- witnessed performance. He developed wings on his feet and outran the entire Blackdog backline to score on a 50-yard rumble. Drew Bishop scored close in from a series of rucks to punctuate an overall fine performance at flanker. Dane Drobney, improving daily, scored on a solo breakaway from outside center. He was also the initiator of several 2 on 1 breaks for his wing Christian Lundholm outside of him. Anthony Vitto tallied and had his hand in several backline moves.

Andrew "Mammoth" Booth was a human wrecking ball, knocking 'Dogs all over the paddock. Brian French and Greg Loflin were fleet and fierce in attacking the opposition ball carriers. Eric Fry was very active and made his presence known constantly in tackles and rucks. Justin Sweeney made several breaks, drew defenders, and then dished off in timely fashion to his winger for scores.

Pierce Cooley, the frosh scrumhalf, made his B debut in the second half and was cool under pressure. He was mentored for some post game instruction by former Jesuit captain and scrumhalf Dominic Cooke who attended the game.

There were many notable performances, but kudos go to Andrew Booth and Eric Fry for the unending supply of ball possession they provided to the Jesuit backs.

Jesuit 48

Lineup: Nickerson, Soga, Arrieta, Booth, Fry, Sweeney, Bishop, Hackard, Florita, Renda, Lundholm, Chappell, Drobney, Vitto, Lucas, Gamache, Hawley, Kesich

Jesuit F/S RED team v. Rio Americano H.S.

Rio HS 3/13/03

Jesuit regained the American River Drive bragging rights as the Jesuit F/S RED team handily punished a resilient Rio Raider squad. Under seemingly ominous skies the Marauders had a difficult time scoring against the Raiders in the first half. The well-coached Raiders capitalized on each Jesuit error consistently placing their team in scoring position only to be turned back at the gates by the angry Marauders.

It wasn't until late in the first half when the Jesuit Armada finally broke the stalemate as Frosh sensation Alex 'Money' Murchison broke off from the pack to score from 5 meters. The Raiders countered with a splendid try by Joe 'the unknown Raider'. A few moments later, Michael 'no I'm not Danny' Gamache made an incredible 40 meter run and then unselfishly drew his opposing player to dish the ball out to his supporting fullback Zack 'Shaggy Jr.' Reed for the second try. Of course, Pierce Cooley easily converted both tries. Leaving the score at half time at 14-7 Jesuit.

After a severe tongue-lashing by forwards coach Mather 'the magnificent', the second half started with a fresh Jesuit squad eager to prove them selves. And it didn't take them long as inside center Joe 'I love the ladies' Casanova intercepted a pass from the opposing standoff and darted 10 meters for the score. As he placed the ball down under the post's he was heard to mutter, "this one's for you ladies"! Truly a generous human being! The following drive produced a superb try by none other than Nathan 'call me Nate' Floyd, as he split the backs and scored between two embarrassed defenders. Nate capped it off by converting his try.

After a brief stall at midfield, Colin 'the Legend' Hawley broke a couple of tackles and then juked the shorts off of a couple of defenders and scored under the posts to make the score 31-7. The conversion was easily made by Ted the 'Big Swede' Watje. Finally, it was Christian 'Mr. Nice Guy' Ware who scored from a few meters out he was observed touching the balling down 4 or 5 times to make sure the ref acknowledged his presence.

We look forward to playing our closely related Rio Raider team in the near future as they supplied the Marauders with stiff, clean opposition and some innovative play especially from Matt Milan. Although the final score was 40-7 Jesuit, it didn't reflect the intense competition the Raiders offered. The coaches award went to Caleb 'the pit bull' Jue who repeatedly sacrificed his body to tackle anything that tried to get by him.

Weekend Scores

Jesuit 25 Vacaville 12

Jesuit B 48 Vacaville 0

Jesuit F/S 40 Rio 7

Jesuit B 39 Oakridge 27

Jesuit F/S Oakridge

Burbank 20 Grant 17

Del Campo 17 Davis 14

UC Davis 29 Sac State 19

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers: to Carlos Estrella for providing bright Orange slickers for the players to wear in the rain while they wait for the call into the game. Thanks very much.

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

The top two collegiate teams from the Utah RFU came to Northern California last weekend and gained a split against the first and second place teams in the Northern California RFU. BYU, coming off of a victory against rival Utah, won the inaugural Pat Vincent Cup at St. Mary's College. The Cougars began the tourney with a convincing 88-26 victory (or 83-26, or 84-26, or 91-26, depending upon whose website you find, but convincing nonetheless) over a depleted Nevada Wolfpack on Friday. On Saturday they followed that with a 36-19 win over St. Mary's. The Gaels out scored the visitors in the second half but it was not enough to overcome a first period shut out. St. Mary's had defeated Loyola-Marymount University 54-5 on Friday to advance to Saturday's championship match. Nevada defeated LMU in the consolation game, 59-17. LMU was the only D-2 team in the tourney.

On Saturday in Berkeley California began the California Invitational with a 76-6 win over Clemson to set up a replay of last year's collegiate final against Utah. The Utes were a 41-17 victor over Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in their opening game. As is their practice, the Bears used a generous amount of reserves on

the opening day, allowing most of the Cal First XV some rest before the second day's match. Jake Stanfill started the scoring Saturday with a try, and Jim Orlando made the most of his starting opportunity with a try, a penalty kick, and 8 conversions. In the consolation match on Sunday morning, Cal Poly easily defeated Clemson, 73-0, while Cal defeated Utah, 51-22, in the afternoon championship. James Sehr and Andrew Lindsay started at the flanker spots against Utah, though Andrew left the match with a leg injury. Justin Lucas and Adam Riley were at the tournament representing Cal Poly and Kevin Lewis was in the stands cheering for the Mustangs. As mentioned last week, Cal Poly should be back in Berkeley to face the Bears in an opening round game of the USARFU D-1 Collegiate Championship in April.

In the only game of the weekend between NCRFU D-1 teams host UC Davis defeated Sacramento State, 29-19, while the Davis reserves were 34-12 victors over their Hornet counterparts. The Davis win assures them of a post-season playoff game as they will finish the season in either the fourth or fifth spot in the league, while Sacramento State was eliminated from any playoffs.

In D-2 Santa Clara defeated neighborhood rival San Jose State University, 32-22, to finish their league season with a 6-1 record. The UC Santa Cruz game at Humboldt State was cancelled.

Up north the Pacific Northwest RFU completed its league season this past weekend. In Seattle the University of Washington defeated Apple Cup rival Washington State in a close 25-24 match. The Washington victory settled territorial playoff seeds for the PNRFU teams as the Huskies and Cougars had entered the match tied for second place. Central Washington University finished the season in first place followed by runner-up Washington and Washington State in third place. All three move on to the territorial playoffs on the first weekend in April, as Central Washington and Washington State will travel to Northern California and Washington will head to Utah.

The league season in Northern California will conclude this coming weekend as Davis travels to Moraga to meet the St. Mary's Gaels in a game that was postponed in February due to field conditions. Meanwhile Chico State visits Sacramento State where the Wildcats and Hornets will meet to try to avoid last place. In D-2 Humboldt State travels to Santa Rosa in a game with playoff implications while UOP hosts USF in a game of winless teams.

The Eagles announced their roster for next month's home and away "repechage" series with Spain. Kirk Khasigian and Kort Schubert made the list as expected. The Eagles will play in Spain on April 12 and then the two teams will meet again on April 27 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The winner will qualify for the Rugby World Cup to be held next fall in Australia. Spain defeated Tunisia last weekend, 33-16, to move

on to the series against the USA. Let the Jesuit rugby family know how you're doing. Send your notes to dragon1137@aol.com.

For questions or comments call 682-2858

The Management