

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.IX No.6

March 24, 2005

Jesuit Maroons Islanders

Garcia Bend Park 3/18/05

The Jesuit forwards trained hard, the Haka inspired them, and the firebreathing 1st Eight dominated the Islanders in the season's biggest clash. Untouchable in lineouts, pushing over in scrums, and clearing out like madmen, the forwards gave the backs a plethora of clean ball all afternoon that led to the 48-0 victory.

Mike Gamache spun the ball, Ryan Taylor kicked deep for Colin Hawley or ran past the defenders to put Tyler Siegel or Sean McNamara in space. Nate Floyd coolly slotted penalty kicks to mount the score.

The game started with some massive hits, but the smaller Red and Gold Express would not be stopped and kept constant pressure on the Black and White clad Islanders.

Zach Reed gave Jesuit its first try by scooping up an errant ball from a scrum and scooting 5 meters for a score. Ryan Taylor played 2 on 1 to Tyler Siegel who drew the defense and passed to a streaking Colin Hawley for the second try. Eric Fry chipped in with a score in tight and then Hawley was at it again, playing soccer dribbling on a loose ball into the ingoal for a score. Ted Watje picked a loose kick out of the air and rambled 10 meters in for the last try. In between, Nate Floyd was uncanny with 4 penalty kicks and 4 conversions. Fortunately, many developmental players got to see action in the annual season highlight game which will be remembered for some time.

Ryan Taylor was chosen by the Islanders as Best Back and Eric Fry as Best Forward. However the entire forward pack could have been chosen. Props Winston Welch, Julian Colombero, Matt MacKay, and Ryne Misso were dominating throughout the match. Kurt "the Laser" Frandrup was flawless in lineouts and junior locks Ted Watje and Alex Murchison were so prevalent in lineouts that the Islanders gave up contending for the ball. Backrowers Zach Reed, Eric Fry and Joey Malim were relentless and Brian French made some of the toughest tackles in the game. Ryan Taylor controlled the game with kicking deep and beating the first defender to put his backline on track.. Dimitri Godammune made some defining tackles and Colin Hawley pressured the Islander back 3 into numerous mistakes.

Canadian B panel referee Sandy Nesbitt from Alberta was outstanding and contributed significantly to the quality of play for both teams by his excellence. He was supported admirably by top referee Pete Smith of San Jose and our own certified referee Dr. David Miller.

The Islanders have many fine athletes and were sportsman throughout. Their team has many underclassmen and should be a very strong team in the years to come.

Congratulations to the Red Armada for this important league win!!

Jesuit 48

Trys: Reed, Hawley 2, Fry, Watje

Penalty Kicks: Floyd 4/5

Conversions: Floyd 4/5

Referee: Sandy Nesbitt (Canada)

Attendance: 250

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

Reserves: Misso, MacKay, French, Scott, Law, Puente, Wegener, Sulzen, Harris, Harmon

Jesuit B's Win Thriller from CBS

Garcia Bend Park 3/17/05

The first half was a Jesuit nightmare with missed penalty kicks, lackadaisical tackling and spoiled possessions. Lineouts were a problem getting the ball straight and nothing was going in the Marauders direction. The luck of the Irish, despite Fr. McGarry, had seemed to abandon the Jr. Red and Gold Express.

The second half brought a bit more intensity and we had to make a few changes due to injury. The whirling dervish Jeff Drum came on in the back row for Michael Marsh who had a knock on the knee and made an immediate impact.

The Killer B's drove the ball down into the CB half and actually put a few phases together. Matt Klopfenstein went weak and threw a perfectly weighted pass to Mike Zimmerman on the wing for a try. After missing the conversion we had a game -- 5-3 to Jesuit.

CB scored on a dubious try and kicked the extras to go up 10-3. Something, perhaps Divine Intervention by an Irish alum, threw a switch in the boys and Patrick Beebe put in crunching hit that was the catalyst for the team to really start rucking and tackling. The Backrow, led by Zeke "the Animal" Sulzen, Eric "the Whirling Dervish" Drum and Ben "Quiet" Dodd started to put in some big hits. Vincent Nunez and Josh Chen started rucking over and we were able to move the ball into the CB half. After some good drives and a couple of penalties in our favor, we were able to get down to the CB goal line. A big pick and drive with Vincent "the Powerhouse" Nunez driving over to score evened the game. Tim "the Franchise" Harris settled his nerves and struck a great conversion from the sideline to put us up 12-10! We were able to keep them out of our half and that was the game.

It was a great team effort in the final 20 minutes. The Mighty B's could have folded with the number of calls going against us, but instead they focused on tackling, running straight and rucking over the ball. All credit to the team for coming from behind in daunting circumstances to beat arch rival Christian Brothers.

Tim Harris was chosen back of the match and Vincent Nunez was forward of the match as chosen by CBS.

Congratulations on a courageous win!!!!

Jesuit 12

Trys: Nunez, Zimmerman

Conversions: Harris 1/2

Penalty Kicks: Harris 0/2

Jesuit 1-15: Nunez, Jue, Harmon, Chen, Beebe, Marsh, Sulzen, Dodd, Klopfenstein, Harris, Kassis, Tocchi, Hirai, Zimmerman, DeAnda. Reserves: Miller, Drum

Frosh/Soph Slip by Davis Devils

The roving reporter failed to file a report. Please contact Coach Marty for details.

Jesuit Frosh Defend Homeland

Jesuit Pitch 3/19/05

The De La Salle game was our best matched game yet! The final score of 10-5 doesn't reflect how close this match was at Jesuit's Rugby Pitch. It was a freshman only game and it went down to the wire. The De La Salle Spartans were small in numbers, but they fought a hard clean battle. The Spartans scored early in the match when their #8 picked up the ball from the back of the scrum and ran 40 meters to score. It was late in the first half when Craig Fugina picked the ball up out of a ruck, broke a few tackles down the sideline and then dove like a superhero over the Spartan defense to score in the corner. In the second half, the Marauders utilized their outstanding ball handling skills and repeatedly passed the ball out wide. Inside center Kellen Holmes' passing and looping resulted in a beautiful try. After the game the Marauder captains, Kellen Holmes and Craig Fugina, were selected as best back and forward for the match. Other outstanding players; Sam Welch who performed his own tackling clinic as he drove the opposition back to Sparta and field general Beau Charter who called an excellent game at flyhalf.

As always, Joseph Johnson 'Father Fish' was an inspirational leader to all. Cheers to all the parents who braved the rain and brought Sodas for the visiting Spartans, also to Ed, of Sparta, who filled in for the injured David Miller at referee as well as coach Whit Poindexter for directing his smaller forwards to drive back and out ruck the well coached Spartans.

Congratulations on an Inspiring Win !!!!

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers: to Sonia Minassian Wilson-our freshman "Rugby Mom" for her incredible energy and organizational skills. The F/S coaches are very appreciative of your help and talent throughout the season.

Cheers: to Jon Tesar for all the dvds of games. He is renowned throughout the league with requests for his efforts after each game. The players have significantly benefited from reviewing their play this season. Thanks Jon for all the time you spend helping Jesuit Rugby.

Cheers: to Ed Davila our webmeister-the constant updating for the 162 strong squad is only possible due to your contribution. Thanks Very Much!!!!

Freshmen in impressive win over Del Oro

Jesuit HS 3/23/05

Jesuit Freshmen 27-Del Oro F/S

Coaches Marty and Whit turned out a group of exclusive freshmen against a willing frosh/soph team from Del Oro that won a great game of Rugby 27-0 and gave a very direct insight into the future of Jesuit Rugby.

With all players in their first year of Rugby, the quality of their play and their understanding of how to play the game was a credit to players and coaches alike. Coach Barry, here only three days from Down Under, refereed the game and was greatly impressed by what he saw.

He was sighted afterwards in heavy discussions with coaches Marty and Whit and he had out the "black book" and was furiously writing down names for future reference. He rated the performance the best he has ever seen for a freshman only team at Jesuit.

It would be unfair to single out players here but there were stars to be found everywhere.

The game, played in extremely muddy conditions, was great entertainment. Players, expressly told by coaches to follow certain plans, did so perfectly against a bigger and more experienced team.

The future looks bright if the Del Oro performance was any guide.

A Few Words of Australian from Coach Barry

I'm sorry I will have to put a number of you under the pressure of having to understand Australian again but I must say how glad I am to be back at Jesuit with the Rugby program. Better late than never is definitely the case.

In the few days I've been back I cannot believe the quality of what I have seen. I must say I have only seen the younger brigade at this stage. I had the pleasure of refereeing the freshman against Del Oro. Coaches Marty and Whit had to reassure me a number of times that our team was an all-freshmen show. It was most impressive.

The senior B team, with a large number of new players, also played very well and won a game they could very well have lost. Again in this game I saw players who have Varsity XV written all over them.

I have yet to work with the Varsity XV but coaches John, Fred, Tom, Andrew and others involved have done the program proud to get us to this stage of the season undefeated.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know all the players at Jesuit as soon as possible and to meeting the many new parental faces I see at the games.

Roll on Marauder Rugby!

The Alumni and Collegiate Report

By Doug Hamilton

WEEKEND OF MARCH 12:

Returning to pick up the pieces from last week's abbreviated column, on March 12th St. Mary's completed their league season with a 36-24 victory at Stanford, though not before Stanford made a valiant second half attempt to overtake the Gaels. In Reno it was things as usual for Sacramento State as the Hornets came from behind in the second half to defeat Nevada, 29-13. With the wins St. Mary's finished league play in second place and Sacramento State assured itself of a third place finish.

In the second division, Humboldt defeated Cal Maritime, 26-17, to remain undefeated and clinch first place in the division. Meanwhile Santa Rosa JC won easily over Pacific, 57-5, and Santa Clara defeated USF, 51-10.

Army's Sunday match against Stanford was canceled however the Black Knights defeated St. Mary's, 38-17, in a mid-week clash in Moraga.

WEEKEND OF MARCH 19:

There were two tournaments of note over the weekend of March 19th and 20th. Cal hosted the annual Cal Invitational and while they brought in some great competition, the result was the same as in years past. On Saturday James Sehr captained Cal's "reserve grade" side to a second consecutive convincing win as the Bears defeated Oregon, 69-29. In the other game Ohio State won easily over Ivy League champion Dartmouth, 61-7. In Sunday's championship match a Cal first string team that had not seen intercollegiate action in two weeks started strong and never let up as they defeated Ohio State, 58-6. Andrew Lindsey, Louie Stanfill and Joe Welch started with Lindsey and Stanfill scoring tries in the victory. It was much closer in the consolation match as Dartmouth edged Oregon, 25-24.

Meanwhile in Moraga St. Mary's hosted the annual Pat Vincent Cup. In Saturday's games Pacific Northwest champion Washington defeated Cal Poly SLO, 42-17, and St. Mary's was a 20-12 winner over Loyola Marymount. Both Washington and St. Mary's were able to take advantage of a strong wind in the second half to break open close games. In Sunday's consolation match, Cal Poly ran over LMU, 63-19, while St. Mary's defeated Washington, 22-11. The win is the Gaels' first title in the three year history of the Pat Vincent Cup.

League play in Division I concluded as Sacramento State defeated Stanford, 29-20, and Chico State beat Nevada, 49-31. With their win Chico State finished the season in fourth place. UC Davis, Stanford and Nevada ended in a three way tie for fifth place, however by virtue of tie-breakers, Davis will earn the league's fifth seed, and Stanford the sixth seed, leaving Nevada at home for the upcoming territorial play-offs.

In the second division the Santa Rosa JC vs. USF game was canceled.

Elsewhere in Northern California this past weekend Air Force was a 36-19 winner over Army in a match played at Stanford.

In Colorado Regis University, with Craig McCoy as captain and with Derek Seigel and Dan Propheeter starting, defeated the Denver Harlequins' second side, 32-15. Derek scored one try, two penalty kicks and a conversion in the victory.

In mid-week games Sacramento State defeated Washington, 58-7, on the morning of the 22nd. Later that same day Air Force met Dartmouth at Stanford's pitch, after which Stanford played Ohio State. On Wednesday Ohio State moved across the bay to take on St. Mary's in Moraga. Cal traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia over the Spring Break to complete the annual home and away series with the University of British Columbia. Cal defeated UBC, 15-5, earlier in the season in Berkeley, while the Thundefrbirds were 20-17 winners in the second game. Since the rivalry trophy, the modestly titled "World Cup" is awarded based upon aggregate points over the two games, Cal is this season's winner. Louie Stanfill was pulled off of the roster at the last moment due to an injury but Joe Welch and Andrew Lindsey played for the Bears.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Most teams are taking this coming Easter weekend off, however Air Force is scheduled to play at Chico on Saturday. Division II play should conclude with Humboldt State traveling to play Santa Rosa JC.

Over the next few weeks, Cal has scheduled matches with San Jose State and Cal Maritime, most likely to be played by Cal's freshman dominated "Young Bears" side.

Territorial play-offs will be held the first weekend of April. These tournaments will select the Pacific Coast Rugby Football Union's representatives to the USARFU's National Tournaments. The Pacific Coast Rugby Football Union is a "territorial" union, and is made up of four "local area" unions, or LAU's. Three of those four local unions sanction college competition and will compete in the upcoming play-offs. They are the Northern California RFU, the Pacific Northwest RFU representing Washington, and Oregon, and the Utah RFU. The Arizona RFU is part of the Pacific Coast territory, however its college teams, Arizona and Arizona State, compete in the Southern California RFU which is a separate territory. To further confuse the matter, the University of Montana plays in the second division of the Pacific Northwest RFU and Idaho schools play in the Utah RFU. In Division I the Pacific Coast Territory is allocated four seeds in the national round of sixteen. The first seed is awarded to the first place team in Northern California, which also receives a bye for the territorial play-offs. That spot is Cal's until someone takes it away, and this year was no exception. Cal will enter the national tournament as the first seed overall and will host an opening round pool when the the first two rounds of the national tournament take place on the weekend of April 15th through the 17th. The remaining three Pacific Coast spots will be decided in two day tourneys held over the weekend of April 1st through the 3rd.

In Utah on April 1st, Utah will play Stanford and Sacramento State will play Oregon with the winners to meet on the 2nd for the PCRFU No. 2 spot. That team will begin the national round of sixteen in Santa Barbara on April 15th as the USARFU No. 7 seed.

At the same time in Seattle, Washington will meet UC Davis and BYU will play Central Washington with the eventual winner heading to Colorado Springs as the PCRFU No. 4 team and the USARFU No. 14 seed.

In Moraga on April 2, St. Mary's will play Western Washington and Oregon State will play Chico State, with the winners to meet on the 3rd. The champion in that pool will travel to Colorado Springs as the territory's No. 3 team and the USARFU No. 12 seed.

In Division II, the territorial play-offs will be played in California, presumably at Humboldt State, with Humboldt State playing the Pacific Northwest champion and Cal Maritime Academy playing the winner from the Utah union. The winner in the second division, as well as the second place team, will play in the USARFU Division II round of eight, to be held in Santa Cruz on the weekend of April 16th and 17th.

As always the Alumni and College report is eager for news from and about former Marauder players. Send your e-mails to dragon1137@comcast.net. Please include the words "Jesuit Rugby" in your subject line.

Scores Around the World

Jesuit 48 Burbank 0

Jesuit B 20 Del Oro B 17

Jesuit F/S 27 Del Oro 0

University of British Columbia 20 Cal 17

Jesuit F/S 24 CBS 14

Wales 32 Ireland 20

Golden Gate 20 Lamorinda 10

Elsie Allen 70 Sonoma 0

Any questions or comments, email sheldonoaks@hotmail.com or call 682-2858

The Management