

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol VIII, No 10

A Win is a Win but...

Jesuit unimpressive against willing Rio In a game of two totally contrasting halves, Jesuit raced to a 39-0 half time lead and, almost unbelievably, the score board stayed at that score for the whole second half in Friday's Sacramento Valley League game at Jesuit.

Jesuit began impressively and scored a number of excellently structured team tries that had coaches happy at the break. The second half developed into a scrappy, undisciplined affair and produced some of the worst Rugby seen this season.

It took just four minutes for center tyro Sean McNamara to score. Rio spilled the ball for McNamara to gather it and outpace the defense for the try and a 5-0 lead.

Three minutes later promising junior center Tyler Siegel scored an impressive try after Jesuit had recycled the ball a number of times and advanced the ball menacingly through good support.

Siegel was Johnny on the Spot to take the pass and weave his way through the wrong-footed Rio defense for a fine team try. Again the conversion was unsuccessful and Jesuit led 10-0.

The ever-improving stand off Chris Sardon produced the individual try of the season so far when he jinked his way past three wrong footed defenders to score a brilliant solo try between the posts. He converted his try to make the score 17-0.

Jesuit kept capitalizing on Rio's mistakes and from one mistake, Jesuit won quick ball and with a clever switch of sides fed the lanky #8 Paul Jesseman who cruised over for the try. The score was 22-0 after only 15 minutes of Rugby.

It was the magical feet of Sardon that set up the next try for winger Mike Renda. Sardon again teased the Rio defense with another sidestepping run and when finally shut down fed Renda for the try.

Captain Steve Lewis, playing though not well, scored next after the Marauders had launched a series of attacks on the Rio line while Jesseman score the final try of the half. Rio spilled the ball and Jesuit launched a counter attack. After a short burst of interchange passing, Jesseman was on hand to score the seventh try of the half. Full back Nate Floyd converted for a 39-0 half time score line.

Jesuit coaches rang the changes and the results were devastating. The game degenerated into an ugly arm wrestle with no reportable Rugby played.

Rio must be commended for their gritty defense that they maintained for the entire game. A review of the game tape revealed that Jesuit was penalized 22 times to Rio's 6, a fact that did not sit well with the Marauder coaches.

Andy Llewelyn, thrown in to make his debut at prop, had a heavily involved game while flanker Zack Reed again was everywhere. Lock Paul Jesseman dominated lineouts again while lock Eric Fry again caused much disruption with his heavy tackling.

Chris Sardon was the Man of the Match by the proverbial country mile. Centers Tyler Siegel and Sean McNamara had explosive games while sophomore full back Nate Floyd was more involved in play than any other Jesuit full back in recent memory.

With Adam Mariani, Eric Forner, Ryan Taylor, Ken Imwinkelried, Alex Kallergis and Justin Sweeney missing from the line up, the performance showed that Jesuit has depth for the upcoming play-offs.

Jesuit: 39

Tries: Jesseman 2, McNamara, Siegel, Sardon, Renda, Lewis

Conversions: Sardon 1, Floyd 1

Rio: 0

Jesuit 1-15: Estrella, Read/Frandrup, Llewelyn/Nickerson, Fry/McCoy, Loflin/Booth, Jesseman, Reed, Lewis/French, Bittner/Gamache, Sardon/Cooley, Renda/Hawley, McNamara, Siegel/Morrison, Scott/Bier, Floyd/Collins

Rugby around the World

Six Nations-Final Round

France 24 England 21

Ireland 37 Scotland 16

Wales 44 Italy 10

Final Placings

France 10, Six Nations Champions

Ireland 8, Triple Crown winner

England 6

Wales 4

Italy 2

Scotland 0, Wooden Spoon

Super 12-Results

ACT Brumbies(Aust) 51 Queensland Reds(Aus) 8

Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 26 Auckland Blues(NZ) 26

Western Stormers(S Afr) 25 Blue Bulls(S Afr) 11

Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 32 NSW Waratahs(Aus) 17

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 46 Otago Highlanders(NZ) 26

Cats, Sharks byes

Points table

Brumbies 24

Stormers 19

Bulls 18

Waratahs 16

Highlanders 15

Sharks 14

Crusaders 14

Chiefs 12

Hurricanes 12

Reds 10

Blues 8

Cats 2

Jesuit Slips by Hawaiians

Jesuit HS 3/27/04

A band of 19 Preppies from Hawaii gave Jesuit all it could handle for 70 minutes, but finally succumbed 22-5 at the Jesuit pitch. The Big Island Rugby Club had played 2 previous games, losing to Lamorinda 46-18 and beating Davis 15-8 on Wednesday. Today they showed a lot of enthusiasm and grit particularly in the loose and on defense. Coach Kevin Perry had his minions prepared to do battle and the intensity showed in Jesuit's inability to crack their defense despite a plethora of ball from set pieces and loose play.

Tyler "Silent" Siegel opened the scoring with a brilliant individual effort, running through and over a crowd from 30 meters out after Hawaii lost their lineout. Chris Sardon scored himself from a 2 on 1 with Jacob Scott in support to make it 12-0. Zach "Perpetual Motion" Reed then scored from a well designed rolling maul after Paul "Spiderman" Jesseman snared another lineout. Sean "Calamity" McNamara ran around the defenders for a try to close out the scoring.

Tyler Siegel was honored by Big Island as Back of the Match, while Eric Fry was best forward. However, Paul Jesseman was unbeatable in lineouts both on offense and defense with the help of his mighty lifters, Anthony Estrella and Matt Nickerson. Colin Hawley and Mike Gamache gave strong performances from scrumhalf and Brian French had some moments from flanker in the loose. Zach Reed was, well, Zach "P.Motion" Reed, which is all you have to say. Chris Sardon was "The Magician", kicking with both feet to keep the wolves at bay, and setting up the running backs. Jacob Scott, getting his first taste of rugby, had several tackles and open field runs that were encouraging.

Jesuit was honored by the presence of former players at the game. It was a pleasure to see Anthony Sardon, from Seattle University, watching brother Chris in action. Another surprise was former Jesuit star and former Eagle International Dave Steinbauer, visiting from New York to watch his alma mater at work. Thanks also to all of the parents at the game to support the players. Special thanks goes again to the billets led by Shari Lasher and include the parents and families of: Andrew Booth, John Demichei, Carl Kuehn, David Read, Joe Casanova, Tyler Collins and Eric Fry.

Trys: Siegel, Sardon, Reed, McNamara

Conversions: Sardon 1/3, Scott 0/1

1-15: Estrella, Read, Nickerson, Booth, Jesseman, French, Llewellyn, Reed, Hawley, Sardon, Scott, Siegel, Cooley, Bier, Collins

Bench: Fry, Loflin, Frandrup, Casanova, Gamache, McNamara

Referee: Matt Eason

Scores for the week:

Jesuit 39 Rio 0

Jesuit 22 Big Island 5

Burbank 57 Davis 7

Del Campo 19 Grant 10

Big Island 15 Davis 8

UC Davis 62 Reno 10

Cheers and Jeers

Muffled Cheers to the "Smooth Dogs" of Jesuit Rugby. Participating in the St. Francis Fashion Show this weekend was Craig "Mr. Smooth" McCoy, Steve "Sly Dog" Lewis, Christian "Mr. GQ" Lundholm, and Billy "the Boy Next Door" Bittner. It is difficult to imagine any form of cross over training with this endeavor. Back to the Pitch, Boys!

LOST - One Greek dancing lock / #8. Would finder please return him to the Rugby coaches asap.

Located - The 2004 T-Shirts. All players meet at the field Thursday at 3 PM to collect your season t-shirt. There will be extras for purchase.

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

Someone once commented that San Diego State had more Jesuit players than any college team except Cal. While folks at Sacramento State, St. Mary's College and even the Naval Academy may have taken issue with the statement, there have certainly been a few Jesuit players who have continued their playing days as Aztecs. Crispin Cooke, Dave Viani and Danny Kauffman all enjoyed donning the red and black kit. Those days continue as Kyle Miller, Ian Svetich-Sullivan and Josh Jimenez are all now playing at San Diego State. Kyle Miller is starting at prop and to show his versatility, finished a B game at scrum-half in SDSU's recent victories over UCLA. Ian is starting for the B side.

College Report

Cal traveled across the northern border to Vancouver, BC, needing at least a four point victory over the University of British Columbia to retain possession of the World Cup, the trophy awarded to the winner of this annual international rivalry. UBI had other plans as the Thunderbird defeated the Bears by a decisive 26-17 score. Though Cal lost, the game marked the return of Kyle Khasigian to the starting lineup where he was joined by Louie Stanfill and Joe Welch. James Sehr played in reserve.

Across another border, this time in Reno, UC Davis easily resolved any question about who would finish in second place with a convincing 62-15 thrashing of Nevada. Meanwhile in Moraga the host Gaels of St. Mary's College got back on the winning track as they defeated Sacramento State, 32-10. With the win St. Mary's locked up fourth place in the league.

This coming weekend will see the Pacific Coast RFU playoffs between teams from Northern California, the Pacific Northwest, and Utah. In Portland, OR, on Saturday host Washington will play St. Mary's College and UC Davis will play Washington State with the winners and losers to meet on Sunday. Look for UC Davis to beat Washington in the finals to advance to the Sweet 16. In Reno Nevada will host another playoff, this one moved to a Friday and Saturday schedule to accommodate Utah champion BYU. The host Wolfpack will play Oregon State while BYU will meet Chico, again with the winners and losers to meet on Saturday. BYU will be favored to defeat Nevada in the final.

Utah Valley State College will host the Div. 2 playoff with Utah Valley State playing Santa Rosa Junior College, the Northern California runner up, while Humboldt State will play Western Oregon in the other first round match up.

Cal has a bye for the regional playoffs, but the Bears may play the most exciting game of any Northern California club as they host Southern California champion Cal Poly SLO for the unofficial state collegiate championship. Several Cal Poly players spent the summer sharpening their skills in South Africa, and the team is returning from a spring trip to Ireland where they defeated Trinity College's B side. Cal could be tested in this one.

Upcoming Events

Friday 4/2-Critical league game vs. Del Campo 4 PM at Will Rogers field. Del Campo has only one loss and could take over the playoff position with a win.

Thursday 4/1-T-shirts handed out at field 3 PM