

April 3, 2003

Battling B's Corral Trojans

Oakridge HS 3/26/03

The wind was cool and brisk, but cut deeper for the Trojans as they sunk into the briny 25-10 under the firepower of the B Marauders. With this being the make up game for the previous week, there was a lot of unbridled energy among the Jesuits. With warm up starting early and lasting over 90 minutes as the teams waited for the festivities, one hoped the energy levels would remain high.

The early intensity was not lost as Richard "The Lion Hearted" Lucas opened up the scoring with help from his backline. On the evening, the Lion started many continuity plays and kept the ball moving most of the evening. Sudden Scott MacDowell tallied to make it 10 for Jesuit and then Gary Longo was heads up at a penalty to move through the Trojan defense for a try. Sean McNamara scored from passes initiated by Lucas and MacDowell to make it 20 for the Marauders. In the 2nd half, Eric Fry was the lone score but the good guys prevailed 25-10 in the end.

The Oakridge boys chose Richard Lucas as best back and Ryan Fry as best forward. Also notable were Tyler Collins and Robbie Chappell as they made inroads in the Oakridge defense repeatedly. Up front, Ryan Fry was the go forward man of the evening.

Congratulations and on to Davis and Santa Cruz.

Jesuit

25

Trys Lucas, MacDowell, Longo, McNamara, and E.Fry

Referee Jim Roberts

Marauders Left Blue

Pioneer Park, Davis 3/28/03

The Battling B's could not match the Varsity success in a shortened game due to lack of light. The Davis XV briskly went about their business and kept the Marauders on the back foot with strong tackling. Jesuit seemed to have the speed in the backline to compete but went starved for ball and could not get untracked for wide open back play. Christian Lundholm and Sean McNamara had long runs for trys to keep the score close, but it was too little as the referee blew it up for lack of light.

Davis chose Tyler Collins as best back and Matt Nickerson as best forward.

Jesuit 12

Trys Lundholm, McNamara

Conversions Collins 1/2

Referee Scott Wood

Marauders Sink in Santa Cruz

Felton, CA 3/29/03

St. Lawrence Academy added the Marauder scalp to its 2003 collection as the church school with the South African connections showed the Americans how the game is played by a real rugby-playing nation. The final was 30-14, but to their credit, the Marauders girded themselves and played with determination after a disastrous first half.

The Academy was a polished ball retention and continuity machine. The Battling B's were engulfed by waves of men in green, speaking with accents, and never letting go of the ball until they touched it down in goal. St. Lawrence turned simple mental errors into long runs and scores. This was accompanied by the delighted cheering of their faithful fans that lined the field and stands giving an enjoyable feeling of excitement to the game.

Initially the forwards found the going tough, as St. Lawrence was quick to the ruck and stripped the ball at every opportunity. Lineouts were won but little progress made due to the aggressive tackling of the men in green. Scott MacDowell and Richard Lucas made some inroads but didn't have the support to keep the ball flowing. Robby Chappell and Sean McNamara tried to break through the mid field defense but found the traffic heavy when they carried the ball. At half time St. Lawrence led comfortably 20-7.

In the 2nd half, Ryan Fry came alive to lead the Marauders forward with several key pick and drive moves. Justin Sweeney had a very strong second half in going forward against the green wall. David Read had consistently good lineout ball to Craig McCoy and Brian French. Read also remarkably had 6 Tighthead against a tough scrum. Billy "Yappy" (until we think of something better) Bittner organized his troops as well as possible under the pressure of the opponent. Mike Renda often thought he was seeing double and triple but in fact it was the overlaps created by St. Lawrence as they countered spilled ball at every opportunity.

The Sophs as a group played well in a tough game and will come away much the better for the experience. Brian French, Greg "Chatty" Loflin, Colin Hawley, and Mike Gamache can be happy about their experience and performance today.

The Battling B's did just that in the second half and did themselves proud by regrouping and stiffening their defense against a very good and skilled opponent. Although not a victory, this game will be more profitable for our improvement than any other one this year and we appreciate the opportunity to play such a quality opponent. It was also very delightful to have the Dean of Nor Cal referees, Bruce Carter, as the referee for the day, providing a perfect job of officiating. As if being a perfect rugby team was not enough, the St. Lawrence parents were great hosts and provided a delicious lunch and refreshments enjoyed by all after the game. St Lawrence gave us a lesson in playing high-level rugby and the team would like nothing better than to think about the lesson and to get another chance this season to show them what we have learned.

St. Lawrence chose Ryan Fry as best back while Robby Chappell and Sean McNamara shared the best back honors.

Jesuit 14

Trys Bittner, E.Fry

Conversions Bittner 2/2

Jesuit 1-15 Tesar (Nickerson), Read, R.Fry (Brewer), Malhoski, Estrella (E.Fry), McCoy (Sweeney), French, Loflin, Bittner, Morrison (Hawley), Renda (Gamache), Chappell, McNamara, Lucas (Vitto), MacDowell

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers-to Dr. Schneiderman who seems to run a clinic at each Frosh/Soph game. Thanks for all of your help on the sidelines.

Cheers-to Mr. Loren Hawley for his assistance and support to the team especially this weekend in Santa Cruz.

Mark your calendars - We have 3 Jesuit Rugby people with the same birthday. Would you believe that Coach Barry, Kyle Khasigian, and Nimble Nick Mooney are all August 13 Leos.

Good luck to Varsity flying flanker Joe Welch. Joe is winging his way to France for the Under 19 World Cup. We wish him every success there. He will miss the Burbank and Del Campo games as well as the Canadian tour but will. Be back for the play-offs (provided we qualify).

Marauders Bedevil Davis

Pioneer Park, Davis 3/28/03

The Devils of Davis gave it their all and for the first twenty five minutes of the game there was no score. Even with a 14-0 score line at half time, few predicted the final score line of 47-0. The Marauders simply cranked it up two gears after the break and scored points at almost one a minute for the whole second half. It was simply impressive Rugby.

Jesuit had several scoring opportunities in the first twenty five minutes but managed to butcher all of them. Davis produced its trademark tough defense and several promising Jesuit raids were thwarted by this tough defense.

First successful shot of the engagement was fired by big prop Dom Green who was irrepressible as he powered his way over from five yards out with a host of defenders clinging to him. Stand off Adam Collins converted and Jesuit led 7-0 to the relief of its coaching staff.

It was Collins himself who scored the only other try of the first half when he jinked his way through the Davis defense to score. He calmly slotted the conversion and Jesuit went to the break 14-0 ahead.

A Jesuit council of war took place during the break and the Marauder armada emerged for the second half with guns blazing.

It took only two minutes for the flying machine, flanker Pat Ramos, to swoop on a ball jolted loose in a bone-jarring tackle and race thirty yards to score. Collins recorded his only miss in seven attempts.

Tries followed quickly as one of the Bookends got in on the act. Loose head prop John Faletese, resenting tight head prop Dom Green's try in the first half, crashed his way over for two tries.

Full back Matt Leatherby scored the try of the match, a 70 yard sparkling effort from deep in Jesuit territory. He wrong footed a number of would-be defenders as he raced over unopposed.

Substitute lock Anthony Estrella closed out the scoring when he drove over from a lineout ten yards from the Davis line.

Davis selected John Faletese as best Marauder forward and Matt Leatherby as best back.

Jesuit 47

Tries Faletese 2, Ramos, Green, Collins, Leatherby, Estrella

Conversions Collins 6/7

Jesuit 1-15 Faletese, Dundon, Green/Griga, Jesseman/Fry, Adams/Estrella, Ramos/Lewis, Welch/McCoy, Stanfill/Jesseman Parshall/Sardon, Collins, Lewis/Taylor, Powell/Chappell, Siegel, Bier/McNamara, Leatherby

Davis 0

Come One, Come All

The Sacramento Valley Championship game

Jesuit vs. Burbank at Burbank

Friday April 4 at 3.30pm (note early start)

As both Burbank and Jesuit are undefeated, the winner of this game will be the 2003 Sac Valley Champion team. It should be another monumental clash of the Californian Titans of High School Rugby

Rugby Around The World

Six Nations

Final Round

England 42 Ireland 6

France 33 Wales 5

Scotland 33 Italy 25

Final Points

England 10

Ireland 8

France 6

Scotland 4

Italy 2

Wales 0

England wins Grand Slam, Triple Crown and Six Nations trophies

Super 12-Round 6

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 17 Otago Highlanders(NZ) 16

Auckland Blues(NZ) 41 ACT Brumbies(Aust) 15

Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 24 Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 14

Queensland Reds(Aust) 35 NSW Waratahs(Aust) 23

Natal Sharks(SA) 29 Cats(SA) 23

Progress Points

Team Games played Points

Blues 5 25

Hurricanes 6 20

Crusaders 5 19

Highlanders 6 18

Waratahs 6 16

Brumbies 6 15

Cats 6 11

Bulls 5 11

Sharks 6 11

Stormers 5 10

Chiefs 5 7

Reds 5 6

Weekend Scores

Jesuit 48 Davis 0

Jesuit B 12 Davis B 19

Jesuit B 14 St.Lawrence Academy 30

Del Campo 39 Ponderosa 10

Burbank 24 Oakridge 10

Grant 39 Vacaville 19

Del Campo B 52 Ponderosa 0

Jesuit F/S 34 Del Campo F/S 19

Alumni & College Report

By Doug Hamilton

This was a very quiet weekend for collegiate rugby in Northern California, in fact for D-1 teams the only rugby to be found was in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The California Golden Bears traveled north to close their annual home and away series with the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds. In February UBC traveled to Berkeley and defeated the Bears, 30-17, to give Cal its only loss on the year. To retain the "World Cup" Trophy and Pacific Coast bragging rights the Bears would have to win in Vancouver by at least 14 points. To complicate matters, the Bears' ranks were depleted as one starter was off training with the Eagles and five First XV players, including Kyle Khasigian and Andrew Lindsey were off the pitch with injuries. A national columnist suggested that not only were the Thunderbirds clear favorites this weekend, but that Cal might also be ripe for an upset in US collegiate play later in the year. Undaunted, the Bears not only defeated UBC, but attained the necessary 14 points margin of victory allowing them to keep the trophy for another year.

Back in Northern California the PCRFU D-2 Collegiate Playoffs were held on the campus of Santa Clara University as Santa Clara played Cal Maritime in one semifinal while Idaho State squared off against Santa Rosa Junior College in the other. Santa Clara and Santa Rosa finished the league season tied for first place and it showed on Saturday as they each won to advance to Sunday's finals. In the consolation match Idaho State outlasted a late push by California Maritime Academy to win 34-25 while Santa Rosa had a much easier time of it in defeating Santa Clara, 48-7, in the championship game. With the territorial win, Santa Rosa moves on to the USARFU D-2 Elite 8 hosted by Sam Houston University in Huntsville, TX over Easter weekend.

This coming weekend the First Division teams will hold their territorial playoffs as one of two pools meets in Moraga, CA on the campus of St. Mary's College. UC Davis will play Central Washington University in a rematch of the first round NCAA D-2 Football Playoffs last fall, while St. Mary's College will play Washington State in the other match-up. Those games will be played on Saturday with losers and winners to meet on Sunday. In Salt Lake City the University of Utah will play host to the other territorial pool as the Utes take on Chico State and Nevada will face Washington. Again there will be consolation and championship matches on Sunday with the champions in each of the two pools moving on to the USARFU D-1 Sweet 16.

While cold and wet weather can be expected in Salt Lake in April, the East Coast continued to experience a late snowfall causing the cancellation of the Mid-Atlantic RFU playoffs in Pennsylvania. There was talk that the final teams, Penn State and Navy, (with Damon Doykos and Chris Osegueda) would play their championship game in conjunction with the Cherry Blossom Rugby Tournament in Washington, D.C. this weekend. However Penn State found itself so weakened by injuries after it's semifinal victory over Virginia Tech, injuries that would leave it short handed through next weekend, that the Nittany Lions offered to forfeit the championship match. As a result Navy will earn the territory's No. 1 seed and Penn State the No. 2 spot. Navy may be rethinking the Penn State offer however as it means a trip to Berkeley for the Midshipmen and a possible second round game against Cal in the second round. It should make for a great collection of Marauder alums as California, Cal Poly and Navy, each with Jesuit players will be in the same pool, conveniently within driving distance of fans and parents.

Finally this weekend there is an announced NCRFU D-2 All-Star game with the best of the many D-2 teams taking on Cal's B side at Witter Field this Saturday.