

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.X No.7

April 6, 2006

Marauders Triumph Over Mud And Islanders In The "Chaos At Carmichael" Battle

Jesuit Rugby Field

31 March 2006

It certainly was chaos, but not so much involving the powerhouse play of each team but more of the chaotic ground conditions. One Jesuit players quipped at the end of the game "I think we were just better swimmers" could almost have been true. So cold and wet was it that the Islander full back had to be taken off near full time with signs of hypothermia.

Regardless of the appalling conditions, Jesuit adapted better to the conditions, kept mistakes to a minimum and won the vital game 32-10. It must be noted however that both teams played outstanding dry weather Rugby - the ball movement all game belied the conditions.

The Islanders can consider themselves unlucky. They led 5-0 early but suffered from making too many vital errors from which Jesuit took full advantage. Their big pack bogged down to some extent in the second half, allowing Jesuit to control the ruck area.

After the traditional hotly "contested" haka, the Islanders came out firing and using its big men to advantage camped inside the Jesuit 22. After a series of charges at the Jesuit line, the Islanders registered first points when they went over wide out. The conversion was unsuccessful but the Islanders had the vital first points on the board.

It took just six more minutes for Jesuit to hit back with a classic dry-weather try. Jesuit, determined to move the big Islanders around moved the ball wide of the ruck on each side before a classic backline move that included a long cut out pass saw flanked Zeke Sulzen over for the much needed reply from the Marauders.

Jesuit maintained the pressure and enjoyed much of the play territorially. An Islander ruck infringement saw stand off Nate Floyd give Jesuit an 8-5 lead after thirty minutes. Jesuit took this narrow lead to the half time break.

Whoever scored first in the second half would have a distinct advantage and it was Jesuit who took the first scoring opportunity that came along. Some great charging runs wide of the ruck took Jesuit close to the Islander line.

Given a penalty, half back Pierce Cooley reacted quickly, tapped the ball and crashed over before the Islander defense could react. With Floyd's conversion Jesuit was well placed with a 15-5 lead.

The Islanders were anything but impressed by the quick converted try and launched their big men in a series of raids on the Jesuit line. Jesuit simply ran out of defenders and the Islander prop powered over for the unconverted try and it was "game on" with a 15-10 scoreline.

Play ebbed and flowed up and down the "swamp" with great hands and continuity being shown by both teams. At this stage the Islanders made a few errors that cost dearly. One allowed Jesuit to launch attack after attack on the Islander line. It again was Cooley who did the damage with great hands and an unstoppable charge for the try in the left corner.

The unsuccessful conversion attempt was a great effort from near touch but Jesuit now held a 20-10 lead and that looked as if it might be difficult for the Islanders to peg back.

It became near impossible when a jolting Jesuit tackle jarred the ball loose from Islander hands with the ball flying into the appreciative hands of center Tyler Siegel who gratefully accepted the

God-send and scored between the posts. With Floyd's conversion it was 27-10 and Jesuit was heading for victory.

Winger Will Wegener finished the scoring with a clever try resulting from many phases in which many of the Jesuit players played major roles. A penalty saw Jesuit take a quick tap and express hands saw Wegener over for the try.

The final scoreline of 32-10 did not reflect on the efforts of the Islanders, who found the conditions difficult and energy sapping. The victory should ensure that Jesuit will take the Sacramento Valley #1 spot for play-offs.

The Islanders chose #8 Jason Law as best forward and Nate Floyd as best back. It is most difficult to pick out forwards in conditions like Friday's but in the backline Floyd, Cooley, Tyler Siegel, winger Brian Gagliardi and full back Travis Champion stood out marginally over the other members of the backline.

The game was very well refereed by Jim Roberts. Despite the atrocious conditions a crowd in the hundreds braved the conditions and were rewarded with a great game of Rugby.

Jesuit: 32

Tries: Cooley 2, Sulzen, Siegel, Wegener

Conversions: Floyd 3

The Islanders: 10

Tries: 2

Jesuit 1-15: Columbero, Puente, Mackay, Watje, Murchison, Sulzen, Malim, Law, Cooley, Floyd, Wegener, Reuter, Siegel, Gagliardi, Champion

Bench: Deterding, De Anda, Miller, Nicodemus, Fisher, McFarlane, Steeb, Harris, Willover, Marsh, Markham, Kaufman

Here And There

** Our sincere thanks to photographer Bob Davies for the outstanding photographic coverage of our games. His montage of photos of the "mud wrestle" with the Islanders is outstanding. Thanks, Bob.

** Did our eyes deceive us? There was a balding, bespectacled, slightly rotund personality wearing the Jesuit Rugby fancy top at the Islander game. Somebody thought it looked a little like one Marty Popelka. Could we see more of him with his study program slowing.

** Great to see our players show their appreciation to video man, Jon Tesar. Jon does a superb job particularly in supplying each players in the Varsity XV with his own copy of each game in which they play. A great way for players to improve their game. Thanks Jon.

** Jesuit will have considerable representation this weekend when UC Davis hosts the first round of National play-offs at Solano Community College at Fairfield. On Saturday at 11am UC Davis plays Oregon State. Jesuit stars of recent years, half back John Parshall and stand off Adam Collins, are key players for the Aggies for whom our Australian connection, coach Barry O'Connell, works. At 1pm Washington State plays Sacramento State. Tough flanker Chris Davila and flying winger Matt Condon are key figures in the Sac State team that is coached by Jesuit's alum Chris Miller.

** Many thanks and effusive appreciation to Lisa Malim for the yeoman effort in washing all of the Varsity jerseys after the Mud Bowl v. Islanders. You are a gem!!!

** Thanks to Jake Sehr for taking the initiative to wash the Varsity II jerseys; of course after he made the starting lineup!!!

"Jason, you look a disgrace. Look at the state of your gear" Jesuit #8 Jason Law comes out of the swamp to catch a breath of fresh air. "Mum, at least I'm not as dirty as Jason Law" Jesuit's lineout maestro Alex Murchison cuts a dashing figure at half time of the Islander game.

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

Northern California collegiate rugby wrapped up its league season this past weekend as perennial champion California hosted a rapidly improving Chico State while Sacramento State met Nevada in a match with fifth place on the line.

California opened up with 31 unanswered points and never looked back as the Bears defeated the Wildcats, 50-22. Joe Welch, Louis Stanfill and Andrew Lindsey played for the Bears with Andrew selected as captain and Joe scoring a try in the second half. With the win Cal secured first place in the league and a bye in the territorial playoffs. Chico State finishes in third place behind Cal and UC Davis.

Sacramento State shut out the visitors from Nevada by an impressive 67-0 score.

Conference play has also concluded in the second division where Humboldt State successfully defended its title as it went undefeated through league play. Santa Rosa Junior College finished in second place with a 6-1 league record and will join Humboldt State in the D-2 territorial playoffs.

In the Southern California RFU Cal Poly had an undefeated league season and finished in first place. Second place UC Santa Barbara returns from a very successful spring tour of New Zealand and will host third place San Diego State this coming weekend with the winner joining Cal Poly as the league's two representatives in the national round of sixteen.

In the Mid-Atlantic RFU Sean McNamara and Georgetown saw their D-2 post season hopes come to an end as Georgetown lost in the territorial semi-finals to Mary Washington, 23-16.

The good news for Regis University and Derek Siegel, Chris McCoy and Dan Propher is that they enter this weekend's Western RFU championships as the second seed in that territory's Division 2; the bad news is that defending national champion Northern Colorado is seeded first, and only one team will advance to the national playoffs.

The March issue of Rugby Magazine confirms that Frank Sharp is still on the roster of the defending Super League Champion New York Athletic Club. Frank saw action in NYAC's game against California in early March.

The Pacific Coast Rugby Football Union's first division holds its territorial playoffs this coming weekend with ten teams meeting at three sites to select the three teams that will join Cal in representing the territory in the national round of sixteen. Originally twelve teams were to meet at three different locations, however as the playoffs drew close, two eligible teams announced that they would not be playing in the playoffs. Nevada, who would have gone to Provo, Utah to play Washington on Friday, has struggled towards the end of the season to field a team of fifteen players. In fact in last weekend's game at Sacramento State, no B-side match was played. Similarly Oregon has struggled this year and decided that they would not participate in the playoff, even though they were only scheduled to go to Ellensburg, Washington where they would have played Utah in the opening match. Rather than continue with two three team playoffs, Washington has been moved from the Provo match to Ellensburg, Washington. As currently scheduled, host BYU will play Chico State in a single game to be held either Friday or Saturday in Provo, Utah. In Ellensburg, Washington on Saturday, host Central Washington will play St. Mary's College and Utah will face the relocated Washington Huskies. Also on Saturday, in Davis, California, the host Aggies will play Oregon State and Washington State will meet Sacramento State. The winners and losers in the Ellensburg and Davis pools will meet on Sunday with the winners of the Sunday championship matches and the winner of the single game in Provo advancing to the national round of sixteen to be held the weekend of April 21-23 in West Point, New York, and in Berkeley, California.

In second division territorial playoff action, Humboldt State will play Western Oregon and Santa Rosa JC will play Utah State in a four team tourney to be held in Monmouth, Oregon. The winner of that playoff will advance to the national round of eight which will be played in Sanford, Florida on the same weekend as the first division's round of sixteen.

Although the California has a bye for the territorial playoffs, they will not be idle as they have added a game against San Francisco Golden Gate Rugby Club's Under-23 side for this Saturday. Presumably the Bear's lineup will be well stocked with Cal's "reserve grade" players.

As the collegiate season starts to wind down, your opportunities to tell folks about your current happenings, on and off the pitch are winding down as well. Write to dragon1137@comcast.net. Please include the words Jesuit Rugby in your subject line.

Jesuit Varsity II Loses A Tough Match To Cougar

Last Thursday the Jesuit Varsity II team lined up to play against a hungry Cougar Rugby Club.

The first half was fought equally through the scrums, rucks, and line outs however the quickness of the Cougar wingers proved to be too much for the Jesuit defense. It also seemed as if every time the Marauders started to get momentum going their way, they were called for a penalty.

Despite the loss, the team played a great game with several outstanding efforts by starters and substitutes coming off the bench. Jake Sehr started and played a great game at hooker. He was assisted in the pack by a strong performance in Ryan DeAnda, Craig Fugina, and Sam Welch. "Mad dog" Lucas, Robert Calhoun and Will Pidd were great additions off the bench. Mike Marsh had an outstanding game and was rewarded as the best forward by the Cougar Captain.

In the backs, Tanner Heaphy started out with a strong performance by breaking down the opposing back line. He was taken out of the game early with a concussion. Tim Harris started at fullback and moved to the flyhalf position and was a threat at both positions. Tim Harris was named the Back of the Game by the Cougar captain. Trent Fisher showed great speed on both offense and defense. Elliott Telford came in at inside center and had a solid performance.

Jesuit lost the game 25-12.

SVHSRC-Varsity Records and Standings Through 3/31/06

Rugby Around The World

Super 14

Auckland Blues(NZ) 30 Blue Bulls(SA) 17

NSW Waratahs(Aust) 26 Cheetahs(SA) 3

Western Stormers(SA) 25 Western Force(Aust) 25

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 20 Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 11

Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 16 Otago Highlanders(NZ) 13

Natal Sharks(SA) 36 Queensland Reds(Aust) 28

Standings

NSW Waratahs 32(8)

Crusaders 31(7)

Hurricanes 28(8)

ACT Brumbies 23(7)

Blue Bulls 19(7)

Cheetahs 18(7)

Highlanders 18(8)

Sharks 17(8)

Chiefs 16(7)

Stormers 14(7)

Auckland Blues 12(7)

Reds 8(7)

Cats 5(7)

Western Force 1(7)

This weekend

Crusaders v Waratahs

Highlanders v Western Force

Chiefs v Blue Bulls

Blues v Stormers

Brumbies v Cheetahs

Cats v Reds

Byes :- Sharks, Hurricanes

Norcal Rugby

Rio 29 - Cougars 20

Under 19 World Cup In Dubai

Round 1

Pool B

Uruguay 39 - USA 3

Pool A

Ireland 17 - England 16

Australia 38 - Scotland 3

France 42 - South Africa 3

New Zealand 38 - Wales 14

Argentina 10 - Samoa 8

Japan 30 - Romania 17

Notices:

Directions to Emerson Jr. High in Davis, CA

From Sacramento: Take I-80 west to Davis. Take Exit 113 to Woodland, then the second exit Russell Blvd. At the light of Russell Blvd, take a left over the freeway and follow Russell Blvd to a fork in the road. Follow the road to the Right (Arlington Blvd). Emerson Jr. High is about 150 meters from the fork on the right (it is on Calavaras St). At the corner of Arlington and Calavaras.

Sacramento Valley High School Rugby Conference

Under 17 Tournament

Jesuit Campus

May 20th 2006

Featuring the best U-17 players from the 4 conferences of the Nor Cal Territory

Stop Press

Games tomorrow April 6 (for those who read it tonight, 5 April)

Are we playing "Pick a Venue" for tomorrow's three games for Jesuit teams? Look like it as we have had up to seven changes of time and/or venue so far - may there be no more!!

Thursday April 6

Varsity 1 v Vacaville at Willis Jepson Middle School, Vacaville 4:30pm

Varsity 2 v Lancers at Rancho Cordova High School small field 4:30pm

B/Soph team v Davis at Pioneer Park, Davis, not Emerson Junior High 4.30pm

Play Off Time

We expect all Jesuit teams to be involved in the upcoming play-offs, so don't hang up those boots yet!

* Varsity 1

They will clinch the Sacramento Valley Championship with a win tomorrow against Vacaville. They will then be play-off bound in two weeks time. Success in the Norcal championships will see the winner off to Dartmouth College, New Hampshire for the Nationals.

* B Championship

Our B squad will be challenging for the Sacramento Valley title, so your season is not over yet. We are quite capable of winning this trophy.

* Frosh/Soph Championship

We have had the fortune to win the Sacramento Valley Frosh/Soph championship on a number of occasions. Why not in 2006?

The Sacramento Valley Championships are played in the last two weeks in April. Keep those boots clean, Marauder men.

Any questions, email sheldonoaks@hotmail.com.