

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.IX No.9

April 13, 2005

Jesuit Runs Away From Davis

Pioneer Park 4/8/05

Jesuit 30 Davis 0

All things considered, it was a good performance from a Jesuit team that included a number of its younger players. Jesuit clinched the Sacramento Valley Championship as a result of this promising victory. With one League game to play against Del Oro, Jesuit cannot be denied of the top spot in the Norcal Play-offs, due to start on 23 April.

As ever, Davis contested the game to the final whistle and the Marauders had to work for the victory. Jesuit led 22-0 at the break, but could score only eight points against the tough Davis defense in the second half.

The early minutes of the game were frustrating as Jesuit made a number of basic errors. It took twelve minutes before powerhouse hooker Joey Malim was on hand to take the final pass after Jesuit had powered down the field in a series of quick rucks. Tyler "The Boot" Siegel converted from a difficult angle and Jesuit had a welcome 7-0 lead.

It was Malim who scored the second try after 22 minutes when Jesuit smartly executed a penalty play that saw Malim dive over untouched. With Siegel's conversion, Jesuit had a 14-0 lead that was extended to 17-0 with a neat Siegel penalty from close in.

#8 Alex Murchison closed out the scoring for the first half when he burst from a ruck that had developed from a successful Jesuit lineout to split two defenders and crash over for a well taken try. Siegel failed to convert but Jesuit had a commanding 22-0 lead at the break.

Jesuit rang the changes in the early section of the second half and play lost its rhythm until Jesuit executed a set move from the back of the scrum that resulted in Dimitri "Prince" Godamunne diving over for a well taken try. With the conversion failing, Jesuit had pushed the lead to 27-0.

Try as they might, Jesuit couldn't score another try - testimony to the rugged Davis defense. The final score of the game was a penalty kicked by lock, Ted Watje, after thirty minutes.

Davis voted Joey Malim at the best forward and Dimitri Godamunne as the best back.

Jesuit 30

Tries Malim 2, Murchison, Godamunne

Conversions Siegel 2

Penalties Siegel, Watje

Davis 0

Jesuit (1-15 and bench)

Colombero/Misso, Malim/Casanova, MacKay/Welch, Law, Watje, French, Marsh, Murchison, Gamache, Hawley, Wegener, Puente, Siegel, Godamunne, Scott Harmon, Sulzen, Nicodemus, Gagliardi, Kaufman, Hirai.

Jesuit B Overruns Devils

Jesuit 31 Davis 0

Not often does Jesuit play two games back-to-back as they did against the rugged Devils of Davis and not give up a point in the two games, but that is what happened after the Jesuit B team's 31-0 victory complementing the Varsity's 30-0 win.

The game itself was pure excitement, with play sweeping from one end of the field to the other until an unfortunate error would see the other team sweep back up field in counter-attack. Davis was unlucky that it could not turn a number of scoring opportunities into points. The score line does not indicate the flow of the play.

Jesuit scored first when center Dan Hirai slashed through the stunned Davis defense to score near the posts. The conversion missed but the 5-0 lead soon became 12-0 when winger Ben Markham, who had a most impressive game, raced down the left wing to finish a promising move with a try that Mitch De Anda converted.

Center Michael Miller scored a blockbusting try that was again converted by De Anda and the lead was 19-0 before Jonathon Tucci scored the try of the game after Dan Hirai had made a spectacular break. Jesuit had a comfortable lead of 24-0 at the break but Davis did have chances to score that weren't taken.

As with the Varsity XV game, Jesuit had problems scoring points in the second half. It was a runaway Zack Kaufman intercept that brought Jesuit its only try of the second half. De Anda's conversion left Jesuit with a well-earned 31-0 victory.

Much of the credit for the entertaining game must go to the referee, Armenia's #1 senior whistle-blower, Fred Khasigian.

Jesuit B 31

Tries Hirai, Markham, Miller, Tucci, Kaufman

Conversions De Anda 3

Davis B 0

Falcons Fleece Freshmen

Tuesday April 5, 2005

The day was warm and sunny. The Christian Brother's pitch was smooth and well manicured as 28 freshmen Jesuit Gold teammates stepped up in class by taking on the Christian Brothers Falcons JV team. The result was predictable. The CB team was bigger, faster, older and better drilled than the young Marauders. The Jesuit front row players, Props John Mooney, Kevin Parr, Justin Scott and Tyler Kay, and hookers Jeff Ackler and Mike Biederer held their own in the scrums, but the larger CB forwards consistently pushed over the rucks to steal Jesuit balls at the tackles and aggressively beat their younger foes to loose balls on the ground. Our locks, Patrick Sweeney and Ian Markham fought the Falcons to a draw at lineouts. But not having played together showed as the backs struggled to gain ground and to maintain possession of the ball. We had only one scrumhalf, Will Brown, and two flyhalves, Tanner Heaphy and Daniel Iritani. These young men showed remarkable leadership and poise under the pressure of the Falcon backs. The CB pressure defense forced our centers and wingers wide. Centers Stephen Wassather, Rob Wilson, Caleb Koewler and Ryan Slonioski all made fine runs showing great potential. Unfortunately, their fine individual efforts often found them isolated among the Falcon defenders with nowhere to offload the ball. Jesuit's players hit their rivals hard and often on defense. Though the spirit may be willing, speed and size often win out in rugby. The Falcons used their physical superiority to ring up 5 unanswered tries in the first half.

Regrouping at halftime the young Marauders came out hard in the second half. Jordan Miller became more comfortable in his role, playing his first game as 8 man. Miller and flanker Chris Turner took the lead in the pack with flankers Luke Zavala, Jesse Becerra, and Scott Obana pressuring the CB forwards in open play. Fullbacks Patrick Sparks and Kevin Johnson saved tries with good open field defense. And the wingers Chris Romero, Brad Moriel and Corey Galipeau found more running room to the outside. The increased intensity was rewarded when Tanner Heaphy made an outstanding run juking several CB backs to dot down the first Jesuit try. CB answered with a try of their own, but the Marauders stepped up the intensity with backs, Rob Wilson and Nick Peterson helping make several probes deep into Falcon territory. A fine series of passes started by scrumhalf Will Brown found David Mackay with space wide and David darted through the CB defense for the second Jesuit try. In the end, though, the boys could not

overcome the big first half CB lead and finished behind 43-12. David Mackay was chosen "Best Back" and Patrick Sweeney took "Best Forward" honors.

Coach Ray "Vanilla Gorilla" Schwartz is building a fine program at our rivals, CB. His team is new at the school this year, but is growing quickly. He fields a team that has been drilled well in all phases of the game and plays with the determination ever present in any game, in any sport, between these two rival schools. The CB parents treated the hungry players to hot dogs after the game and at the rate the dogs disappeared, they were a welcome pleasure for the hungry young ruggers. We look forward to a growing rivalry with the Christian Brothers Falcons.

## Rugby Around The World

### U19 World Cup

#### Day 3

#### Division A

Australia 23 Ireland 0

New Zealand 24 England 17

Scotland 8 Romania 7

South Africa 15 France 9

Wales 81 Japan 3

#### Division B

Tonga 39 USA 10

Italy 29 Namibia 27

Samoa 27 Russia 0

Uruguay 44 Chile 0

Zimbabwe 38 Korea 22

Paraguay 17 Spain 8

Day 4

Division A

France 36 Romania 17

Scotland 32 Georgia 10

Ireland 31 Japan 18

Wales 36 Argentina 18

Australia 25 New Zealand 25

South Africa 17 England 12

Division B

USA 19 Namibia 17

Uruguay 19 Tonga 17

Korea 25 Zimbabwe 18

Samoa 24 Italy 22

Russia 15 Chile 14

Spain 19 Paraguay 17

\*\* See story below for latest update on semi-final play.

Super 12

Round 7

Hurricanes 26 Waratahs 24

Bulls 35 Crusaders 20

Stormers 15 Reds 13

Highlanders 19 Brumbies 18

Chiefs 40 Sharks 5

Blues 23 Cats 6

#### Points Table

NSW Waratahs(Aust) 27(7 games)

Hurricanes(NZ) 25(7)

Highlanders(NZ) 23(7)

Crusaders(NZ) 20(6)

ACT Brumbies(Aust) 19(7)

Auckland Blues(NZ) 16(6)

Stormers(Sth Afr) 12(6)

Blue Bulls(Sth Afr) 11(6)

Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 9(6)

Reds(Aust) 8(6)

Cats(Sth Afr) 7(6)

Sharks(Sth Afr) 6(6)

#### Week 8

Chiefs v Cats

Bulls v Reds

Blues v Sharks

Brumbies v Waratahs

Stormers v Crusaders

Byes- Hurricanes, Highlanders

Norcal High School

De La Salle 27 Piedmont 19

Elsie Allen 68 Sonoma Valley 5

De La Salle 25 Hayward 12

The Collegiate And Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

The weekend of April 9th was a quiet one for collegiate rugby as some teams prepared for the upcoming playoffs while for most teams the season is already over.

In Northern California's Division II, Santa Rosa Junior College defeated the University of San Francisco, 27-10 in a game that had been postponed earlier in the year.

The Easter week rains were not quite as inhospitable to a touring Ohio State side as had once been thought. Although a match against St. Mary's did not materialize as planned, the two teams were able to scrimmage against each other. The host Gaels' A team got the better of Ohio State's A's while the visitor's B's out performed the Gaels' reserves. That was a scrimmage however, and the two teams will meet in earnest in the first round of the national playoffs.

The Naval Academy toured South Africa over the Easter holiday playing several teams including a South African Navy side. Damon Doykos returned with an injured shoulder, but he insists the injury will not keep him out of the playoffs.



Chris Sardon and Eric Forner are in the enviable position of being high school graduates, but yet young enough to play for the USA U-19 team. They join fellow Marauders Eric Fry, Sean McNamara, Ryan Taylor and Zachary Reed in the U-19 World Cup currently being played in South Africa. Chris in particular excelled in this past week's big victory over Namibia.

Kirk Khasigian has put away his Eagle's jersey, but he couldn't stay off the pitch long. He is now playing for Olympic Club's Super League team. Olympic was a very convincing winner over the Gentlemen of Aspen a couple of weeks ago, but lost to the Dallas Harlequins this last week.

USA collegiate playoffs begin this weekend as sixteen teams in Division I and eight in Division II play two rounds as they seek to crown a national champion on the pitch rather than in the polls.

There will be plenty of playoff rugby in Northern California in both divisions. In Berkeley on Saturday, Cal will play Minnesota and Dartmouth will meet Tennessee with the winners and losers to meet on Sunday. In Santa Cruz Humboldt State will be among the eight Division II teams meeting on Saturday.

While we wish all of the teams good luck, the following teams, all of whom are known to have, or believed to have, or in the recent past have had Marauders in their lineups deserve a little extra attention; California, UC Santa Barbara, St. Mary's College, Navy, and Army.

Finally, while UC Davis' loss in the territorial playoffs means that they will not be competing for the national title, it does free them to play in one of the most anticipated matches of the Northern California season; the alumni match to be held this weekend as part of the University's annual open house, Picnic Day.

## U19 World Cup

### Marauders star in continued USA successes

Following a courageous 19-17 win over the big South African provincial team, Namibia, USA has saved itself from having to qualify for next year's World Cup. With the top six in Division B qualifying automatically for the World Cup, USA can now finish no worse than sixth. A win over Korea on Saturday (USA time) will see USA finish in fifth place - the best result ever at the World Cup.

Jesuit players were very much to the forefront in the last two games played by USA. Though overrun 39-10 by Tonga, all ten points scored came thanks to Jesuit players, with flanker Zack Reed scoring the try and #10 Chris Sardon kicking a conversion and a penalty.

Though it was a decision hard to follow, Sardon did not start against Tonga but reports indicate that it was only when Sardon came into the game that USA began to look dangerous.

It again was Sardon who carried the day against Namibia. Though outscored three tries to one by USA, it was the boot of Sardon that made the difference. He converted USA's only try and added four penalties to carry his team through to a great victory.

Flanker Reed continues to impress with his ability to apply non-stop pressure while Ryan Taylor, Eric Fry and Eric Forner have played major roles in USA's successes. Center/winger Sean McNamara has been troubled by a shoulder injury and has had limited opportunities.

Reed, Taylor, Fry and McNamara will return to USA on Tuesday and will be back in action for Jesuit on Saturday when the Marauders meet the imposing challenge of Bay islander team, Hayward. The game is provisionally scheduled for 1pm at Jesuit and should be a game not to miss.

Here And There

Wait for confirmation of this but it looks like Jesuit will face a real challenge in the first round of the Norcal Championships on Saturday 23 April when it plays Hayward at Jesuit. Hayward enjoyed a great season and suffered its only loss when beaten by De La Salle in the final game of the season. Word is they are big and good. Provisional kick-off time is 1pm.

Do Not Miss This Double Header

Friday 22 April at the Jesuit Rugby Field

3:15pm Freshmen "Stars of the Future" game. See the cream of our first year Rugby players showcase their talents. They will entertain you with their skill.

4:30pm See our sophomore and junior talent play against visiting English touring team - the Army Foundation School from Harrogate. The cream of our second and third year players (those not already in the Varsity squad) will be on display.

A Thought For The Future

With the Under 19 World Cup scheduled every year at this stage, what an opportunity for Jesuit players to reach the international stage and tour the world by being chosen to represent their country.

With Jesuit having six players in the 2005 World Cup squad and with the players performing so well, national selectors might be inclined to have a very close look at the current Jesuit players for the next World Cup!!

Maybe Marauders in years to come might have a lot to thank Messrs Reed, Sardon, Fry, Forner, Taylor and McNamara for showing the quality of the Jesuit program.

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The Management

