

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.X No.8

April 13, 2006

Black Dogs Pack Bite

Marauders narrowly avoid rabies but clinch Championship

Vacaville 6 April 2006

The on-again, off-again, on again battle with the Black Dogs of Vacaville finally became a reality when the teams shaped up in Vacaville on Thursday. This game has always been regarded as a "trap" game for the Marauders and this game was no exception.

A battered Jesuit was happy to head back east on I80 with a 19-7 victory to its credit. As well, the Sacramento Valley Championship and the #1 Sac Valley seed for the Norcal play-offs was theirs.

The Black Dogs came to play. Much bigger than Jesuit, the Black Dogs took the game up to Jesuit from the opening kick-off. Big hits were the order of the day with Vacaville probably winning in this department.

Vacaville opened the scoring in the eighth minute after some excellent lead-up play saw their inside center race over for a well earned try. With the conversion they had a 7-0 lead.

It took Jesuit just five minutes to reply. A set tap move was followed by a quick ruck. Quick hands saw flanker Joey Malim crash over for the try. Stand off Nate Floyd converted a difficult kick and the scores were tied at 7-7.

Vacaville, displaying a willingness to run the ball all game and not just use their big forwards, continued to worry Jesuit. Both teams had scoring opportunities but they went begging.

It was shortly before half time that Jesuit struck to take the lead for the first time in the game. Jesuit launched a series of raids into the Vacaville half. Smart support play eventually saw center Tyler Siegel on hand to take the final pass and dive over. Floyd again converted excellently from a wide angle give the Marauders a 14-7 lead that they took to the half time break.

The first half had been a most entertaining game with more ball movement than seen in a whole game between the teams. The envisaged forwards "slug-fest" did not eventuate, instead spectators were treated to good backline Rugby played on a muddy surface.

Both teams kept up with the game plan to run the ball and it was just a lack of finishing skills that stopped more than the one try being scored in the second period. Michael Marsh, coming off the bench, was on hand at the end some quick recycling by Jesuit to slide in for the try. Floyd was unsuccessful with the conversion.

The game continued to flow and be entertaining and try though they might, the Black Dogs could not add to their points, though they probably deserved to do so.

The game was played in excellent spirit and well refereed by veteran Jim Crenshaw.

Jesuit: 19

Tries: Malim, Siegel, Marsh

Conversions: Floyd 2

Vacaville: 7

Try: 1

Conversion:1

Jesuit 1-15

Deterding, Puente, Columbero, Watje, Murchison, Sulzen, Malim, Law, Cooley, Floyd,
Wegener, Siegel, Reuter, Gagliardi, Champion

Who is that Jesuit player? We don't really know. Could it be #8 Jason Law playing mud ball with some of his Islanders friends. Maybe not. (Photo with thanks from Bob Davies)

The Norcal High School Playoff Scene

Results

Skyhawk Conference

Live Oak 8 - Silicon Valley 3

Aptos 10 - Peninsula Green 5

Others

De La Salle 29 - San Francisco/Golden Gate 7

Antioch 34 - Tri Valley 10

Possible Play-Off games (these are not official)

Quarter Finals 22 April

Tier A

Elsie Allen v Hayward or De La Salle

Live Oak v Burbank

Tier B

Jesuit v Skyhawk #2 (possibly Silicon Valley) Lamorinda v Redwood #2 (possibly Montgomery)
The two winners of Tier A meet in one semi final on the weekend of 28/29 April. Likewise with Tier B, meaning that if Jesuit wins at home in the quarter final it will be at home for the semi-final.

Rugby Around The World

Super 14

Queensland Reds(Aust) 23 - Cats(SA) 16

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 17 - NSW Waratahs(Aust) 11

ACT Brumbies(Aust) 53 - Cheetahs(SA) 20

Blue Bulls(SA) 26 - Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 26

Highlanders(NZ) 25 - Western Force(Aust) 22

Auckland Blues(NZ) 35 - Western Stormers(SA) 15

Standings

Crusaders 35

Waratahs 33

Brumbies 28

Hurricanes 28

Blue Bulls 22

Highlanders 22

Chiefs 18

Cheetahs 18

Sharks 17

Blues 17

Stormers 14

Reds 12

Cats 6

Force 2

Next round

Blues v Force

Crusaders v Cheetahs

Chiefs v Stormers

Reds v Bulls

Cats v Sharks

Waratahs v Brumbies

Where are some of these countries?

World Cup Round 3 qualifying games played this week include:

Moldavia 27 - Poland 13

Belgium 36 - Serbia & Montenegro 15

Senegal 20 - Cameroons 16

** Armenia 34 - Bosnia & Herzegovina 12

Rugby without Jesuit players:

The USA U-19 at the World Cup currently in Dubai

Uruguay 35 - USA 3

Fiji 48 - USA 3

Chinese Taipei 17 - USA 17

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

This past weekend was essentially the first round of playoffs for many college teams as the remaining two territories staged their territorial playoffs in anticipation of the first two rounds of the nationwide playoffs which will be played over the weekend of April 21-23.

In the Pacific Coast territorial union, while Cal had a bye, playoffs were held at locations in each of three local area unions to select the remaining teams that will represent the Pacific Coast in the round of sixteen. As mentioned in last week's newsletter, a late withdrawal by a depleted Nevada team, and a voluntary withdrawal by Oregon left only 10 teams to compete in the playoffs rather than the anticipated 12 teams. In a battle of the big cats on Friday in Provo, Utah, the highly ranked BYU Cougars fell behind the Chico State Wildcats for a short while, but stormed back to defeat the visitors by a convincing 51-7 score.

In Ellensburg, Washington, Saturday's first round belonged to the visitors as St. Mary's defeated host Central Washington, 51-7, while Utah beat the University of Washington, 61-15. On Sunday St. Mary's gave Utah all it had but it was too little too late as the Utes defeated the Gaels, 22-20, to advance.

Locally, or almost locally, UC Davis hosted a playoff, but due to field availability the matches were moved to Solano Community College in Suisun. On Saturday the Aggies beat Oregon State, 20-13, while Pacific Northwest Champion Washington State defeated Sacramento State, 17-10. On Sunday UC Davis won the championship match over Washington State, 36-8, and like BYU and Utah, they now advance to the round of sixteen. In a consolation match, Sacramento State defeated Oregon State, 26-21.

A four team playoff was held among the territory's D-II teams in Monmouth, Oregon. On Saturday Humboldt State defeated host Western Oregon, 39-5, while Santa Rosa Junior College beat Utah State, 15-10. In Sunday's all-California final, Humboldt State defeated a penalty prone

Santa Rosa JC, 39-10, to advance to the D-II round of eight. Humboldt State finished a very close second to Northern Colorado last season and hopes for a rematch this year.

Southern California finished its season as UC Santa Barbara found themselves on the short end of an 11-7 halftime score but came on in the second period to defeat San Diego State, 18-14, to move on to the round of sixteen as Southern California's second seed. Claremont College will represent Southern California in the national D-II tourney.

In the Western RFU tournament Regis struggled on the first day, losing to Angelo State, 29-12, and to Wayne State, 33-22, ending their hopes of competing in the national D-II round of eight. Regis defeated Northeastern State of Oklahoma on Sunday, 22-7, to avoid the "wooden spoon" and to end their season on an upbeat. Now it's back to the slopes in Colorado.

While California had a bye through the territorial playoffs, the Bears were not idle as they scheduled a match at the Treasure Island pitch against Golden Gate Rugby's Under-23 side. On Saturday Cal started what was essentially a frosh-soph team and easily defeated Golden Gate, 45-12. Paul Jesseman played for the Bears in the win.

There are no scheduled matches over the coming Easter Holiday weekend. Playoff bound teams will be preparing for first and second round games to be played the following weekend.

Time is running out to be mentioned in the Alumni & College Report. Send your comments to dragon1137@comcast.net. Please include the words "Jesuit Rugby" in your subject line.

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers to Tyler Siegel-named player of the month on Goff on Rugby.

Cheers to Bob Davies-for his photo acknowledgement on Goff on Rugby

Jesuit II's spear the Lancers

Rancho Cordova HS 4/6/06

By Coach Greg Joseph

Thursday afternoon April 6 saw the Jesuit Red squad made up of 2 seniors 13 juniors and 4 sophomores take on the full strength of the unbeaten Rancho Cordova Lancers. It was a very physical and hard fought match in which the Lancers were confident that they would keep their unbeaten record. As has been the pattern throughout the season, the Varsity II squad pulled a major surprise beating the Lancers 42 -17.

The game started at a break neck pace and on the small Lancers field it looked like the Jesuit team was going to be totally overwhelmed. 5 minutes into the game the Lancers took the lead with a penalty kick. Two minutes later Jesuit were awarded a penalty on their own 22 meter line and a quick thinking Ryan Franco tapped and ran, catching the whole Lancers Team by surprise for a very good try.

The Lancers hit back quickly though, with their big number 8 running through 3 Jesuit defenders to score a converted try. Score Jesuit 5 - Lancers 10. However this was just what the team needed. With some choice words spoken by Captain Alex Illium to his team, they started putting together some good phases and getting quick clean ball to their backs. Beau Charter utilized this ball well and got his back line moving quickly and decisively. He also used his boot to good effect. One of his kicks put the Rancho's fullback under a lot of pressure and a flying Evan Sheehan looked like he was going to pick up the loose ball and score but was shoulder charged without the ball. A penalty try was awarded against the Lancers for this infraction. Jesuit kept on applying the pressure and after a good phase of forwards and backs running with the ball, Craig Fugina who was always in support of the ball carrier, bashed his way over for a good try which was converted. Score Jesuit 17-Lancers 10.

Just before halftime The Lancers hit back with a very good try to level the score at 17 each.

At the start of the 2nd half there were a series of scrums which Jesuit completely dominated, pushing the bigger Lancer forwards around and securing a tighthead. From the resulting loose ruck, Craig Fugina, who was once again on hand to secure the ball, picked up and ran through for a good try which was converted. Two well taken penalty kicks in quick succession by Beau Charter put Jesuit up by the score of 30 - 17.

For the next 5 minutes, Rancho threw everything into attack, but some gutsy and fearless tackling by the entire team and especially by Vince Longo kept them from scoring in the second half.

Right at the end of the game good hands by Elliot Telford led to a feed to Vince Longo on the wing and he sped through for a try which saw at least 10 players handle the ball. Sam Welch was rewarded for all his hard work with a try on full time. Final score Jesuit 42-Lancers 17.

It was not so much the score that was impressive but the way in which the team played. At every opportunity they ran with the ball and attempted to get it wide. Both forwards and backs played with intensity and passion to produce an attractive, exciting brand of running rugby.

Scorers:

Try's: Fugina x 2, Franco, Welch, Longo, penalty try

Conversions: Charter x 3

Penalties: Charter x 2

Team: Nunez, Sehr, Paquette, Willmes, Welch, Lucas, Fugina, Illium, Fisher, Charter, Sheehan, Davies, Telford, Longo, Franco, Calhoun, Barnes, Stevens, Pidd.

Here And There

*Congratulations to Tyler Siegel who was featured as the "Goff on Rugby Youth Player of the Month". Tyler was featured in a big article on Alex Goff's excellent Rugby web site "Goff on Rugby". We could not think of a more deserving winner.

*Former Jesuit and current UC Davis half back John Parshall and stand off Adam Collins, along with coach Barry O'Connell, were wearing big smiles Sunday after UC Davis downed Washington State 36-8 to advance to the Round Of Sixteen at West Point over the weekend of 22/23 April.

*Great to see Spencer Puente, the tough Varsity hooker, back supervising practice this week after he was injured in the Vacaville game. One pretty tough dude!

Sacramento Valley Championships

Do not forget...

* On your return to school, we will be right into the 2006 Sacramento Valley Championships.

* The Championships are in the B and Frosh/Soph divisions and we would like to perform up to the best Jesuit tradition as ever.

* Get to practice on your return and get yourself included in one of the squads.

SVHSRC - Varsity Records and Standings Through 4/10/06