

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol VIII, No 13

Jesuit Bedevils Diablo In Play Off

Burbank lurks in the Wings

Norcal Quarter Final

Jesuit 23 - Diablo 17

The Islanders of Diablo on Monday, the Islanders of Burbank on Saturday!!! That's a big ask, but it is the ask of the 2004 Jesuit Marauder team. Two might tough games in five days.

The Marauders answered the first challenge when it scored a tough 23-17 win over a talented and willing Diablo team at Jesuit on Monday. The win takes Jesuit to the Norcal semi finals where it will meet perennial antagonist Burbank at Jesuit's Rugby Field on Saturday at 1pm.

In front of a large and excited crowd, Jesuit and Diablo turned on a game of running Rugby that very closely resembled a Jesuit v Burbank game with so much ball movement and so much counter attack.

Jesuit opened the scoring with a seventh minute penalty by Eric Forner but it was already evident that Jesuit was having problems with a team as big (if not bigger) than Burbank and certainly not any slower.

Diablo continued to pressure the Jesuit defense with quick stepping and excellent support and the team was rewarded with a fine try after 18 minutes of play. With the conversion, Diablo led 7-3 and a turn-up looked on the books.

Jesuit regained some of its composure and its quality backs continued to pressure the Diablo backs. From a Diablo turn over stand off Chris Sardon suddenly burst away, found the ever-

present wing Adam Mariani in support. Mariani drew the full back to send half back Billy Bittner over for the try.

The conversion was unsuccessful but Jesuit led 8-7 after 27 minutes of play. This lead was short lived as Diablo moved the ball quickly to the Jesuit 22. Jesuit's scrum was under pressure from the Diablo eight and from one such Jesuit scrum the ball came out poorly.

Jesuit failed to clear the ball effectively. Instead a poor clearing kick was fielded by the Diablo wing. From the ensuing ruck, one of its big forwards charged over for the try and a 12-8 lead at half time.

Jesuit regrouped at the half, with very clear instructions being given by coaches about the need to rectify certain weaknesses of the first half. Jesuit responded by scoring the next 15 points to take control of the game.

In the fourth minute, Jesuit regained the lead through an Anthony Estrella bull-like charge that carried him through the Diablo defense into the try zone. Again the conversion was unsuccessful but Jesuit led 13-12.

With supporters of both teams in full voice, the battle raged on. Talented winger Adam Mariani scored a great solo try down the right wing. Again Jesuit moved the ball quickly wide to Mariani who, when confronted by his opponent, chipped neatly over his head and won the race to the ball.

His try between the uprights was converted by Chris Sardon and Jesuit had a 20-12 lead. This became 23-12 lead when Sardon added a penalty in the 23rd minute.

Not to be denied Diablo fought back tenaciously. After five penalties against Jesuit in quick succession inside their 22, a Diablo forwards finally crashed over for a much needed try and the game was alive again. Hard though they tried Diablo could not score again and Jesuit breathed a huge sigh of relief at the final whistle. The game had been won but it was a battle and a half.

Jesuit will need to look closely at its game plan for the Burbank game on Saturday as Diablo exposed a few deficiencies in the Jesuit game.

A number of Jesuit players are worthy of special mention. Hard nosed center Sean McNamara took it up to Diablo all game as did captain and flanker Steve Lewis. Flanker Zack Reed was everywhere while replacement hooker Joe Casanova wreaked havoc when let loose on the field. Lock Paul Jesseman completely dominated both the Jesuit and Diablo lineouts.

Half back Billy Bittner had a fine supporting game while center Eric Forner and full back Ryan Taylor stood rock-like in the face of continued Diablo assaults.

Jesuit 1-15 Anthony Estrella, David Read/Joe Casanova, Justin Sweeney/Winston Welch/Brian French, Eric Fry, Paul Jesseman, Steve Lewis, Zack Reed, Anthony Kallergis, Billy Bittner, Chris Sardon/Adam Mariani, Adam Mariani/Mike Bier, Sean McNamara, Eric Forner, Ken Imwinkelried, Ryan Taylor

Jesuit 23

Tries Bittner, Estrella, Mariani

Conversion Sardon

Penalties Forner, Sardon

Diablo 17

Tries 3

Conversion 1

This Saturday

A Rugby-fest at the Jesuit Rugby Field

Jesuit v the Islanders of Burbank - Norcal semi-final

Come One Come All

Rugby Around The World

Norcal High Schools

Quarter finals

Lamorinda 17 East Palo Alto 5

Jesuit 23 Diablo 17

Burbank 36 Silicon Valley 1

Semi Finals

Jesuit v Burbank

Lamorinda v winner SF/GG

Collegiate Division 1

At Berkeley

Cal 40 - Bowling Green 15

Cal 69 - UNC- Chapel Hill 11

(Cal to Final Four)

At West Point

Navy 25 - UC Davis 16

UC Davis 69 - UC Santa Barbara 0

Navy 23 - Army 8

(Navy to Final Four)

Super 12

Round 9

NSW Waratahs(Aus) 49 Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 31

Western Stormers(S Afr) 51 Auckland Blues(NZ) 23

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 39 Cats(S Afr) 37

Blue Bulls(S Afr) 23 Queensland Reds(Aus) 17

Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 34 Coastal Sharks(S Afr) 27

ACT Brumbies & Otago Highlanders byes

Points Table

Brumbies 30

Stormers 28 Sharks, Crusaders 25

Chiefs 23

Waratahs, Blue Bulls 22

Hurricanes 18

Blues, Highlanders 17

Reds 12

Cats 9

Round 10

Chiefs v Stormers

Crusaders v Bulls

Highlanders v Hurricanes

Waratahs v Brumbies

Sharks v Reds

Cats v Blues

Alumni Report

Kort Schubert has been named captain of the Eagles for the upcoming 2004 season. Kort played on the very first Jesuit Rugby Club team in 1997 and before that was on the Ashton Park side that featured players from Jesuit and Rio Americano. He has played on the USA U-19 team as well as on the All-American Collegiate side and of course on the Eagles. In his senior year at Cal he was elected the Male Athlete of the Year. He is currently finishing a season in England. Congratulations to Kort.

Kyle Miller writes to encourage current Marauders to consider playing college rugby at San Diego State. The Aztecs finished in third place in the Southern California RFU University Division with a record of 6-3. After a two year suspension for some eligibility violations, a seriously revamped rugby club is looking forward to next season and hopes to return to the post season playoff picture soon. For more from Kyle, check out the link on the home page of the Jesuit Rugby Website.

The Aztecs will not be making the playoffs soon if Cole Valadez and the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos have anything to say about it. Cole wrote to recount the thrill of traveling to New Zealand over the spring holidays where they played three matches against New Zealand sides and received some training at the famed New Zealand Rugby Academy. Cole also traveled with the team to the first and second rounds of the College Playoffs in West Point. For more on that keep reading as we move to the....

College Report

This past weekend the USARFU held the first and second rounds of playoffs in two divisions, and for both Men and Women. In Men's Division I games were played in four pools at three locations across the country. Close to home in Berkeley the Cal Bears again found that playing a less experienced side on the first day, while saving the more veteran team for the finals, becomes

risky as the quality of competition across the nation improves. Finding themselves down 15-13 at the half to Bowling Green, Cal sent in four All-Americans in the unfamiliar role of substitutes and took control of the second half to win 40-15. James Sehr, Joe Welch and Louie Stanfill started for the Bears and were not among those replaced when the cavalry was summoned. Though no Marauders scored, Louie received special recognition for his play, notably a long run setting up a try. On Sunday the Bears easily handled the University of North Carolina with Joe Welch and Louie Stanfill playing as Kyle Khasigian sat out with an ankle injury.

Two pools were played in Colorado Springs. In one pool defending champion Air Force defeated Tennessee 71-10 while Ohio State defeated Penn State 51-19 in opening play. In the championship game Air Force edged the Buckeyes, 16-13. In the other pool BYU and Cal Poly easily advanced to the round of eight with convincing wins over Norwich Academy and Texas A&M, respectively. In the much awaited final, Cal Poly had a surprisingly easy time of it, defeating BYU 46-29. To be fair BYU was without the services of star player and Eagle center Salesi Sika, who injured a knee ligament in the opening match. Nonetheless the result is one more indication of the steady improvement of the Mustang Rugby program.

For Marauders West Point was the place to be. Each of the four teams had a Jesuit connection as Army with Anthony Andrews played Cole Valadez' Gauchos while Navy with Damon Doykos, Chris Osegueda and Josh Rojas played UC Davis with Pat O'Sullivan, Adam Collins, and John Parshall, all under the guidance of Barry O'Connell. In separate battles of the US Department of Defense against the California Department of Education, the military won as the Ags fell to the Midshipmen, 25-16, while the Cadets defeated the Gauchos, 28-21. In the pool final Navy defeated Army for the second or third time this season while in the consolation match the Ags took it out on the Gauchos to show who was the second best UC rugby club. Out of respect for Cole's wishes the score will not be repeated here. However Pat, Adam, John and Coach Barry know what the numbers 67 and 0 mean. In other consolation matches, Purdue beat Bowling Green, Tennessee won over Penn State and Norwich Academy defeated Texas A&M. To continue the woes of the California public schools versus the Military Academies in Men's D-II, Humboldt State lost to the US Coast Guard Academy, 31-22, while the UC Davis Women were shut out by Air Force, 32-0 in Women's D-I action. It will be Chapter Two of the California public colleges against the academies in the semifinals of Men's D-I play on April 30 at Stanford as Cal Poly meets Air Force and Cal plays Navy. Winners will meet for the championship on Saturday, May 1. Should Cal advance to the final, they will play one of the last two American college teams to defeat the Bears.

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers - to Coach David Miller. Our indefatigable coach and referee has been promoted to Level C-3 as a referee. Congratulations and well done!

Cheers - to the Jesuit Rugby program. Jesuit HS is represented by alumni on 3 of the 4 final 4 teams in the Collegiate National Championships. We have players starting for Navy, Cal, and Cal Poly as well as Sweet 16 entrants UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara.