

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.IX No.10

April 21, 2005

Jesuit Takes Sac Valley Title

Jesuit Rugby Field 4/15/05

Jesuit 48 Del Oro 7

Just what did Jesuit's talented Rugby sophomores have for breakfast???? Whatever it was, keep eating it as the spirited sophomores raced over for five of Jesuit's eight tries during this very entertaining game.

An unexpected starter, soph center Zack Kaufman celebrated by crossing for three tries while the mercurial Ian Forner, younger brother of USA U19 eagle Eric, laid claim to consideration by USA selectors with two breathtaking tries.

At an early stage of the first half, five of the Jesuit backline were sophomores - Forner, Kaufman, Brian Gagliardi, Will Wegener and Rob Leifert - and they all played like accomplished veterans. At one stage of the second half, as Jesuit rang the changes nine sophomores could be found on the field.

The victory sealed the Sacramento valley title for Jesuit and guaranteed it home field advantage while the team keeps winning.

Jesuit was able to dominate possession with "tall timbers" Alex Murchison and Ted Watje winning all their lineouts and taking all but one of Del Oro's. Jesuit had ball domination rarely seen in this league. To Del Oro's credit, on starvations rations of ball, they fought tenaciously and made Jesuit earn every point.

Again it took time for Jesuit to settle into its playing pattern but in the tenth minute sophomore center Ian Forner electrified all and sundry with a brilliant try in which he jinked, swerved past and wrong footed Del Oro defenders in a dazzling burst. With Tyler Siegel's conversion, Jesuit led 7-0.

It took just two minutes more for soph winger Zack Kaufman to effect a clever intercept and weave his way 40 meters to the line for a great try. Jesuit continued to cause Del Oro problems with its ability to quickly recycle the ball.

After 24 minutes #8 Alex Murchison capitalized on Jesuit's ability to recycle the ball for six phases that outstretched the Del Oro defense and he plunged across for the try. This time Siegel's conversion was successful and Jesuit led 19-0.

Siegel personally capped a very good half of Rugby by defying all efforts by the valiant Del Oro defense to bundle him into touch and crashing over in the left corner for a fine try.

With a 24-0 half time lead, Jesuit rang changes and it took almost 15 minutes before Jesuit posted points again, this time through flanker Brian French, who finished off a smart weak side break by promising half-back, Brian Gagliardi, by crashing over wide out.

If Forner had impressed with his first try, his second was even better. When a set moved failed to materialize, Forner spun past stunned defenders, switched direction three times before diving over for the try. Not happy with just scoring the try, Forner converted it from a wide position and Jesuit led 36-0.

Not to be outdone by Forner, soph Kaufman scored the next two tries. The first featured a neat fend and a spin while the second came from a more direct means - a powerful charge at the try line. Another soph, lock Cori Nicodemus converted Jesuit's final try for a 48-0 lead.

To its credit, Del Oro fought back valiantly as time expired and was rewarded with a converted penalty try on full time for the final score line of 48-7.

Obviously there was much to like about the Jesuit performance and it wasn't all sophomore effort. Del Oro voted Colin Hawley best back and Winston Welch best forward. Referee, Mr Jim Roberts, controlled the game expertly and the result was a game with non-stop flow to it.

Jesuit 1-15

Colombero/Misso, Casanova/Frandrup, Welch/Casanova, Law, Watje/Dodd, Sulzen/Nicodemus, Murchison/Dodd, Gamache/Gagliardi, Hawley/Forner/Worden, Kaufman/Leifert, Siegel, Forner/Kaufman/Miller, Godamunne/Hirai, Wegener

Jesuit 48

Tries: Kaufman 3, Forner 2, Siegel, Murchison, French

Conversions: Siegel 2, Forner, Nicodemus

Del Oro 7

Try: 1

Conversion: 1

Norcal Championship Playoffs

Round 1

Jesuit v Hayward at Jesuit Rugby Field

Saturday 23 April 20, 2005

Game commences 1pm

Bang, Crash with Rio Linda

Jesuit Rugby Field 04/12/05

Jesuit 27 Rio Linda 10

If Jesuit needed a hit out against a big, aggressive islander team before the first round play-off clash with Hayward, then the boys from Rio Linda were made-to-order. They were big, they were tough and they were good.

The Jesuit coaches had hearts in mouths on many occasions during the game as bone-shuddering hits were made on and by Jesuit players. Almost everybody finished unscathed and many, including a number of sophomores, a lot wiser on how to play, survive and beat teams like Rio Linda.

The early play was torrid and the only scores in the first fifteen minutes were two penalty goals from Jesuit full back Jacob Scott. Neither team really looked like scoring a try as both packs battled for supremacy.

It took the individual skills of stand off Colin Hawley to register the first five pointer when he slashed through a hesitant Rio Linda defense to side step his way over for a fine try. With Scott's conversion, Jesuit had a 13-0 lead.

This became 20-0 when winger Dimitri Godamunne showed his very considerable speed by splitting the stunned Rio Linda defense to race over untouched for the try. After Scott's successful conversion, Jesuit had a 20-0 half time lead.

Jesuit coaches rested some battered bodies and it was Rio Linda who scored first in the second half when their talented #8 was simply too strong for the Jesuit defense and he charged over for a try.

Jesuit fought its way back to the Rio Linda line where one of the Jesuit "finds" half back, Brian Gagliardi simply weaved and ducked his way through a surprised defense to dot the ball down for the try that was converted by Scott for a 27-5 lead.

Rio Linda was not beaten and after two quick taps near the Jesuit line was able to cross for a simple try to end the scoring at 27-10.

Coach Barry O'Connell refereed the game.

Jesuit 1-15

Misso/Colombero, Frandrup/Casanova, Welch, Law, Nicodemus/Dodd, Sulzen, Marsh/French, Gagliardi, Hawley, Tucci, Puente/Siegel, Forner/Wegener, Godamunne, Scott/Wegener

Jesuit 27

Tries: Hawley, Godamunne, Gagliardi

Conversions: Scott 3

Penalties: Scott 2

Rio Linda 10

Tries: 2

Jesuit B's Quell Devils

Pioneer Park 4/14/05

By Coach Greg Joseph

The Jesuit Killer B's traveled to Davis to take on the Davis Rugby Club B's, hoping to carry on where they left off against Rio Linda, playing fast, positive rugby.

With a mix up in the scheduling, only 9 of the B players arrived in time for the kickoff, but with help from the Frosh/Soph team a full side was fielded.

Davis started the game at a fast and aggressive pace, with their bigger forwards completely dominating the smaller and lighter Marauders in the set scrums. After some hard running by their forwards, they were rewarded with the first try only 5 minutes into the game and almost scored again immediately after the kickoff. Only a spell of tigerish defense by the Jesuit players kept the Davis side from scoring again. Then a superb break by fly half Ryan Franco from his own 22 opened the scoring for the Marauders and laid the foundation for a very good win. Franco broke from his 22 and was tackled on the halfway line where he off loaded to a supporting Jordan Kassis who carried the ball to the Davis 22 and then offloaded to a flying Ryan Franco who scored in the left hand corner. He converted superbly to set the tone for the day. Shortly thereafter Conner Worden had a great sniping run to score in the left hand corner which was one again converted by Ryan Franco.

The Davis side fought back hard and scored shortly thereafter with some good rucking and mauling and some hard running by their pack of forwards.

The B's however began to gather in confidence and with some great jumping in the line outs by Ben Dodd aided by pin point accuracy throwing by hooker Macfarlane; they began to lift their game. The point of break down was always well contested by the Jesuit forwards and they began to gather the ascendancy. However the Davis team did not give up and were continually attacking. Only some ferocious tackling kept them at bay.

The key to the game was some good straight running by the backline, especially Dan Hirai who broke the advantage line nearly every time he received the ball and some very good loose play by the forwards and especially the loose forwards.

At the end of a well played and hard fought game the Jesuit B's had run in 8 tries and the Davis team had scored 4. Final score 52-20.

Jesuit Tries: Sulzen 3, Ryan Franco, Conner Worden, Dan Hirai, Mike Zimmerman, Alex Illium

Rugby Around The World

Super 12

Round 8

Crusaders 51 Stormers 23

NSW Waratahs 10 ACT Brumbies 6

Auckland Blues 36 Sharks 13

Blue Bulls 32 Reds 7

Waikato Chiefs 45 Cats 14

Byes - Hurricanes, Highlanders

Points table

NSW Waratahs(Aust) 31

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 25

Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 25

Otago Highlanders(NZ) 23

Auckland Blues(NZ) 21

ACT Brumbies(Aust) 20

Blue Bulls(Sth Afr) 16

Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 14

Western Stormers(Sth Afr) 12

Queensland Reds(Aust) 8

Cats(Sth Afr) 7

Natal Sharks(Sth Afr) 6

Round 9

Hurricanes v Highlanders

Crusaders v Cats

Reds v Sharks

Bulls v Chiefs

Stormers v Blues

Byes - Waratahs, Brumbies

U19 Rugby World Cup

Final Placings (1-10 in each division)

Division A

South Africa 20 New Zealand 15

Australia 29 England 21

France 13 Wales 9

Ireland 15 Scotland 8



Russia 38 Spain 0

Division B

Italy 34 Tonga 17

Samoa 31 Uruguay 17

Korea 22 USA 22 (Korea won on penalty shootout)

Namibia 33 Zimbabwe 21

Chile 38 Paraguay 22

Rugby is now played officially in 138 countries around the world. To give you an idea of its expansive development, here are some results from this week's 2007 World Cup qualifying games.

Bosnia & Herzegovina 36 Azerbaijan 17

Moldova 57 Luxembourg 6

Malta 23 Bulgaria 15

Here And There

\*\* Welcome back to our four internationals - Eric Fry, Zack Reed, Ryan Taylor and Sean McNamara - after a most successful U19 World Cup tournament in Durban, South Africa. A little tired from a 24 hour trip back, three just can't wait to get into action helping Jesuit in its quest to retain its National Championship. Unfortunately Sean McNamara is still troubled by the shoulder he separated just before leaving for the World Cup.

\*\* Our chief recruiter in the frosh/soph area is a soph himself. Robert Wilmes does a great job convincing Rugby is great for footballers (and we'd have to agree). Sadly for Rob he has an ankle injury that will prevent him from playing again this season.

\*\* Our thanks go to Julie Law who came to our assistance by organizing the distribution of our new classy track suits.

\*\* Many thanks to Lori Richards (Pierce Cooley's great mother) for handling the organization of the billets for the Harrogate Army Foundation College team. Thanks to Mr. Harris for handling the post game function and dinner. Our gratitude goes out to the billets: the families of Joe Casanova, Pierce Cooley, Tim Harris, Jason Law, Joey Malim, Jeff McGrew, Mike Miller, Alex Murchison, Jacob Scott, Matt Tarzwell, Ted Watje, and Mike Zimmerman. Thank all of you very much for opening your homes to the Players and coaches of the English touring side.

\*\*Don't miss the double header on the Jesuit Field Friday\*\*

At 3.15pm, coaches Dave Miller and Josh Fitzgerald will lock horns as their respective freshmen teams battle it out in the Freshmen Stars of the Future game. This should be entertaining - you will find it hard to believe that some of these players are first year Ruggers.

At 4:30pm, a junior/sophomore team will play against the Army Foundation School from Harrogate, England. Again you will have a great opportunity to see our stars of 2006 and 2007 in action against a skilled team.

And with the Varsity XV playing Saturday against Hayward in the first round of the Norcal Championships, there are two days of great Jesuit Rugby guaranteed.

The Alumni and Collegiate Report

By Doug Hamilton

One of the highlights of the week leading up to the collegiate playoffs is that the mainstream media will sometimes actually publish an article on rugby. Recently both the San Francisco Chronicle and Sports Illustrated's SIONCampus website carried articles focusing on the toughness of the Cal rugby team, with each featuring rising media darling and primate behavioralist Louis Stanfill.

The playoffs themselves did not give Cal a chance to test their toughness as they won two matches in typical Cal fashion. On Saturday James Sehr once again assumed the role of captain and led a team comprised mostly of reserves in a 71-17 victory over Minnesota. In Sunday's championship Cal's rested A side were easy 65-3 winners over Tennessee. Louis Stanfill played with a broken thumb, and was joined by Joe Welch and Andrew Lindsay with Andrew scoring twice in the match.

It was not so easy for the St. Mary's Gaels. With an undergraduate enrollment of about 2,500 (and for those of you looking for prospective colleges you should know that just over half of those 2,500 are female) St. Mary's is the smallest college participating in the D-I playoffs. They traveled to the thin air of Colorado Springs to play in a pool that included traditional powers Ohio State, Navy and host Air Force. The Gaels entered the tournament ranked 10th in the Goffonrugby.com poll and 12th in the rugbyrugby.com poll, but all of the other teams were ranked in at least the top 7 of those same polls. St. Mary's and Ohio State had scrimmaged in Moraga over the Easter break, with the Gaels touching it down more frequently than the Buckeyes, but scrimmages are scrimmages and games are games. In the game when it counted Ohio State were 21-10 winners. In the other game in that pool, Navy pulled off the upset of the weekend as they defeated Air Force, 19-12. That left the Gaels with the prospect of playing a consolation game against a wounded Air Force club on Air Force's turf. The Gaels gave it all they had but lost 39-29. Matt Leatherby had a try in the consolation loss. Navy went on to defeat Ohio State, 21-16, to advance to the round of four.

The Utah RFU excelled as both Utah and BYU moved on to the round of four. In a second pool in Colorado Springs, BYU defeated Penn State, 44-35, and Army defeated Clemson, 35-18, in the opening round. In the finals it was BYU 36, Army 13.

Meanwhile in Santa Barbara. Utah was a 65-0 first round winner over Purdue while the host Gauchos defeated Wyoming, 21-0. In the finals Santa Barbara started strong and were ahead 15-3 at the half but in the second half Utah proved too strong as they came from behind to score a 25-18 win over UCSB. With the Utah win the Pacific Coast territory can claim three of the four semi-final spots.

One semi-final will feature Utah against BYU in a rematch of the Wasatch Cup, won this year by the Utes, 17-15. In the other semi-final it will be Navy against Cal. Those games will be played

on Friday, April 29th with the finals and a consolation game to be played on the following day. All games will be at Stanford University in Palo Alto in a great weekend of collegiate rugby as Stanford will also host the women's round of four, as well as the men's and women's D-II finals. The men's D-II final will feature traditional D-II power University of Northern Colorado against Northern California champion Humboldt State. Humboldt State reached the finals with a 37-7 win over Florida State and a 27-17 victory over the University of Michigan, a weekend that the Lumberjack gridiron football team could only dream of.

Some years ago one of the better rivalries in the NBA involved the Sacramento Kings and the Utah Jazz. At the same time a rugby rivalry was developing between traditional high school juggernaut Highland of Salt Lake City and the upstarts from Sacramento, Jesuit High School. Looking ahead, that same Utah versus Northern California rivalry may be played out again, and yet again, this spring. Who ever wins in the collegiate D-I semi-finals, it is certain that there will be Highland alumni facing Jesuit alumni in the final. Both Utah and BYU include former Highland players on their rosters, while Damon Doykos and Chris Osegueda will likely start for Navy in their semi-final game against a Cal side that will probably include Louis Stanfill, Joe Welch, and Andrew Lindsay, with James Sehr in reserve. This weekend, however, there will be no college rugby and no opportunity to pit Utah against Northern California, so fans might as well relax, keep an ear on the NFL draft, and see who is the first quarterback selected.

In closing, it is appropriate to salute Regis University. There are at least three Marauders playing rugby for Regis this past season and what a successful season it was. Regis narrowly lost to eventual national semi-finalist, the University of Northern Colorado in the West Rugby Football Union D-II playoffs and just this week in its first ever D-II poll, Goffonrugby.com put Regis in 6th place. Congratulations to a fine Jesuit rugby program.

With no collegiate rugby scheduled, there will be no column next week unless someone writes. Jesuit fans are always interested in what the alumni are doing. Send your reports to [dragon1137@comcast.net](mailto:dragon1137@comcast.net).

Any questions or comments, email [sheldonoaks@hotmail.com](mailto:sheldonoaks@hotmail.com)