

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.X No.9

April 26, 2006

Beware!! Rodent Attack

Marauder Exterminators Sent For

Norcal's "Game of Games" Saturday at Jesuit

It might have been a few years since a Jesuit Marauders v Lamorinda Rodents game aroused the passions of both clubs as well as many of the Norcal Rugby fraternity, but Saturday's monumental 1pm clash at Jesuit will have passion levels at all time highs.

Lamorinda Rodents are certainly "back" and ready to take it to its arch enemy. The game has all the ingredients of a clash equal of any between the two Rugby "warrior states". Lamo knows it has the team this season to beat the Marauders but whether it can do it in front of a passionate Jesuit crowd is another matter.

The winner of this Norcal semi-final will play the winner of the Vacaville v Elsie Allen/Hayward winner in the final for a trip to the National Championships to be played at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire.

Lamorinda has been the Norcal team to make a real statement this season. Already a powerful team, they have been boosted by the inclusion of a number of key players from the suspended Diablo club. The combination, at full strength, looks very formidable.

Jesuit simply looks good. Now playing a looser style of running Rugby, it has shown that it has an ability to score points and score them fast. The Marauders had a spirited "training run" in the quarter final against East Palo Alto.

East Palo Alto, unable to field a full team, borrowed some Jesuit players to ensure a game took place for the big crowd in attendance and provided Jesuit with the hit-out they needed for the Lamo game.

It should be a game of contrasts. Lamorinda has the big boys with power, Jesuit lacks size but has speed and mobility. Who will win the battle of "power v pace"? Saturday at 1pm that question will be answered.

In the past the two teams have met in either pre-season or socially but not in 2006. One knows little of the other. The scouts have been out in force and cyberspace has been filled with reports heading east or west.

Neither team is looking at this game as the one taking them to the Nationals at Dartmouth College. This season the Norcal play-off scene is intriguing. The two pools are filled with genuine contenders to represent at the Nationals.

While Lamorinda and Jesuit are the strength in one pool, loitering with intent on the other are 2005 National Championship runner-up Elsie Allen, the tough islander team of Hayward and our own Sac Valley team of hard men, the Black Dogs of Vacaville. Whatever two teams of those five make the final, it will be some game.

The large crowd expected to attend Saturday will be treated to a double-header. At 11am on the Rugby Field Jesuit's B team will take on Christian Brothers in what should also be a most entertaining game. Four hours of top line entertaining Rugby should be on the menu - come and enjoy!!

Saturday April 29 2006 at the Jesuit Rugby Pitch

11am: Jesuit B v Christian Brothers (Third round of Sacramento Valley B Championship)

1pm: NorCal Championships Semifinal: Jesuit Varsity v Lamorinda

Lancers Knocked Off Chargers By Jesuit B Jousts

Jesuit Rugby Field

4-25-06

A very determined Rancho Cordova Lancer team met stern opposition in the form of Jesuit's B squad in the first round of the Sacramento Valley B Championships. Much as the Lancers tried they could not overcome the Marauders who registered an impressive 24-5 victory in a game full of enthusiasm and skill.

The Lancers produced form that would have seen them match or possibly beat some of the teams presently playing in the Sac Valley Varsity competition. The Lancers could have been disappointed at the final score line that did not do their efforts credit.

It was Jesuit's "Birthday Boy" Scott McFarlane who opened the scoring when the flanker/hooker received a pass on the right wing and, to the surprise of many, outran the quick Lancer backs to score in the corner. A great conversion from stand off Tanner Heafey saw Jesuit in front 7-0 after only 12 minutes.

Promising lock/flanked Sam Welch, who had a great game, scored Jesuit's second try when he was on the end of a short pass after Jesuit took a quick tap following a penalty. Heafey's conversion was wide but Jesuit went to the break ahead 12-0.

Play flowed back and forth during the early minutes of the second half, with the Lancers creating several good try scoring opportunities but were unable to convert any.

It took twenty minutes of the second half for Lancers to open their account, when from a quick tap they barreled over for a try that was excellently converted from the sideline.

With the scoreline now 12-7, the game looked like really coming to life, but Jesuit snuffed out the lancer fire when it scored a try within two minutes of the resumption of play.

Again it was "Birthday Boy" McFarlane who scored. A quick tap saw Jesuit launch a number of attacks on the Lancer tryline. Eventually the ball spilled out to where McFarlane gladly seized it and crashed over. Full back Tim Harris missed with the conversion but coach Greg Joseph breathed a little easier with Jesuit leading 17-7.

It was hooker/lock Michael Miller who scored the final try when Jesuit blazed the Lancer try line and Miller successfully breached the Lancer defense to score. With Harris' conversion the game ended 24-5. While Jesuit deserved the win, the Lancers showed that they are a force to be reckoned with.

The Lancers nominated Julian Columbero as best forward and Tim Harris as best back. #8 Alex Ilium, flanker Craig Fugina and half back Will Pidd were also worthy of special mention.

Dave Miller refereed the game in a very controlled and decisive manner.

Jesuit 1-15: Columbero, Miller, Mackay, Nunez, Welch, Wilmes, Barnes, Lucas, Fugina, McFarlane, Ilium, Pidd, Heafey, Worden, Charter, Willover, Kaufman, Steeb, Fischer, Franco, Longo, Sheehan, Harris

Jesuit: 24

Tries: McFarlane 2, Welch, Miller

Conversions: Heafey, Harris

Lancers: 5

Try: 1

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

There were no reported college games over this past weekend as even collegiate rugby takes an Easter break, however several teams spent that break preparing for the upcoming playoffs.

As reported last week, Claremont Colleges rugby team will represent the Southern California RFU in the Division 2 Round of Eight. The Marauders were well represented in the Southern California championship game as Winston Welch and the Claremont Colleges defeated Brad Giles and Loyola Marymount University, 38-31, in a match that went into overtime. Winston plays football at Pomona in the fall, and plays tighthead prop for the combined Claremont Colleges Rugby Football Club in the winter and spring. Claremont now takes its undefeated record to Sanford, Florida for this weekend's national playoffs where they will meet the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, in the first round. Defending champion Northern Colorado will play Arkansas State in the other game in the Claremont/UW-Milwaukee bracket. In the other side of the D-2 brackets, last year's runner-up as well as Northern California and Pacific Coast champion Humboldt State will play Georgia Southern and Salisbury will meet the Coast Guard Academy.

In Division 1, sixteen teams will meet in four pools at two locations this weekend. At each location this weekend there will be a pool that plays on Friday and Saturday as well as a pool that meets on Saturday and Sunday.

On Friday at Berkeley, BYU will meet Wyoming and Cal Poly will play Purdue in Pool B. Then on Saturday in Pool A Clemson will meet Navy while UC Santa Barbara plays defending champion California. Those planning on attending Saturday's games should know that it is also Cal Day, the University's open house, and parking in Berkeley will be even harder to find, if that is possible.

Across the country at West Point, NY, Pool D gets underway on Friday with Army meeting Colorado and Tennessee meeting Utah. On Saturday in Pool C Penn State will play UC Davis and Dartmouth will meet Ohio State.

The surviving teams, four in D-1 and 2 in D-2, along with their counterparts in the women's collegiate playoffs will meet on May 5th and 6th at Stanford for a great weekend of national collegiate championship rugby.

To keep fellow Marauders and Jesuit rugby supporters informed of your post high school accomplishments, please write to dragon1137@comcast.net. Be sure to include the words "Jesuit Rugby" in your subject line.

Rio Rocks Frosh/Soph

Jesuit Rugby Field

04-25-06

Maybe the Jesuit B team, victorious over the Lancers beforehand, was a hard act to follow in the doubled header staged Tuesday afternoon on the Jesuit Rugby Field, but the mighty Jesuit frosh/soph team did their level best to counter a good Rio but finally finished on the end of a 12-24 loss.

Full credit to the Jesuit men and coach Whit Poindexter who, hopefully, saw that all of his thirty charges received game time in some form. Coach Whit could make a living as a professional juggler.

Jesuit scored first through a splendid try from winger Mike Bovill. On the end of a promising backline move, he showed ability to get around his opposing winger then displayed a withering side step to wrong foot the Rio full back and score.

Jesuit remained competitive for the balance of the first half but the ringing of the changes in the second half saw Rio take control and run out deserved winners 24-12.

Jesuit was well led by stand off Sean Peterson, who showed that he has potential and leadership skills. He controlled play with a smart running and kicking game. Maldonaldo received the coach's nod as Jesuit's player of the game.

The game was well refereed by renowned international referee Mason Gunn.dragon1137@comcast.net While this loss in the first round of the Sac Valley Championship was not welcome, Jesuit still has a chance to qualify for the final when it plays Mother Lode at Oak Ridge Thursday and Christian Brothers at Jesuit, 4pm Friday.

Jesuit's rugged hooker Mike Miller receives the headlock treatment from an East Palo Alto player during Saturday's quarter final play off at Jesuit's Rugby Field. Cory Nicodemus (right) looms to help while Brian Gagliardi (far right) is glad he's a back.

Varsity Qualifies For Semi Final Wins "Play Off" In Style

Jesuit Rugby Field

04-22-06

The good news was that we had a game, the not-so-good news was that East Palo Alto could not field a full team. With three Jesuit players initially playing for EPA, a game was played which gave the varsity squad invaluable field time.

With injury, about seven Jesuit players finished up helping out EPA, in a game that was played in excellent spirit. Jesuit "won" by 50-0 and produced some excellent running Rugby in the process. With the BIG games coming week after week now, the hit out was essential.

Referee Sam Reagle again did a first class job that saw the game flow from end to end for the whole seventy minutes.

At the conclusion of the game, a great barbecue was held for all players and supporters. Our sincere thanks to Mesdames Malam, Murchison and Richards who were the driving forces behind the barbecue.

Rugby Around The World

Under 19 World Cup

Final

Australia 17 - New Zealand 13

For 3rd and 4th

France 12 - England 12

At the other end...

For last place in pool B and the need to qualify for next year's World Cup

Korea 18 - USA 17

USA loses to Chinese Taipei and Korea to "win" the wooden spoon in Pool B. After the outstanding performances in 2005, this could only be called a very disappointing campaign.

Super 14

Round 12

Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 33 - Cheetahs(SA) 32

Western Stormers(SA) 24 - Queensland Reds(Aust) 20

Western Force(Aust) 23 - Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 23

ACT Brumbies(Aust) 21 - Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 16

Sharks(SA) 32 - Auckland Blues(NZ) 15

Blue Bulls(SA) 46 - Cats(SA) 17

Standings

Crusaders 42 - Waratahs 38

Hurricanes 34 - Brumbies 32

Blue Bulls 28 - Sharks 27

Chiefs 27 - Highlanders 22

Blues 22 - Cheetahs 20

Stormers 18 - Reds 17

Cats 6 - Force 4

Next Round

Highlander v NSW Waratahs

Bulls v Sharks

Cats v Western Force

Stormers v Crusaders

Hurricanes v Chiefs

Brumbies v Reds

Cheetahs v Blues

Norcal Playoffs

With some of the Varsity play-off games not yet played and teams finding it hard to set a communal date to play games, Jesuit, Vacaville and Lamorinda have made their way through to the semi-finals.

Elsie Allen v Hayward game has yet to be played and looks like occurring after the newsletter is shot in cyberspace.

Jesuit will be at home to all teams except Elsie Allen, if that team and Jesuit qualifies.

Sacramento Valley Championship Games

Thursday 27 April 2006

Frosh/soph v Mother Lode at Oak Ridge 5.30pm

Senior B v Mother Lode at Oak Ridge 6.45pm

Friday 28 April 2006

Frosh/Soph v Christian Brothers at Jesuit 4.00pm

Saturday 29 April 2006

Senior B v Christian Brothers at Jesuit 11.00am

(Curtain raiser to Norcal Varsity semi final at 100pm)

Here And There

* Thanks to head groundsman Kevin Fleming, AD Ron Nocetti and the grounds staff for all the hard work put into getting the Rugby Field back into great shape after the March Madness of rains. It is certainly appreciated by all.

* Thanks to all players who came prepared to play Tuesday and may not have seen much/any game time. This is always a problem we have as we try to balance between giving all players game time and still winning games or championships. We will do the best we can in the upcoming Sacramento Valley Championship games.

The Collegiate and Alumni Report II

By Doug Hamilton

This was the weekend that college rugby aims for as the first two rounds of the national collegiate rugby playoffs were played out across the country.

At West Point Adam Collins drew first blood for UC Davis and gave the Aggies a short lived 3-0 lead against Penn State but in the end the Nittany Lions ran away with the first round match, winning 34-11. In the other game in Pool C Dartmouth was an unexpected 40-20 victor over a travel weary Ohio State team. In second round games in that pool UC Davis added to Ohio State's woes with a 39-28 win in the consolation match while Penn State soundly defeated Dartmouth, 53-0 to advance to the semi-finals.

In Pool D, which was also played at West Point, Utah defeated Tennessee, 40-19, in an opening game and host Army beat Colorado, 62-12. In the consolation match it was Tennessee with a 21-10 win over Colorado while Utah advanced with a narrow 8-5 win over Army.

Across the country in Berkeley, Pool B opened with two 70 point thrashings as Cal Poly defeated Purdue, 83-13, followed by BYU's 73-3 win over Wyoming. In second round games in that pool, Purdue was a 22-15 winner over Wyoming, while BYU just kept scoring as they beat Cal Poly 55-7.

In Pool A, also held in Berkeley, opening games saw Navy defeat Clemson, 46-35, and California beat UC Santa Barbara, 45-15, in a match that was much more exciting than the score would indicate. Andrew Lindsey captained the Bears and it was an all Jesuit affair at one lock position as Louis Stanfill started, was replaced for shofrt while by his brother Jake, returned to

the match, and then replaced by Paul Jesseman midway through the second half. On the second day UC Santa Barbara won the consolation match with a 32-22 win over Clemson while Cal advanced to the round of four with a 29-12 win over Navy. Again Andrew Lindsey captained the Bears, joined by Eric Fry, Jake Stanfill and Louis Stanfill. Andrew and Louis Stanfill each scored a try in the win.

The semi-finals will be played on Friday, May 5, with Utah meeting Cal and Penn State meeting BYU. This marks the first D-1 semifinal since 1997 without a military academy team....

..which is not to say that the military academies were shut out completely. In the D-2 round of eight, held in Sanford, Florida, first round action saw defending champion Northern Colorado squeak by Arkansas State, 18-17, Claremont Colleges beat Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 35-23, Coast Guard defeat Salisbury, 21-7 and Northern California champion Humboldt State score on the last play to beat Georgia Southern, 28-27. In consolation matches Arkansas State shut out Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 39-0, while Georgia Southern fell to Salisbury, 64-12. In quarter final matches Northern Colorado was a 39-28 winner over Claremont while Humboldt State lost to the Coast Guard Academy, 12-6. Northern Colorado and Coast Guard will meet on May 6th in the D-2 championship game which will be played at Stanford on the same day as the D-1 final.

To report your post Jesuit accomplishments, on and off the pitch, write to dragon1137@comcast.net. Please include the words Jesuit Rugby in your subject line.

Playoff Updates

NorCal Quarterfinal Scores:

4/26 Lamorinda 40 - Montgomery 15

4/22 Vacaville 12 - Live Oak 7

Upcoming:

4/29 Quarterfinal Hayward at Elsie Allen

4/29 Semifinal Lamorinda at Jesuit

5/2 Winner Hayward/Elsie Allen at Vacaville

Jesuit B and F/S play Championship Tournament games v. MotherLode Thursday night. The F/S play at 5:30 PM and the B team plays at 6:45 PM. The finals are scheduled for May 5. We will update the standings for the Championship tournaments in next week's newsletter.

Tournament games:

4/25 Jesuit B 24 Lancers 5

4/25 Rio F/S 24 Jesuit F/S 12

Rugby Gear

All players pick up gear at the field 11:45 AM Saturday before the playoff game. Any gear left over will be given away.

Any questions email sheldonoaks@hotmail.com