

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.IX No.11

April 28, 2005

Norcal Semi Final

Saturday 30 April at 11am

Jesuit Rugby Field

Jesuit v Silicon Valley

Sacramento Valley Championships

Friday 29 April

Jesuit Rugby Field from 4pm

Varsity B Final

Jesuit v Rio Linda

Frosh Soph Final

Jesuit Red v Rio Americano

Your last chance to see Jesuit's varsity B and Frosh Soph teams in action.

Come along and support Jesuit Rugby Friday and Saturday

Jesuit Produces a Harry Houdini Escape

Norcal Round 1 "bullet" dodged

Jesuit 10 Hayward U19 5

Jesuit Rugby Field 4/23/2005

Nobody is quite sure how Jesuit won this "knock-em-down, drag-em-out" game of Rugby on Saturday but the Marauders did win and in doing so kept their quest alive for back-to-back National Championships.

Scouting reports had not indicated that Hayward would play with the non-stop intensity that they did and they may well feel they should have won the game. Jesuit was massively relieved when winger Dimitri Godamunne raced over in the fourth minutes of overtime to clinch the win.

From the word "go" it was big hit time and the Hayward aggression caught a number of the Jesuit players by surprise. It was to Hayward's credit that the Jesuit backline was virtually unable to get its running game going at any stage.

It was an unparalleled number of Jesuit errors early on that caused the momentum to swing Hayward's way. With its big pack simply pounding straight ahead down the field at every opportunity, the realization was soon there that this would not be an easy game to win.

With almost 40 penalties/free kicks and five yellow cards during the game, there was very little Rugby to report on. Jesuit managed to get the ball to its wingers in a backline move twice in the game, a feat bettered by Hayward, who managed it three times.

Jesuit scored first after 20 minutes when tyro #8 Eric "Bundy" Fry crashed over after Jesuit elected to take a quick tap. Hayward evened the score after 23 minutes of the second half when, after frequent assaults on the Jesuit line, its talented center outflanked the Jesuit defense to tie the score.

With the score tied 5-all at the end of the regulation time, it was sudden death overtime. Jesuit forced Hayward deep into its 22 and after a series of attacks on the Hayward line, flying winger Dimitri Godamunne outran his opponent for the winning try.

Jesuit can thank hard working captain Eric Fry for doing the work of half the pack in a superb effort while the defensive lineout jumping of Alex Murchison was top class. Hayward found it exceedingly difficult to win a lineout on its own throw.

Hayward nominated Eric Fry as the best forward and Colin Hawley as the best back.

Jesuit 1-15

Colombero/MacKay, Malim/Frandrup, Welch/Misso, Law, Watje, Murchison, Reed, French, Fry, Gamache, Hawley, McNamara, Casanova, Taylor, Forner, Godamunne, Scott

Jesuit 10

Tries: Fry, Godamunne

Hayward 5 Try: 1

Army Shells Jesuit

Army Foundation School England 53 Jesuit 5

Jesuit Pitch 4/22/05

Jesuit's younger players had a great chance to experience Varsity style Rugby when a team mostly comprised of sophomores and freshmen played against the visiting English Army Foundation School.

With Jesuit playing Hayward the next day in the Norcal play-offs, the Varsity squad of 30 was not considered for this game.

The Army team was simply too big, fast and skilled for their youthful opponents but the game was a fast, open running and entertaining clash.

Again the Jesuit coaches watched with great interest as its stars of the future battled manfully against an older and more experienced team.

Unfortunately player and scoring details were not kept for this game.

The game was followed by a top shelf function organized by the Rugby parent support group - it was a fitting way to end an excellent social visit by a team touring from overseas.

Varsity B Outlasts Rio

Qualifies for Friday's final at Jesuit

Jesuit Varsity B 27 Rio Americano Varsity A 25

Jesuit Rugby Field

27 April 2005

For whatever reason, Rio Americano was allowed to play its Varsity A team in the Varsity B Sac Valley Tournament. That makes the narrow victory by the Marauders all the more satisfying. This was a high quality, flowing and skillful game extremely well refereed by top whistleblower, Matt Eason.

It was certainly a game of two halves. Jesuit came out guns blazing and raced to a 24-5 half time lead. Rio totally dominated the second half, outscoring Jesuit 20 points to three. The last ten minutes of the game brought continual excitement as Rio fought desperately to make up the leeway.

Amazingly it took Jesuit 25 seconds to score the first try. Rio fumbled the kick-off, the talented sophomore Ian Forner grabbed the ball, bamboozled the Rio defense before sending sophomore winger Will Wegner racing over in the corner. Forner missed the conversion from the touch line.

After 10 minutes, hard working flanker John Lucas capped some enterprising lead up work by slicing through the surprised Rio defense close in for a neat individual try. This time Forner converted from wide out and Jesuit led 12-0.

Rio's backline included at least three class players and one of their centers opened the scoring for Rio with a great individual try in which he broke at least five poor Jesuit attempts at tackling.

Jesuit was not to be denied and with half back Pierce Cooley feeding good ball to stand-off Ian Forner, Jesuit launched a number of backline raids. Sophomore lock Cori Nicodemus and elusive hooker Kurt Frandrup added first half tries as Jesuit raced to the 24-5 half time lead.

Rio came out for the second half breathing fire and quickly opened the scoring with a neat field goal followed by two excellent tries, one a 70 meter try after a quick tap was taken just outside the Rio 20 meter line.

With the score 24-20 and all the momentum with Rio, Jesuit had to resort to shots at penalty goal. Forner kicked one of two late in the game to extend the lead to 27-20 but Rio was not to be denied and scored on the stroke of full time. The conversion unfortunately was wide and Jesuit had weathered the storm to qualify for the final against Rio Linda.

Jesuit 1-15

Misso, Frandrup, Beebe, Mackay, Nunez, Harmon, Dodd, Lucas, Marsh, Nicodemus, Gay, Cooley, Gagliardi, Forner, Wegener, Leiford, Puente, Hirai, Miller, Kaufman, Markham, Tucci, Champion.

Jesuit 27

Tries: Wegener, Lucas, Nicodemus, Frandrup

Conversions: Forner 2

Penalty: Forner

Rio 25

Tries: 4

Conversion: 1

Field Goal: 1

F/S Gold Valiant In Defeat

Rio 48 Jesuit 10

Jesuit Rugby Field

28 April 2005

The final score line of 48-10 does not reflect the effort put into their game by the Jesuit F/S Gold team. Against a bigger, stronger and faster Rio team, Jesuit players tackled themselves to a standstill. Coach Barry, who refereed the game, was full of praise for the efforts of the Jesuit players.

Rio will now play the stronger Jesuit F/S Red team in the final. This should be a cracking game of Rugby.

Coaches Dave Miller and Josh Fitzgerald deserve to be congratulated on turning all these new faces into a well drilled Rugby team. Again the players can hold their heads high on after such a gutsy performance.

Cheers and Jeers

Cheers: To Mr. Michael Harris for organizing and overseeing the fantastic post game function that was put on for the Army Foundation College team. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed the excellent Tri-tip dinner in what was entirely a class act. Thanks to all the ladies that helped to feed the hungry players: Mrs. Johnson, Pidd, Tucci, Malim, Harris, Richards, and others that are unintentionally not mentioned. Your efforts were very much appreciated by the teams.

## The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

Alumni Chris Sardon and Eric Forner, along with four current Marauders, completed their U-19 World Cup experience in Durban, South Africa. Coach Salty Thompson used the last match to provide some international experience to many of the players who had not seen much action to date. While that meant that Chris sat out the last game, a game that might have turned out differently had he been doing the kicking, the lessons in sportsmanship will no doubt mean more in the long run. Congratulations to the U-19 Eagles on their best World Cup performance ever.

Like Chris and Eric, former Jesuit tighthead prop Frank Sharpe played for the U-19 team while in college, in fact Frank was so young upon graduating from high school that he played two seasons with the U-19's while a student at Vassar. Frank has completed his collegiate rugby career and is now a flanker with the New York Athletic Club's Super League team. Frank and his stylish hair can be seen in the current edition of Rugby Magazine. In spite of a 12-8 loss to the rival Old Blues this past weekend, NYAC has qualified for the Super League playoffs.

Kort Schubert continues to excel at 8 Man for the Cardiff Blues, a Welsh club that plays against teams from Wales, Ireland and Scotland in the Celtic League. With the regular season completed, the Blues are out of the running for the League's post season playoff, however their most recent win left open their chances to compete in the Heineken Cup, a tourney that features club teams from throughout Western Europe.

This past weekend St. Mary's College put a friendly finish on their 2004-05 season as the Gaels hosted a golf tournament followed by a match against their alumni.

College rugby comes to a glorious end this weekend with the national finals at the Steuber Family Rugby Facility at Stanford University. On Friday there will be semi-final contests for both men and women in D-I and then on Saturday final matches will be held for men and women in both D-I and D-II. In men's D-I semi-finals Cal will meet Navy in a match with Jesuit players on both sides of the ball, followed by a game featuring in state rivals BYU and Utah. Winners and losers will meet on Saturday, when they will share the bill with the D-II final pitting Northern California champion Humboldt State against Northern Colorado.

## Rugby Around The World

Super 12

Round 9

Auckland Blues 37 Western Stormers 24

Blue Bulls 29 Waikato Chiefs 26

Crusaders 40 Cats 36

Highlanders 26 Hurricanes 16

Reds 30 Sharks 25

Byes: NSW Waratahs, ACT Brumbies

## Points Table

NSW Waratahs(Aust) 31

Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 30

Otago Highlanders(NZ) 27

Auckland Blues(NZ) 26

Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 25

ACT Brumbies(Aust) 20



Blue Bulls(Sth Afr) 20

Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 15

Queensland Reds(Aust) 15

Western Stormers(Sth Afr) 12

Cats(Sth Afr) 9

Natal Sharks(Sth Afr) 7

Only top four qualify for play-offs (1 v 4 and 2 v 3)

Two rounds remain

Round 10

Crusaders v Sharks

Reds v Cats

Blue Bulls v Blues

Highlanders v Waratahs

Hurricanes v Brumbies

Stormers v Chiefs

Norcal High School Rugby

Peninsula Green 29 East Palo Alto 5

Elsie Allen 55 Peninsula Green 0 (Norcal quarter final)

Elsie Allen 45 Army(England) 6

De La Salle 27 Burbank 20 (Norcal quarter final)

Norcal semi-finals

Elsie Allen v De La Salle, Santa Rosa Friday 29 April 7:00pm

Jesuit v Silicon Valley, Jesuit Saturday 30 April 11:00am