

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.X No.10

May 4, 2006

Rodents Exterminated But Beware!!!!

Black Dogs Have Jumped The Back Fence

Norcal championship game features two Sacramento Valley teams: Jesuit Marauders v Vacaville Black Dogs at Jesuit's Rugby Field Saturday 6 May, 1:00pm

Friday 5 May and Saturday 6 May - see all our Jesuit teams in Championship games.

Friday 5 May - Sacramento Valley Championship games

4:15pm - Jesuit Frosh/Soph v Cougars

5:45pm - Jesuit Varsity B v Golden Eagles

Saturday 6 May - Norcal Championship game

1:00pm - Jesuit Varsity v Vacaville Black Dogs

Jesuit Rugby Field

29 April 2006

The Marauders knew that the road to the Norcal Championship game would not be an easy one and that Lamorinda Rodents were coming ready to play, but a totally focused Jesuit team left the Rodents with a very clear message - there would be no successful rodent attack on Jesuit soil in 2006.

The game might not have been won early, but Jesuit went a long way to achieving the win when it led 14-0 after just seven minutes of frenetic play. Two converted tries from set pieces saw Jesuit stun Lamorinda with this early barrage.

A large crowd, gathered on the most delightful of days for Rugby on the now lush Jesuit Rugby pitch, hardly had time to draw breath before the Marauders launched two savage but successful attacks on the Rodent line.

It took just one minute for Jesuit to strike and after three quick rucks, center Evan Reuter clashed through the unsuspecting Lamorinda defense to score. Just six minutes later center Tyler Siegel capped off a great 55 yard run by crossing wide out. With stand off Nate Floyd converting both, Jesuit was off to the flying start they desired.

Matters did not improve for Lamorinda when full back Travis Champion finished off a well executed set move to run 30 yards to score. Again Floyd converted and Jesuit led 21-0 after twenty minutes of play.

To its credit Lamorinda got itself on the board when its outside center slashed through some flimsy Jesuit defense to score a well deserved try. The conversion missed and Jesuit led 21-5.

As good teams are wont to do, Jesuit immediately replied from the kick-off. A Lamorinda player made a hash of receiving the kick off and Marauder captain and lock Alex Murchison toed the loose ball ahead before scooping it up and crashing over. Again Floyd's radar boot was on target and Jesuit went to the break ahead 28-8.

Lamorinda launched a brief sortie on Jesuit territory from the kick off for the second half but Jesuit took just two minutes to register its fifth try when stand off Floyd exploited space on the Lamo weak side and jinked his way over for a try. His attempted conversion shaved the upright to blot his perfect record.

Just five minutes later, replacement center Zack Kaufman added Jesuit's sixth try and with Floyd adding a great conversion from wide out, the lead had been expended to 40-8. Jesuit rang the changes and substituted virtually the whole team to give the bench players invaluable game time.

Sophomore stand off Tanner Heaphy rounded off the scoring by landing a penalty as time ran out. Jesuit's performance was its best of the season and augers well for the Norcal Championship game against Vacaville and opponents, whoever they may be, at the National Championships at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire.

Jesuit: 43

Tries: Reuter, Siegel, Champion, Murchison, Floyd, Kaufman

Conversions: Floyd 5

Penalty: Heaphy

Lamorinda: 8

Try: 1

Penalty: 1

Jesuit 1-15: Deterding, Malim, Mackay, Murchison, Watje, Marsh, Sulzen, Law Cooley, Floyd, Wegener, Siegel, Reuter, Gagliardi, Champion

Playing Bench: Columbero, Miller, McFarlane, De Anda, Nicodemus, Welsh, Ilium Heaphy, Kaufman, Fisher, Worden. Fischer, Willover, Harris, Steeb, Franco

Black Dogs Win Thriller In Vacaville

The Black Dogs of Vacaville advanced to the Norcal Championship game Tuesday in Vacaville thanks to a last second try to give them a 10-5 victory and a trip to the Nationals to be held at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

After a scoreless first half, Elsie Allen scored its only points midway through the second half before Vacaville answered with a try of its own. The game looked like going into overtime when a 35 yards penalty shot by Vacaville fell short with time up.

Unfortunately for Elsie Allen, its lock knocked the ball forward into the path of the charging Vacaville lock, who gladly scooped up the ball and dived over for a try that sent Vacaville supporters into raptures and Saturday's Norcal Championship game with Jesuit.

The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

Iaian Blamey continues to keep a Jesuit presence at the Naval Academy. After playing both as a forward and as a back while at Jesuit, Iaian is finishing up his first year in Annapolis where he has seen a lot of time at flanker. Like most schools on the Atlantic Coast, Navy plays a significant part of its season in the fall. The Midshipmen field two sides in both Division 1 and in Division II in Mid-Atlantic RFU play.

It was reported here that the Southern California D-II championship game between Claremont Colleges and Loyola Marymount brought together Winston Welch of Claremont and Brad Giles of LMU. We should add an unconfirmed sighting of Ryan McCoy on the LMU team as well. The Marauders were also represented in the consolation match where Darren Williams captained UC Irvine in their match against USC, who were playing without Michael Stewart who was injured in SC's semi-final match against LMU.

Overseas in the Celtic League, Kort Schubert is coming back from an injury which has kept him on the sidelines for Cardiff Blue. He has seen some action at lock as well as at flanker and was instrumental in Cardiff's victory over Connacht last weekend. As captain of the US Men's National Team, Kort has taken the lead in speaking for the team as they deal with recent

administrative issues with USA Rugby. The Eagles will soon convene to prepare for an all important summer as they hope to qualify for the 2007 Rugby World Cup.

This coming weekend brings collegiate rugby in the US to its final stage at the impressive Steuber Family Rugby Facility at Stanford University. In Division I on Friday, Penn State will meet BYU in one semi-final while Cal will meet Utah in the other. The winners will meet at the same location on Saturday. That match will be preceded by the Division II final featuring defending champion University of Northern Colorado against the Coast Guard Academy.

While Cal has continued its winning ways, BYU has shown that this may be the year they have been waiting for as they have run through their season with some very impressive scores. One national writer now ranks BYU as the number one team in the country. It all plays out this weekend.

E-mail your news to dragon1137@comcast.net. Please include the words "Jesuit Rugby" in your subject line.

Jesuit F/S Blast Into Championship Game

By Dave Miller and Whit Poindexter

Jesuit Pitch

May 2, 2006

It was a hot sunny day with the temperature pushing 90 degrees. The weather was not the only hot item on the Jesuit pitch as the young Marauders took on a Christian Brothers team that had already beaten Jesuit twice this season. The Falcons came out hot, taking advantage of a Jesuit penalty on the opening Kickoff to set a series of drives lead by their outstanding flyhalf. Slicing through the Jesuit backs, twisting and turning and passing to his support players, Christian Brothers scored a converted try on their opening series. The Falcons were flying high with an early 7-0 lead only two minutes into the game. The young Jesuit players were not fazed by the quick strike. Jesuit regained the ball and swung it wide where center Marino Ponder powered through the Brothers backline to touch down an answering try. The conversion was wide, but Jesuit was back in the game trailing 5-7 at the six minute mark. Four minutes later, 8 man Craig

"The Machine" Fugina bulled his way in off the weak side of a scrum to put Jesuit in the lead. Beau Charter's conversion was good putting Jesuit into the lead at 12-7. The furious pace of play continued with fierce tackling and rugged rucking. Freshman lock, Leonard "Not one to" Bragg, one of our most improved new players, got the ball out of a ruck near the CB goal to flop down with a Jesuit goal 18 minutes into the first half putting Jesuit ahead 19-7 following the conversion. Christian Brothers was undaunted and continued to pound the Jesuit line led by a seemingly unstoppable flyhalf. He seemed to be covered with Teflon as numerous Jesuit tacklers got their hands on him only to have the elusive CB # 10 slip out of their grasp. CB got possession again and proceeded to pound the ball toward the Jesuit goal. A maul developed and the Falcons took the ball out maul to punish the defense with another try. The conversion was good bringing the Falcons within 5 points at 19-14. The noisy CB supports were loudly extorting on the young Falcons in this barn burner. A quick 33 points had been scored in less than 22 minutes of play. The game settled into a war of counter attacks as each team probed deep into the opponent's side only to repulse as hard hits caused turnovers. Craig "The Machine" Fugina, undaunted by the full practice he had put in earlier, again scored on a classic 8 man power run of over 50 meters. Craig ran over two players and brushed off several other would be tacklers to put the Marauders safely ahead 26-14 as the first half ended.

Christian Brothers would repeatedly attack the Jesuit defense in the second half but Freshman Flyhalf Sean Peterson made stopping the opposing CB nemesis his mission as he time and again proved that hard tackling works even on "Teflon coated" opponents. Diminutive scrum half Brian "Rocky" Shunta repeated drew cheers from the crowd as he made open field tackles on larger opponents. Prop Joe "Fish" Johnson powered around the defenders to cross the try line near the sidelines and then made the ESPN Highlight Show for "stylin" the ball behind the posts and slapping it to the ground to earn 5 points for Jesuit and a perfect 10 for "Artistic Expression". Even the Russian and French judges were forced to acknowledge the panache that the "Fish" put on his score. Not to be outdone, Mike "Bullet" Bovill broke off one of his signature long runs out-pacing and out-maneuvering the Falcon defenders to put Jesuit up 38-14. After pacing on the sidelines during a breather, the unstoppable "Machine" Fugina, captured a Hat Trick of Tries to close out the Jesuit scoring.

The second half saw the only significant play stoppage as one of the participants went down with an ankle injury. Time was call as Referee Matt Eason hobbled to the sidelines. JV Coach Greg Joseph hurried wet his whistle, I mean, warmed up his whistle in case Matt could not go on. However, Trainer Extraordinaire Jaime Llopes wrapped about 14 rolls of tape around the injured ankle and Matt gamely returned to the pitch. Matt was a trooper as he got around the field while in obvious discomfort and finished calling a fine game.

Although the final score was a lopsided 43-14 in favor of Jesuit, the score does not reflect the intensity and effort put in for the entire game by a well schooled Falcon team. Neither school asks or gives any quarter in this intense parochial rivalry.

Mother "Over"Loded Twice At Oak Ridge

Oak Ridge

April 29 2006

If ever there was doubt about the strength of Jesuit's Rugby program, the two wins by its Frosh/Soph and Varsity B teams over tough Mother Lode in the Sacramento Valley Championship play-offs should have laid to rest those doubts.

With Jesuit's Varsity squad of 25 not available because of the vital Norcal semi-final against Lamorinda the next day, the frosh/soph and Varsity B teams that took the field were not as strong as might have been had the Varsity bench of 10 players been available.

Jesuit players answered the call in BIG numbers. Some 43 boys turned up for the frosh/soph game and somehow "Master Magician" Coach Dave Miller ensured that all boys saw as much game time as possible.

Despite the constant changing of the players Jesuit frosh/soph turned in one of its most exciting performances to overrun Mother Lode 46-5. Aussie coach Barry O'Connell, who was on a vital talent scouting mission for the future, was amazed. His black book came out on many occasions during the game.

It was almost impossible to keep track of all who played and it may be unfair to mention individual players here but it was some impressive performance. We now await the game against Christian Brothers, another big win and a place in the final against Cougars.

The scoring may have gone something like this:-

Jesuit: 46

Tries: Westerman 2, Sparks, Waterville, Bovill, Silva, Slionowski, A.Nonymous

Conversions: Westerman 3

Mother Lode: 5

Try: 1

If the frosh/soph game was an eye-opener, the first half of the Varsity B game in particular was stunning. The varsity XV would have been proud of the outstanding ball movement displayed by the Varsity B during this game. Again numbers present and ready to play were over 30 and they would all see game time as coaches Greg Joseph and Ryan De Mar shuffled the cards.

The ball "flew" around the field as Jesuit launched attack after attack on the Mother Lode line. The Jesuit back row foursome of Sam Welch, John Lucas, Alex Ilium and Craig Fugina totally controlled Mother Lode's attack with ferocious defense.

Lucas opened the scoring early with a terrier-like try that was converted by full back Trent Fischer. Jesuit scored a classic try after breathtaking ball movement with winger Nathan Esch finishing off the try in style.

Lucas decided to get onto the scoring sheet again when he handled twice in a great sweeping movement to cross for his second try. Again Fischer converted and Jesuit led 19-0. Not to be content with this score line, Jesuit scored two more classic tries. Lucas and half back Conor Worden worked the weak side for Worden to handle twice before scoring.

The try just before half time by flanker Sam Welch was probably the best of the half. The support running was of the highest order with at least ten players handling before the try was scored.

With Jesuit ahead at half time 29-0, it might have been forgiven if it took the foot off the accelerator but the Marauders had other ideas. Sophomore center Tanner Heaphy opened the scoring with a well taken try after being set up by sophomore stand off Beau Charter.

#8 Alex Ilium whose work rate would do any international #8 proud was rewarded for his hard work when he materialized in support to crash over. The conversion by Zack Kaufman rounded out the scoring for an impressive Jesuit performance.

Jesuit 1-15: Columbero/Paquette, Sehr/Lopez, Mackay/Nunez, Wilmes/Barnes, Door/Lucas, Welch/Calhoun, Lucas/Miller, Fugina/Ilium, Worden, Heaphy/Charter, Sheehan/Longo, Davies/Telford/Kaufman, Driver, Esch/Moro, Fischer/Harris and a few more who slipped under the radar.

Jesuit: 41

Tries: Lucas 2, Esch, Worden, Welch, Heaphy, Ilium

Conversions: Fischer 2, Kaufman

Mother Lode: 0

Congratulations to Coaches Miller, Poindexter, Joseph and De Mar, the many parents who trekked to Oak Ridge for the games, and of course the 70+ players who did the Jesuit Rugby program proud

Leprechauns Ambush Bandidos

"Stars of the Future" game highlights the depth of Jesuit Rugby

Jesuit Rugby Pitch

April 30 2006

"Stars of the Future" games for our frosh/soph players have unearthed much of the current playing talent in today's Jesuit Varsity XV playing against Lamorinda after this game concludes. The games are a vital "talent quest" for our Rugby program. This game was no exception.

The game pitted the Leprechauns of coach Whit O'Poindexter against the Bandidos of coach Spencer Puente. The "little men" proved too cunning for the Bandidos, letting them have field position for long periods of time before "stealing" the ball and racing away to score long range tries.

The final score read 46-7 to the Leprechauns but the rumor is that some little people were seen slyly pressing buttons on the score board remote control and that the score may have actually have been much closer.

Appearing in the game were: Jorge, Parr, Kay, Tarzwell, Johnson, Martin, Iritani, Bragg, Stover, Taylor, Sweeney, Shanahan, Gomez, Nguyen, Miller, Field, Rapattoni, Becerra, Maldonado, Pidd, Shunta, Monrean, Collins, Holmes, Petersen, Shannon, Schwan, Torshizi, Sheehan, Bovill, Mellon

O'Poindexter's Leprechauns: 46

Tries: Bovill 4, Johnson 2, Torshizi, Collins

Conversions: Sheehan 2, Torshizi

Puente's Bandidos: 7

Try: Holmes

Conversion: Petersen

Rugby Around The World

Super 14

Third last round

NSW Waratahs(Aust) 20 - Otago Highlanders(NZ) 3

Western Force(Aust) 34 - Cats(SA) 34

ACT Brumbies(Aust) 36 - Queensland Reds(Aust) 0

Wellington Hurricanes(NZ) 35 - Waikato Chiefs(NZ) 10

Auckland Blues(NZ) 34 - Cheetahs(SA) 33

Blue Bulls(SA) 34 - Coastal Sharks(SA) 27

Western Stormers(SA) 28 - Canterbury Crusaders(NZ) 17

Standings

NSW Waratahs 42

Canterbury Crusaders 42

Wellington Hurricanes 39

ACT Brumbies 37

Blue Bulls 33

Coastal Sharks 29

Waikato Chiefs 27

Auckland Blues 27

Western Stormers 22

Cheetahs 22

Otago Highlanders 22

Queensland Reds 17

Cats 9

Western Force 7

Second last round

Hurricanes v Reds

Blue Bulls v Cheetahs

Chiefs v Waratahs

Brumbies v Highlanders

Cheetahs v Western Force

Sharks v Western Stormers

Cats v Auckland Blues

Special Mention Department

To Jon Tesar for continuing to produce overnight copies of games we ask him to tape. Not only do coaches have a tape the next day, within two days copies are available for all players in that team. Coach Jon was sighted Tuesday in Vacaville at the Elsie Allen v Vacaville Norcal semi-final. Next day the game was being perused by the Jesuit Varsity coaches. Not only does the Varsity XV benefit, but the Varsity B and Frosh/Soph have been taped and players given a "souvenir" that could make good viewing at a player's 21st celebrations and the like.

To super photographer Bob Davies for an unbelievable montage of photos of the highest order. These photos can be found on the www.jesuitrugby.com website at the "Photos" site. We meant to have the unbelievable shot of Sam Welch scoring a try against Rancho Cordova Lancers in this newsletter but our web server is having a problem and the site is not available at the moment. Great job, Bob.

To Spencer Puente on his deserved promotion to the hallowed rank of Jesuit coach. Injured in the Vacaville League game and unable to play again this season, Spencer is now Coach Spencer who among other tasks will supervise the lineout throwing of our younger throwers. Unfortunately his Puente Bandidos were ambushed by Whit O'Poindexter's Leprechauns in Saturday's Stars of the Future game.

To Master Webmaster Ed Davila for continuing to produce a web site we believe to be the best in USA for High School Rugby. Though son, Chris, a Jesuit old boy, is now a key member of Sacramento State's rugby team, Ed keeps producing the goods in style.

Any questions, email sheldonoaks@hotmail.com. As soon as the web site is repaired all information about the trip will be posted.