

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol.IX No.12

May 5, 2005

Jesuit Bytes Silicon Valley

Through to Norcal Championship Game

Jesuit Rugby Field

30 April 2005

Jesuit 25 Silicon Valley 3

The Jesuit Marauders took a major step towards defending its National Championship when it overpowered a willing Silicon Valley team in an excellent running game of Rugby at Jesuit on Saturday.

The win will take them to a head-on collision with National Tier 2 champions, the Lobos of Elsie Allen (Santa Rosa) for the Norcal title at Jesuit 2.30pm on Saturday. The game between the Tier 1 and Tier 2 champions should be a blockbuster with the winner off to Stanford for the Nationals while the loser has 2006 to anticipate.

Firstly, it was a much better performance from the Marauders than the lackluster effort against Hayward the previous week. With the help of some excellent refereeing from Pete Smith, the game was continually on the move. Jesuit ran to a commanding 20-0 lead at the half time break but found Silicon Valley willing combatants during a rugged second half which saw Jesuit able to post only one try.

The memory of the Houdini escape the previous week obviously played on the minds of the Jesuit players who began this semi-final game with much improved focus and intensity. It took only six minutes for Jesuit to open the scoring and it was smart play from half back Pierce Cooley and stand off Colin Hawley that brought about the try by winger Dimitri Godamunne.

After a series of raids to the left, Hawley realized that the defense was short on the right. Cooley switched play that way for Hawley to time a pass perfectly for Godamunne to race over wide out. The conversion was wide but Jesuit had the momentum with a 5-0 lead.

A decisive sweep off the back of a well won Jesuit lineout saw captain Eric Fry plough his way through the Silicon Valley defense to score in a handy position. Again the goal kicking "blues" prevailed as the conversion swung wide.

Winger Sean McNamara scored the third try in the 18th minute when he finished off a backline move, eluding defenders to plunge over for the try. The conversion attempt from the touch line shaved the post.

Prop Matt MacKay, replacing Winston Welch, benefited from a classic mix-up by the Silicon Valley defense to score. Several Silicon Valley players fumbled the ball near their goal line. The ball spewed loose in the in-goal for MacKay to dive on the ball for the try. For the fourth time, the conversion from a handy position was wide but Jesuit turned at half time with a commanding 20-0 lead.

It took sixteen minutes for Jesuit to register what would be its only points of the second half - a juggling act by captain and center Ryan Taylor. Taylor had the ball jolted from his grasp as he dived for the line. The ball went straight to ground where Taylor won a battle to dive back on to the ball. Referee Pete Smith called it correctly as "no knock on, play on" and awarded the try.

With time running out, Silicon Valley their goal to get on the score board and did so late in the game with a fine long range penalty. Jesuit would have to be disappointed with the goal kicking again with five tries being scored and not one was converted.

The Hayward game saw Jesuit miss all its kicks as well yet the team carries three very good kickers. Goal kicking has been on the menu at every practice this week.

Jesuit would have been happy with its defense. The two games v Hayward and Silicon Valley has seen Jesuit give up just one try in the two games. Its lineout built around Alec Murchison, Zack Reed and Ted Watje again dominated. The scrum caused Silicon Valley considerable problem while the backs moved the ball much more impressively that they did the previous week.

The only downside was the knee injury suffered by the very talented sophomore Ian Forner. It was not even a tackle situation, however he fell awkwardly and suffered an injury that will require surgery. He will be sorely missed as his electrifying running has been the talk of Jesuit Rugby at play-off time.

Silicon Valley selected Eric Fry as the best forward and Colin Hawley as the best back.

Jesuit 1-15

Colombero, Malim, Welch, Law, Murchison, French, Reed, Fry, MacKay, Misso, Frandrup, Dodd, Marsh, Cooley, Hawley, McNamara, Siegel, Taylor, Godamunne, Scott, Gamache, Forner, Champion.

Jesuit 25

Tries: Godamunne, Fry, McNamara, MacKay, Taylor

Silicon Valley 3

Norcal Championship Game

Jesuit V Elsie Allen

Jesuit Rugby Field

Saturday 7 May 2005, 2:30pm

Referee: Dr. Bruce Carter

Your last chance to see your defending National Champion Marauders play at home this season.

Sacramento Valley Championships

One Win, One Loss For The Marauders

Frosh Soph Championship game

Jesuit 25 Rio Americano 5

Senior B Championship game

Rio Linda 31 Jesuit 13

Jesuit hosted the finals of the Sacramento Valley Championships on Friday. Two highly entertaining games were played with some scintillating Rugby being played.

In the first game, Jesuit frosh/soph overcame a dynamic start from Rio Americano with a powerful second half display to take the championship 25-5. Our congratulations to coaches Marty and Whit and the very talented squad who look like making a great impact on Jesuit Rugby over the next few seasons.

The powerful Rio Linda team proved to be simply too big for a willing Jesuit senior B squad. Jesuit began the game in great style and actually led at the half time break, however the wear and tear of tackling the big Rio Linda players slowed Jesuit and Rio Linda came out very deserving winners. In the first half, Tim Harris kept the Rio Lindans at bay with his strategic kicking to the

tram lines. The backline made several forays into enemy territory but lacked one pass to score. In the second half, the men from Rio Linda began countering the kicks with strong running and continuity that wore down the Jesuit B's playing with very few extra hands. Good sportsmanship carried the day and Rio Linda seems to advance to varsity level with this B championship in their inaugural year.

The two games capped a most successful season for Jesuit's senior B and frosh/soph players. There is talent a'plenty at Jesuit.

## The Collegiate and Alumni Report

By Doug Hamilton

The USARFU held its collegiate championships this past weekend in a full weekend of rugby at Stanford's impressive Steuber Rugby Facility. By the time the final whistle blew on Saturday, four champions had been crowned in both Divisions I and II for men and women.

It was thought that this years men's round of four might actually present a challenge to perennial champion California as the Bears' semi-final opponent was Navy, a traditional power who had already pulled an upset win over the rival Air Force Academy on Air Force's home pitch. While Navy played a tough match, they could not cross the goal line and Cal seemed to do so at will. Cal ended up winning, 50-6, with the exclamation point delivered by a steal and 60 meter run by a prop. Louis Stanfill scored in the win, while Joe Welch and Andrew Lindsey joined Louis in the starting line-up.

In the other semi-final, in-state rivals BYU and Utah met in a rematch of the Wasatch Cup which Utah had won by a narrow 2 point margin. On Friday BYU went ahead early and seemed to have the match in control as they led, 17-3, with time running out in the first half. Utah however scored just before the break, and then began the second half with three unanswered tries to take a 31-17 lead. BYU scored twice but was unable to convert on either try, and the Utes won, 31-27.

By all accounts Saturday's final was a lot tougher contest than indicated by the eventual 44-7 score. Although Utah demonstrated speed and excellent timing in the backs, Cal's defense and

ability to capitalize on errors and turnovers, while not committing errors and not turning the ball over proved that once again Cal plays at another level. Louis Stanfill and Andrew Lindsey played in the championship match for the Bears.

It was a good day all around for blue & gold Bears as the Bears of the University of Northern Colorado defeated the Humboldt State Lumberjacks to win the men's D-II championship. Northern Colorado, like BYU the day before, went out early and seemed to have the title locked up early in the second period as they held a 21-0 lead. Humboldt then got on track and eventually went ahead, 22-21, on that rarest of plays, the drop kick. Unfortunately for the 'Jacks, with four minutes remaining Northern Colorado's kicker, who has been a consistent asset for the Bears all season, made a penalty kick that proved to be the game winner in UNC's 24-22 win.

With the championships completed college rugby is finished for this year. Some players will play in territorial all-star competitions with an eye on the national territorial all-star tournament which is still a significant opportunity for selection for the USA Eagles. Many of those same players will hope to play on the All-American College touring side. Best of luck to all Marauder alums in their "off-season" rugby, and congratulations on a great year.

## Rugby Around The World

Super 12

Round 10

Canterbury Crusaders 77 Natal Sharks 34

Queensland Reds 21 Cats 15

NSW Waratahs 41 Otago Highlanders 20

Blue Bulls 38 Auckland Blues 24

Waikato Chiefs 37 Western Stormers 34

Wellington Hurricanes 49 ACT Brumbies 37

Points Table

Waratahs(Aust) 36

Crusaders(NZ) 35

Hurricanes(NZ) 30

Highlanders(NZ) 27

Blues(NZ) 26

Bulls(Sth Afr) 25

Brumbies(Aust) 20

Chiefs(NZ) 20

Reds(Aust) 17

Stormers(Sth Afr) 14

Cats(Sth Afr) 10

Sharks(Sth Afr) 8

Round 11

Blues v Hurricanes

Waratahs v Reds

Highlanders v Crusaders

Brumbies v Chiefs

Sharks v Bulls

Stormers v Cats

Norcal Championships

Semi-finals

Jesuit 25 Silicon Valley 3 Elsie Allen 15 De La Salle 0

## Hear and There

\*\* Welcome back to Nate Floyd and Joe Casanova. Both are back from injury just in time to hopefully help the Jesuit Championship cause. Nate could be a welcome addition to our goal kicking stocks. It has been 0-10 for the Jesuit kickers over the last two games - and we do have very good kickers!!!

\*\* Our sophomores continue to amaze us. We are blessed with so many talented sophomores and freshmen. Coach Marty is "chief spotter and talent scout" and is often seen discussing the talents of the young brigade with Coach Barry who almost has an obsession about staging "Stars of the Future" games. The loss of our "super stud soph" Ian Forner however had coaches reaching for the Kleenex tissues.

\*\* The "Mr Versatility" Award for 2005 must go to the ever smiling Joe Casanova. Two weeks ago he was scrimmaging at practice, ten minutes later he was running at inside center where he played for the Hayward game. Back to the forwards, his last scrum practice session saw him start at loose head, move to tight head then to hooker. Just a few games back he played #8. That's versatility!!

\*\* Many half backs these days are big boys, particularly in top teams. Some are tall, some are wide, some are heavy - so relax Pierce!! Many teams regard their half back as the ninth forward. With his work rate and willingness to mix it with the opposing forwards, Pierce fills the bill.

\*\* Many players still have t-shirts, track suits, and other gear to pick up. Contact Coach Vern or keep track of the web site for a future pick up date.

Any questions, call 682-2858 or email [sheldonoaks@hotmail.com](mailto:sheldonoaks@hotmail.com)