

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol 14 No. 5

Varsity Fires With Dynamic Twin Wins

Jesuit Rugby at its absolute best! Jesuit's Varsity team, a little short of its best form in recent weeks, came to life with two most impressive wins on Friday and Saturday. Friday saw it overrun a gallant Granite Bay 71-5 in a display that left little to be desired.

The decided to back it up the next day with possibly the best performance by a Jesuit Varsity XV in a long time when it outplayed Bay-area powerhouse, San Francisco/Golden Gate, 43-12 at Jesuit's Rugby Field. There was so much to like about both performances.

To prepare for the SF/GG game, it was decided to run the full Varsity XV early against Granite Bay. The signs that the Jesuit caches had been looking for – sweeping Rugby moves and smart continuity – appeared.

Jesuit ran to a 43-0 lead at half time with early tries from wingers Dominic Ferri and Matt Chipman. Full back Gabe Hollis added another backs try before hooker Joe Lagomarsino crossed. Half back Nick Boyer who had replaced the concussed Grant Penney charged down a Granite Bay clearing kick to dot the ball down.

Number eight Jason Fry was center piece of the next try. He made a dynamic run from a ruck, straight arming two GB players in the process. When tackled, the Jesuit forwards carried the ball forward before Fry reappeared to take the final pass before diving over for a classic try.

Center Jackson Welch closed out the try scoring for the half when he provided great support to a Jesuit charge at the Granite Bay line. Penney kicked two conversions before being injured as did standoff James Poindexter.

With a view to saving legs for what would be one of the toughest battles of the season the next day, Jesuit rang changes. Surprisingly the new look team kept up the rate of scoring of the first half.

Standoff James Poindexter decided to leave his mark on the game with a slashing run through the defense to touch down. Number eight Nick Leif engineered the next try from the scrum base for half back Nick Boyer.

To its credit Granite Bay fought back tenaciously and was rewarded with a try after bombarding the Jesuit line. Full back Sam Wilson closed out the scoring for Jesuit when he scored after a weaving run that bamboozled the defense. Best back award went to James Poindexter while Jason Fry was voted best forward.

Former Jesuit Varsity star Joe Androvich, now one of the top referees in Norcal, handled the game in style.

Jesuit 71 (Boyer 2, Ferri, Chipman, Hollis, Lagomarsino, Welch, Fry, Poindexter, Gately, Wilson tries, Poindexter 4, Penney 2, Barrientes 2 conversions) def GRANITE BAY 5 (Try 1)

Jesuit – Himmelmann, Lagomarsino, Donaldson, Rockwell, Bush, Colwell, Torres, J.Fry, Penney/Boyer, Poindexter, Ferri, FERENCE, Welch, Chipman, Hollis – Ainsley, Brown, Cowie, Rockwell, C.Fry, French, Leif, Brown, Barrientes, Cairns, Bos, Kuppenbender, Wilson, Heath

Varsity Win Over Sf/Gg All Class

Jesuit 43 - San Francisco/Golden Gate 12

Make no mistake, Jesuit Varsity XV set itself for a memorable performance against Bay powerhouse, San Francisco/Golden Gate and delivered exactly that. The performance was so impressive it had the long time coaches of the team wondering how this performance ranked all time – “up there” was the agreement.

The Marauders had been somewhat disappointing so far but rugged practices during the week suggested that better was not far away particularly in continuity and the speed that Jesuit played the game. The dry field also would prove most helpful to the running game of the Marauders.

The game was balanced early and it took ten minutes for the first points to be registered, a neat penalty from 30 meters out by Jesuit standoff, James Poindexter. A bad defensive lapse in the fifteenth minute by Jesuit defenders however allowed SF/GG in for a well taken try and with the conversion the visitors led 7-3.

Jesuit’s rugged defense and powerful counter rucking prevented the visitors from scoring again for the next 48 minutes while the Marauder running game went into overdrive. It regained the lead after Jason Fry won a lineout ten meters from the visitor’s line. #8 Nick Leif, who had a blockbusting game, charged down the weak side to cross untouched and a Jesuit 8-7 lead.

Lock, Michael Bush, who also played most impressively, set up the next try when he charged 45 meters downfield before being tackled. Jesuit quickly won the subsequent ruck and quick hands saw full back, Sam Wilson, over for the try. Poindexter converted and Jesuit went to the break ahead 15-7.

Jesuit expected to have to withstand a battering from SF/GG to start the second half but Jesuit sealed the game with two converted tries in the first eight minutes. Nick Leif began the burst with a try from the base of a scrum, initiated by Jason Fry and carried on by Nick Boyer.

Wing Gabe Hollis scored next after James Poindexter made a scything run and set up an overlap for Hollis to dive over in the corner. Poindexter topped off his run by converting from the sideline and Jesuit’s lead of 29-7 was going to be hard to peg back.

It became more difficult when center Matt Ference intercepted a loose SF/GG pass and raced 65 meters to score and with the conversion successful Jesuit led 36-7. Winger Matt Chipman closed out the Jesuit scoring when Poindexter made another decisive run to send the Jesuit flyer over. Again Poindexter converted from a wide angle to give the Marauders a 43-7 lead.

The visitors would not be denied. They launched a series of raids on the Jesuit line and were rewarded with a driving forwards try to close out their scoring. Excellent control by referee Richard Anderson helped make the game the spectacle it was.

Every Jesuit player had very good games but the visitors awarded best forward to tough prop Joey Donaldson and best back to stand off James Poindexter. The Jesuit running game had returned.

Jesuit 43 (Leif 2, Wilson, Ference, Hollis, Chipman tries, Poindexter penalty, 5 conversions) def SAN FRANCISCO/GOLDEN GATE 12 (two tries, one conversion)

Jesuit – Himmelmann, Ainsley, Lagomarsino, Brown, Donaldson, Cowie, Bush, C.Fry, Rockwell, J.Fry, Leif, Torres, Boyer, Brown, Poindexter, Barrientes, Ference, Welch, Chipman, Hollis, Bos, Wilson, Kuppenbender.

Numbers Don't Carry The Day For Varsity B

Jesuit 10 - San Francisco/Golden Gate 22

Jesuit had the troops, some 31 of them, but SF/GG had the power and came away with a deserved 22-10 victory over the Marauders in an entertaining game that closed out Rugby for the day.

SF/GG monopolized the ball in the early stages and Jesuit found itself trailing 0-12 after twenty minutes of the game. It was not until shortly before half time that Jesuit score through its "Mr Versatility" Cody French. French finished off a series of ruck wins by Jesuit to cross for a fine try.

The visitors hit back immediately with a try to take them to the lead 5- 17 at the break. Jesuit substituted virtually its whole team but the result was that both teams scored a try during the second half.

Jesuit's came from center Clancy Smith who finished a series of ruck wins on the SF/GG try line by diving over for the try. The visitors controlled play for the balance of the game and scored a fourth try as time ran out.

Jesuit 10 (French, Smith tries) lost to SAN FRANCISCO/GOLDEN GATE 22 (four tries, one conversion)

Jesuit – Ainsley, Brown, Cowie, Breault, Rockwell, French, Torres, Casanova, Brown, Barrientes, Rozowski, Chacon, Smith, Bos, Kuppenbender

Trenton, Gately, Holbus, Ilanovich, Houlahan, Briand, Celli, Marsch, Summers, Phillips, Heath, Hansen, Little, Paulsen, Devaney, Basurto and probably others unfortunately missed.

Rain No Deterrent To Freshmen

Report by coach Arnold Torres

Jesuit 24 - McClatchy 5

This game was played in driving rain for 50 of the 60 minutes. Despite very tough playing conditions the team played an excellent game. Forwards played a fine game with good solid, rucking, team tackling and running with the highlights being a great score by Andrew Augustine on an excellent lineout play with hooker Alejandro Torres from 22 yards, a long run of 50 yards from Mark Poindexter and several long and tough runs from Holt Johnston and Ian Hause.

The backs had consistently strong runs from good passing with Matt Ternan scoring twice on crashes. All of the Jesuit full backs and wings played fine games catching virtually all of the many kicks that came their way throughout the game. Matt Ternan was voted back of the game and Mark Poindexter was voted forward of the game.

Jesuit had three players who played their first game and all played a good game. A total of 38 players contributed to a fine showing by the Jesuit freshmen against a strong and willing McClatchy team who played hard and clean throughout the game.

Killer B's Get The Better Of The Saints

Jesuit 36 - St Mary's Saints 17

Jesuit Killer B's had too much experience for first year team, St Mary's Saints, full of talent but short of the knowledge of how to use it. To the Saint's credit they stayed with the Marauders and had the pleasure of scoring the first try and leading 7-0 for some time.

The game was entertaining if a little stop-and-start but both teams must get credit for trying to keep the ball alive at every opportunity. The Saint's backline, full of dangerous runners, just could not get started, finding it hard to get over the line of advantage. This meant that its pack spent a deal of time having to run backwards to where play was.

However the Saints produced the player of the match – their flying, diminutive junior left winger – who scored all three tries for the team. His pace and swerve simply mesmerized the Jesuit defense and he continually left a trail of defenders grasping at thin air.

When Jesuit was able to string together a number of phases its backs found space as the Saint's defense had problems resetting itself. This will improve for the visitors with more experience.

St Mary's produced a big, tough scrum but had problems getting any ball from lineouts which meant that the team spent much time tackling. Peter Casanova was voted best forward while a not-so-well winger Willem Bos was voted best back.

Jesuit 36 (Bos 2, Marsch, French, Briand, Gately tries, Barrientes 2, Chacon conversions) def ST MARY'S SAINTS 17 (Tries 3, Conversions 1)

Jesuit – Ainsley, Trenton, Brown, Holbus, Gately, Cowie, Ilanovich, Breault, Briand, French, Marsch, Torres, Casanova, Caccamo, Brown, Barrientes, Bos, Chacon, Heath, Winn, Smith, Paulsen, Rozowski, Paulsen, Devaney, Kuppenbender, Celli, Castrejon, Little, Sheehan and others not identified.

Rugby Around The World

SUPER 14

Bulls (SA) 19 - Hurricanes (NZ) 18

Blues (NZ) 39 - Brumbies (Aust) 34

Crusaders (NZ) 46 - Lions (SA) 19

Sharks (SA) 30 - Highlanders (NZ) 16

Waratahs (Aust) 14 - Force (Aust) 10

Stormers (SA) 21 - Cheetahs (SA) 8

Ladder:- Bulls 24, Stormers 23, Crusaders 23, Waratahs 18, Brumbies 17, Chiefs 16, Reds 15, Hurricanes 15, Blues 14, Cheetahs 9, Sharks 8, Highlanders 6, Lions 2, Force 1.

SIX NATIONS

Final round

France 12 - England 10

Scotland 23 - Ireland 20

Wales 33 - Italy 10

Final ladder

France 10 (Grand Slam Champions), Ireland 6, England 5, Wales 4, Scotland 3, Italy 2

Cheers And Jeers

What a day of great Rugby Saturday at the Jesuit Rugby Field! The Sun God shone on us – dry field, balmy day, big crowd, great numbers of Jesuit Rugby players and, once again, great food at the barbecue.

The Freshmen survived a whirlwind finish by SF/GG to win a thriller 22-20, the Sophomores fought manfully before going down 7-17. The Varsity A and B details are above.

Talk about numbers! The Freshmen had more than two teams available to choose from as did the Sophomores while the Varsity fielded more than three teams of players during the two games. Estimates are that over 120 players pulled on the Jesuit jersey. Long may that be the case!

Four games, no incidents, no yellow cards – just the way Rugby was meant to be played. Our San Francisco/Golden Gate guests, here for the first time ever, very much helped to make it the day it was.

Again thanks to the “slaves” working over the hot barbecue hot plates all day. Another cordon blue effort!

No final decision as this is written concerning the first round of the Sacramento Valley HSRC play-offs. It could be as early as next week. Information will be posted as soon as facts are known.