

Match #7: 2005 Season

Game #7: Chico Mighty Oaks (Chico Jr High School)

Date: Saturday, March 12

Result: Berkeley 7 - Chico 33

Try: Joel Drescher

Conversion: Joel Drescher

Berkeley boarded their decked out limousine party bus and made the long trip up to Chico to face off against the 2002 National Champions. Arriving to discover a sweltering 82 degree day Berkeley showed Chico some heat by consistently driving the bigger Chico pack backwards in scrum time, threatening a push-over try from one penalty. Several other scoring opportunities were either not quite there, or not quite seen by the ref, while controversy surrounded a couple of the Chico scores. Overall, a hard and close fought game between two competitive and good spirited sides. Frustrated with the loss, Berkeley reclaimed some pride with an emphatic boat race victory at the enjoyable post match event. On the return trip, the party bus lived up to it's name and the touring group made the most of the evening.

Referee Report - Bjorn Stumer:

A beautiful day of rugby in Chico, played at Chico's Middle School saw two fit and determined teams who came to do battle, and to honor our sport through their gracious and enthusiastic behavior. Although this was a fierce encounter, both sides respected each other and your referee, something that rubbed off on the crowd as well. It was a true pleasure to be part of this event, as the fun that the players were having was quite evident. Although this was Chico's day, as they ran in 4 tries, Berkeley did not let the fact that half of their side was missing due to exams back at home. They fought throughout and the final score truly does not give accurate reflection to their skill and determination. This was a fast match, played by two solid pack of forwards and by agile backs. The many runs met with roaring approval from the crowd of supporters who also appreciate the hard tackling and determined scrums.

A few penalties for holding the ball at the tackle and for tacklers not rolling away resulted in 9 points of penalty. Berkeley never gave up though and their efforts finally paid off with a late converted try. Overall a fantastic day, well worth the long drive from the Bay Area.