

## Week #1 Match Report

**Date:** Saturday, October 23rd (McClatchy High School. Sacramento)

**Result:** Berkeley 10 v McGeorge 7

**Tries:** Lucus Ronconi, John Mastromonaco

On a wet and muddy day in Sacramento, Berkeley began their season with a road trip. This was an opportunity for 7-8 of the new players to get their first taste of rugby, and by and large the game was an encouraging start to the season. The debutants all acquitted themselves well, the pack showed some awesome power at scrum time, and the backs made some strong sniping runs. However Berkeley could not capitalize on some early try scoring opportunities, and had some problems retaining possession, and McGeorge led 7-0 at the half. Berkeley were able to raise their game significantly in the second half, and ran out 10-7 winners.

### Referee's Report - Matt Eason:

I'm Baaaaaack. Having taken a self-imposed sabbatical last year, I started the 2004-2005 campaign off the way it all started many years ago: A good ole-fashion D-III friendly in the rain. Only this time it was like I dreamed with a 50 piece marching band in attendance (OK, they were a field over, but it was still cool).

Cal Grad admittedly came to town with 3/4 dozen accents, several former rep side players, and a handful of first timers, expected to overpower, out skill, and overrun McGeorge. What Cal Grad's "American Style" coach, Paul Berman, had not counted on was McGeorge's "bring 'em down to our style of rugby" game plan. In a game filled with knock-ons, belching, and penalties, McGeorge out-rucked their opponents to a 7-0 victory after the pre-agreed upon three 20 minute periods.

Each side wanting to play in the rain some more, they agreed to a second game of one 20 minute period. Cal Grads out-ran, out-maneuvered, and out-lasting McGeorge 10-0.

Again, not wanting to end the day in a draw, the two sides agreed to a rubber match, but this time it was to be a boat race. Cal Grad's come-from-behind victory declared them triumphant on the day.

Injury Report: U.S. Eagle John Buchholz for McGeorge injured his knee in the first period, but return is probable. K. Khasigian for McGeorge is still recovering from elective eye surgery, but he should be ready for mid to late Spring season.