

St. Joseph's Prep Rugby Tackles Breast Cancer
3rd Annual Fundraiser Charity Event
in support of
The Kelly Rooney Foundation
16 May 2010



Prep Rugby hosted the 3rd Annual Breast Cancer Charity Tournament in support of *The Kelly Rooney Foundation* and *Save 2nd Base*. This year's event was again held at Memorial Hall Field and the Prep was joined by South Jersey RFC, Conestoga RFC and WC East / WC Rustin RFC. Once again this year, two sets of jerseys were made for the day, in the contrasting pink and green colors of the charity.

Prep coach Tom Farren, Sr. '94 and former Prep Rugger Mike Farren '08 lost their mom, Anne, to cancer a few years ago and the proceeds from the day will go to the Kelly Foundation in her memory. Kelly Rooney is the wife of Sean Rooney, a 1980 graduate of The Prep, who passed away on July 11, 2006 after a courageous, four-year battle with breast cancer. She was 43. For more info: <http://www.save2ndbase.com/>

EPRU Refs Ryan Williams and Olivia Nigh started the action on time at 12:00. The day started with St. Joe's taking on Conestoga. As the opening game, both teams knew they had to come out strong and that they did. It was aggressive rugby early on, with Conestoga taking some key early momentum. Prep had to dig down to match the intensity and was able to do so, slowly beginning to chip away at the Conestoga defense and win the game: 20 – 7. The next game saw WC East v. South Jersey. Early on, WC East showed dominance of field position, threatening to score and staying inside the South Jersey 22 meter line for close to 10 minutes. After WC East broke through, they seemed to have figured out a chink in the armor and started to attack, going up and staying up for the win: 27 – 5.

After a brief rest, St. Joe's came back out to take on WC East. Continuing the same tough style of play, WC East came out hungry. Prep had by now focused in on the day and were able to match the intensity. It was an early back and forth contest, with each team rucking and tackling well. Prep was able to control the ball and take advantage of some key penalties to break the stalemate and go ahead. They held on to win: 38 – 0. Game 4 saw South Jersey taking on Conestoga. With both teams able to get some rest, the game saw quick action early on, and each was pushing to take the game and fight for the number two seed v. WC East. As Conestoga took the controlling lead, they put themselves in a point tie with WC East, and with but a few minutes remaining, they scored one more try, which broke the game points tie and made them the #2 seed and won: 25 – 5.

St. Joe's Prep and Conestoga took the pitch at 4:00 p.m. for the Championship game. Both teams had seen tough games that day, and both teams had seen success. This last game was the lynch pin and the goal was winning the new Breast Cancer Charity Tournament Cup. The first half was saw each team not giving much ground and trading tries. Fortunately, for St. Joe's, Conestoga missed their conversions, so going into halftime it was Prep with a slight lead: 14 – 10. The second half was going to have to be aggressive for St. Joe's to win – and it was. Prep came out smelling victory and knew that the game was within reach, but Conestoga was also seeing the win. After a try and conversion, Prep's lead was 21 – 10; a penalty kick made it 24 – 10, and **for the first time in Prep Rugby history**, a drop goal was scored by Max Coar to put the game nearly out of reach: 27 – 10. One more try sealed the game. Prep was able to claim the 3rd Annual Breast Cancer Tournament Cup: 34 – 10.

It was a thrilling end to a great day of rugby and every team and every player made the day special. Several hundred people were in attendance at the field, including many parents, grandparents, siblings, team supporters and alumni, as well as each team with their own entourage of parents, friends and supporters. With the incredible support of parents, Prep Rugby was also able to provide food and drink for all players, and had a stand with t-shirts, magnets and stickers for sale – all proceeds going to *Save 2nd Base*.

It was a great rugby day and a positive 3rd tournament in which several hundred high school boys showed the men they are by wearing pink jerseys in support of a cause which affects us all.

Thank you all!!

