

# St. Joseph's Prep Rugby Tackles Breast Cancer 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser Charity Event in support of The Kelly Rooney Foundation



May 10, 2009 Prep Rugby hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Breast Cancer Charity Game in support of *The Kelly Rooney Foundation* and *Save 2<sup>nd</sup> Base*. This year's event coincided with the EPRU Southern District Tournament, and so the 2<sup>nd</sup> charity game advanced into the 1<sup>st</sup> charity tournament. Prep Rugby was joined by Salesianum RFC of DE, Second City Troop RFC of Radnor, PA, Jersey Cape Storm RFC of NJ. Xavier RFC of New York also sent a side down for a B Side friendly game. This year, two sets of jerseys were made for the day, in the contrasting pink and green colors of the charity.

Prep coach Tom Faren, 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 Paul McGregor and Olivia Nigh started the action on time at 12:30. The day started with Salesianum taking on Second City Troop. While Salesianum had the early upper hand, Second City fought back and made it a tight game. Salesianum proved to be too much, though, and took the game 22 – 7. Prep Rugby started their day against a somewhat depleted Jersey Cape Storm side and was able to take advantage and win 55 – 5. As the district teams took a break, Xavier took on a combination of Salesianum and St. Joe's Prep, coming out with energy and skill after a long bus drive down from NYC. They turned right around and played St. Joe's B Grey side. This game was a little tighter, and both teams were clearly hungry for the win. Xavier struck first and then made efforts to control possession. It was not until there were but minutes left to play that Dan Staub went on a 60 meter run to touch down a try and tie the game.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> place game saw Second City Troop in clear control of the game. While the Jersey Cape Stormers played hard, Second City was just too much for them, and SCT won 40 – 0. The championship game came down to Prep and Salesianum. With Prep in the pink jerseys, Salesianum returned the gesture by wearing the specially made green jerseys. From the start, both teams wanted to win the inaugural tournament. Salesianum struck first and then kept Prep in check. But SJP would not give in so easily, and so continued to chip away at Salesianum's defenses – easier said than done and Salesianum kept the lead. While Prep was able to get into Salesianum's half, it took until there were but five minutes left before Prep could touch down a try to tie the game. Such an exciting game on such a positive day seemed to demand that a winner merited being named. With both coaches and the ref agreeing, there was one, sudden death, 10 minute overtime. Watching two determined and skilled teams, it was clear it would take solid, phase play rugby to win. Prep kicked off to Salesianum, which allowed them to take the first offensive step. After several phases, Prep was able to drive a player out of bounds. Winning the line-out, the ball made its way through the hands of several forwards and finally to Phil Moran. Breaking into a half field sprint, Moran was brought down by solid defensive tackle. However, with good support, Sean Kelly was there to recover the ball. Into contact, he too had good support and he dished off to Jon Sharp who was able to touch down and win the game.

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. 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 for sale.

*Save 2<sup>nd</sup> Base* had a stand promoting the charity and Sean Rooney – although not scheduled due to other commitments – made a visit and watched some rugby. It was a great rugby day and a positive 2<sup>nd</sup> event 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!