

Hendrickson hat trick powers PITS past De La Salle

By Milt O'Malley

Carl Hendrickson ran riot with three tries to power Piedmont's rugby team (Piedmont International Touring Side) to a 26-17 drubbing of De La Salle on Friday night in Walnut Creek.

De La Salle had no answer for Hendrickson, PITS's 8-man. Hendrickson pulled the ball from a scrum set up by Jesse Milne, and rammed through the heart of the Spartans' forward line for the first of his three tries. Charlie Sweeney added the conversion for a 7-0 PITS lead.

After a DLS try, Hendrickson capitalized on one of De La Salle's many turnovers, broke through the forwards at the 30, and then shredded Spartan backs like used tissues on his way to his second try. Sweeney again drilled the conversion.

De La Salle's lightning fast wing created a try for the home team 11 minutes before halftime, but another failed conversion left PITS up 14-10. Piedmont responded with short brutal bashes towards the try line. Ethan Kaiser-Klimst scored a try and set up Sweeney for his third conversion kick and a 21-10 lead at the half.

De La Salle's threatened in the second half on a breakaway by their inside center, who was met with force by PITS fullback Milne at the goal line. Milne's tackle pinned his opponent on his back so firmly that the ball could not be touched down for the try. PITS reinforcements soon arrived to push the squirming Spartan back onto the field of play.

Milne created PITS's final try, racing 65 yards through the Spartan defense, squib-kicking the ball through the last two defenders to the opposing fullback, who he then nailed and wrested the ball from at the five yard line. Hendrickson administered the coup, scoring his third try for a hat trick and an insurmountable 26-10 margin.

Hendrickson was named PITS's forwards Man of the Match, and flyhalf Sweeney was the backs Man of the Match.

PITS dedicated the match to



Photos by John Cooper

Carl Hendrickson broke into the Spartan try zone three times.

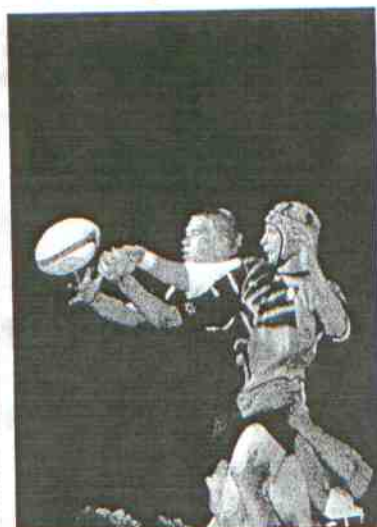


Photo by Sam Singer

Jake Olander is lifted high into the Friday night sky by Gabe Soper and Carson O'Conner to win the lineout vs. De La Salle.



Fullback Jesse Milne sprints past De La Salle defenders in a 65-yard run to position PITS for its victory over De La Salle.

the memory of the late Oakland Police Officer John Hege, a Piedmont High grad who played on the PITS team in 1983-84. Their jerseys now bear his initials and badge number. A minute of silence was observed prior to the match, as the flag was lowered by De La Salle and Piedmont

rugby players to half-mast.

UP NEXT

Piedmont rugby (4-2 overall, 2-2 Conference) returns to Witter Field this Saturday, April 4, for a 6:30 p.m. battle with the Hayward Griffins.

Rugby team car wash on Sun.

Piedmont's rugby team, PITS, will hold its annual car wash this Sunday, April 5 at the Valero Station on Highland Avenue. The rugby club is not a school team and exists entirely on player dues, donations and fund-raising activities.

The car wash opens at 11 a.m.

and will continue through the afternoon. Members of the community are invited to get a complete car wash for \$15. Proceeds will help buy practice rugby equipment, pay coaches and trainers, and provide funding for scholarship programs supported by PITS.