

HAIL PELICUS

MONDAY, JUNE 05, 2006

ON A MISSION

HAIL, PELICUS!

HERE'S HOPING TO SEE YOU ALL WEEK

Wednesday evening the place to be is Buck Shaw Stadium, where the Eagles will take on the New Zealand Maori at 7:30 PM.

Thursday and Friday you should be attending the Pelicon, Rugby through the Looking Glass. If you want to attend, let Scott Wood know, and if you want a room at the conference hotel any of the nights involved let Robyn Clever know.

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Friday night is our annual season-ending society banquet and awards ceremony.

Saturday there will be another Churchill Cup match followed by the Super League final in Santa Clara.

This is great stuff, and a great week to celebrate all that we have going for us in Northern California rugby refereeing.

ALL HAIL THE MISSION RUGBY CLUB!

MISSION 32 – Boston Irish Wolfhounds thirds 22 Referee: Tom Coburn

The notion of a national championship in the lowest division of play strikes some as oxymoronic.

But this writer has never met a rugby player who didn't play to win, even if the odds against it were incalculable. If we bother to keep score, we need to know who is the best.

So the problem becomes: how do you define a third division side, to make the competition fair?

One criterion of a legitimate third division side could be that the boys might be found in the bar the night before the biggest match of most of their careers.

The Mission RFC met this criterion.

Another might be that on game day, they would hang around by the pool letting the hot sun dehydrate them, and then their pre-game prep once they got to the pitch would consist solely of playing bugger.

The Mission RFC also met this stipulation.

A third possibility could be that a friend of many on the team, a player from a rival side, would show up to support them and be declared Coach.

That would be Greg Melton, a player known to referees far and wide and now a national-championship coach!

Then, critically, this bunch would need to play some inspired rugby on the day to win the big one.

How about this: they miss a penalty kick, which bounces off the post, gather it by following up keenly and then, two phases later, calmly take a mulligan drop-goal.

So, by any definition, Mission is a third division side. And now they are the sixth Northern California national champion in the first seven titles to be awarded in 2006.
