

Chad Barron	12	Ryan Borowsky
Enrico Ferri	13	James Short
Mark Ortiz	14	Ricardo Salmeron
Alex Leaupepe	15	Robert Balnis

Final:

Pearl City 32, Santa Barbara 5

The experience Pearl City gained in winning last year's D3 National Championship in San Diego seemed to pay off in spades, as they completely dominated Santa Barbara from the opening kick off.

Constant Pearl City pressure lead to a Grunion offside penalty in front of the posts at eight minutes and flyhalf Craig McMahon made no mistake, 3-0. Seven minutes later Pearl City countered down the weak side, resulting in a beautiful 45-meter try from wing Zac Lujan, with McMahon converting, 10-0.

Santa Barbara tried to change its fortune by bringing on subs Catlett and Nelson in the 20th minute. But unforced errors and knock-ons were the name of the game for the Grunions, while the Pearl City pack was more than happy to oblige with good ball to its back line.

A McMahon penalty brought the score to 13-0 in the 25th minute. Showing their skills, speedy Pearl City fullback Kory Schreiner scored a try in the 35th minute following a lovely chip by center Jon O'Connor.

With the half winding down, Pearl City won a lineout five meters from pay dirt, went tight with the forwards, then spun out wide to Dan Neitzel for a try just before the half, 25-0.

Second Half

Pearl City came out for the second half firing on all cylinders; McMahon controlling the game with precise kicking, while Santa Barbara remained on its heels.

A try by hooker Clay Buster in the 30th minute, converted by MVP Craig McMahon, ended Pearl City's scoring at 32. The only question remaining was if the boys from Iowa could maintain the shutout.

The Grunions finally got on the board with a brilliant individual effort by flyhalf Ken Karena, who chipped over his opposite and outpaced the covering defense for a try at the final whistle, 32-5

Craig McMahon was a deserving MVP who controlled the game from his flyhalf position on offense and played superbly at fullback when on defense.

SCORING: Pearl City: McMahon-2P, 3C; Lujan-T; Schreiner-T; Buster-T; Neitzel-T. **Santa Barbara:** Karena-T.

Santa Barbara		Pearl City
Mark Kelly	1	Ethan Guca
Keric Brown	2	Clay Buster
Dan Freedman	3	Joey Nanai
Tim Ahern	4	Tim Wilson
Donald Wise	5	Seth Shoemaker
Jeff Jacobsen	6	Mike Diamantopoulos
Ken Jacobsen	7	James MacDonald
Alex Walterspiel	8	Ben Neitzel
Hamish Smith	9	Tom Collins
Kenneth Karena	10	Craig McMahon
Mark Ortiz	11	Daniel Neitzel
Chad Barron	12	Roy Carver
Enrico Ferri	13	Jon O'Connor
John McWilliams	14	Zak Lujan
Alex Leaupepe	15	Kory Schreiner

Third Place:

Red Mountain

(Montauk did not show)

Red Mountain arrived at the Little Q on Sunday for the third place match, but Montauk was a no show.

Prior to the Final Four, two of Montauk's players, Justin Reid and Elliott McLaren, who had allegedly recently arrived from Scotland, were found to be ineligible. Montauk appealed, and at an arbitration meeting on Saturday found the two Montauk players were still deemed ineligible, but the team was allowed to play its semifinal.

OMBAC officials also received reports of boisterous behavior by the Montauk players on Saturday evening from staffers at the Courtyard Marriott, where the team was staying.

D3 National Club Championship: Mission 32, Boston Irish III 2

San Diego, CA
June 3, 2006

The Mission RFC from north California defeated the Boston Irish Wolfhounds (BIW) Third XV 32-22 to claim USA Rugby's 2006 Division III National Championship.

Paths To The Final

Mission's path to the final started with 53-20 quarterfinal domination of OMBAC and a 13-11 semifinal squeaker over Toledo Celtics in Columbia, SC, on May 14.

The Boston Irish posted impressive wins over Old Gaelic (PA) 43-12 in quarterfinal and the Memphis Blues 46-12 in its semifinal.

Final:

Mission 32, Boston Irish III 22

Outwardly, the two teams approached the game differently. Boston Irish was at pitch early, concentrating on their warm-ups, while Mission sauntered in as casual as possible. The early question, therefore, whether the well-drilled Wolfhounds relaxed Mission side would prevail.

Mission's go-for-broke sevens strategy struck first in the fifth minute with a try by center and match MVP, Viliami Tai, while flanker Arcia Dorsoti converted, 7-0. He replied in the 20th minute with a try by center Boris Pluskowski, 7-5.

Mission flyhalf Joe Domine nailed a goal shortly thereafter (10-5) but neither team could put together multiple phases as different styles cancelled each other out.

Finally, in the last minute of the half, Mission Irish magic produced a try for hooker Sean Kennedy and the teams went into intermission knotted at 10-10.

Second Half

The Wolfhounds took their first lead minutes after the restart, courtesy of a try by fullback Richard Delahaye. Mission leveled the scores with a try by front row Brian Harrison (15-15) and went ahead with wing Salesi Taufua touched down and Dom converted, 22-15.

The energized Wolfhounds spent most of the next 15 minutes within Mission's half and one wondered how long the superior Mission defense could hold out. But an intercepted pass and a 90-meter try by Mission center Onesi Havea in the 36th minute seemed to seal the match, 27-15.

The Wolfhounds, however, had other ideas. With four minutes remaining in the second season, the Wolfhounds took the kick straight down the throat of the Mission RFC. Center Boris Pluskowski scored his second try of the day and wing Shawn Hibbs converted, 27-22.

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USA

Mission scrumhalf Glenn Trollman has the ball out during his side's 32-22 victory over Boston Irish III in the National D3 final. (www.FreeWeb.com/BillThomasPhotos)

Both teams threw everything they had at each other and Mission put the dagger in BIW's heart with Harrison's second try at the final whistle, 32-22.

SCORING: Mission RFC: Harrison-2T; Tai-T; Domine-DG; Taufa-T; Havea-T; Dorsoti-2C. **Boston Irish Wolfhounds:** Pluskowski-2T; Kennedy-T; Delahaye-T; Hibbard-C.

Mission		Boston Irish	
Fred Tigarea	1	George Teague	
Siaosi Ulukivaiaola	2	Seamus Kennedy	
Fabio Rojas	3	Mike Carey	
William Gorham	4	Greg Schmidt	
Geoff Beckstrom	5	Andrew Lederman	
Connor O'Brien	6	Joe Doherty	
Arcia Dorsoti	7	Michael Dowling	
Paulo Sakalia	8	Pat Devane	
Glenn Trollman	9	David O'Rourke	
Joseph Domine	10	Brian Durant	
David Lawson	11	Shawn Hibbard	
Viliani Tai	12	Joe Bradley	
Onesi Havea	13	Boris Pluskowski	
Salesi Taufa	14	Treeve Currie	
Tom Mell	15	Richard Delahaye	

Postscript

Mission and the Boston Irish Wolfhounds are model US clubs. Mission hosts the Palo Alto Summer Sevens Series, which this year boasts over \$14,000 in prize money, making it the richest tournament in the country. Mission is also heavily involved in youth programs in the Bay Area, with coaches and administrators heading up five different organizations.

The Boston Irish Wolfhounds are one of the most successful clubs in the country, as evidenced by their making it to the finals of two National Club Championships in 2006. The Wolfhounds, with as many as four sides on any given Saturday, have had considerable success in the past five years: five trips to the Sweet Sixteen, four Final Four appearances and two DI National Club Championships (2003 & 2004).

Men's D3 Club Championship

Round of 8

Columbia, SC
May 13-14

Final

June 3-4
San Diego, CA

