

Xavier Takes Northeast

Written by Press Release
Monday, 09 May 2011 10:12



Xavier defeated McQuaid 37-5 to win the Northeastern Championship at West Point Sunday. On a beautiful spring afternoon, the high school championship match served as a curtain raiser to the Utah vs. Army College Premier Division quarterfinal. West Point is one of the premier venues in the country, and both teams and their supporters relished the opportunity to be able to play there.

Xavier started strong, with two tries by flyhalf Chris Mattina, one of which was converted by fullback Eddie Sullivan. Xavier dominated territory early with some sharp tactical kicking and strong set-piece play.

McQuaid counter-rucked well and made Xavier work at the tackle area to keep the ball and produce it quickly. However, the overwhelming possession and territorial advantage by Xavier made it difficult for McQuaid to get out of trouble. McQuaid also had problems with kickoffs into the wind and conceded several scrum-middle situations that Xavier capitalized on.

Sullivan added two penalties in the half, including a 35-yard kick just before the break. Center Joe Wolfer also contributed a try from an impressive 30-yard run as Xavier took a 25-0 lead into the second half.

McQuaid increased the pressure and put forth a full-out effort to try to get back in the match. Despite getting deep into Xavier territory, they were thwarted on consecutive drives inside the five. Xavier turned around the flow of play and put in another try when No. 8 Joe Corrado picked up and scored from a five-yard scrum.

Sullivan converted and increased the margin to 32-0. McQuaid forced the issue back to Xavier's end, and after causing a turnover, they put in their only try of the day.

Xavier wing Charles Guiraud added a final Xavier try from phase play, when the back line moved the ball quickly through the hands as the winger shed a tackle for a 30-yard score, and

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Xavier celebrated its 12th straight Northeastern title.

Xavier advances to Nationals in Utah as the first seed, and McQuaid will also represent the Northeast in the tournament. Carrado and prop Tom Boule shared man-of-the-match honors for the winning side, while McQuaid's scrumhalf took the honor for his team.