

Oct. 30, 2004 - JBU vs. UofA

This weekend the JBU men took on the UofA in the "Battle for North West Arkansas." This game is always one that draws much anticipation from both player and fan alike. As the sun peaked at noon the game got under way at the Sager Creek pitch.

The UofA looked somewhat diminished from the last time JBU played them, but nothing was taken for granted. The JBU men walked onto the field with a sense of purpose and determination. This was first signaled when JBU scored after a series of clinical hands and rucking. However, this spirit was soon tested when the UofA replied with a score only a matter of minutes after JBU opened proceedings. The testing period was short, JBU soon established their game plan and launched a series of attacks that left the UofA on their back foot. The improvement from last week of JBU's handling in the immediate fringe area and open field led to a convincing display of offensive pattern. JBU entered half time with a 22-5 lead.

In the second half the game was still to play for. The stress at half time was focusing on forming a convincing press defensive structure and resolving the frantic play of the 22/Tryline area. This was taken on board by the players and they resolved both in a fine manner. With undying defensive structure JBU kept the UofA to 5 points, and a more intentional offensive structure in the 22/tryline zone saw the score line steadily grow. The second half proved to be a chance to play with endurance and clarity, two things that we failed to use against Tulsa.

The forwards and backs worked in unison this weekend, the score line is a testament to that fact. Junior Rob Lambert had an exceedingly good game, commanding his backs with great finesse and speed, not to mention a dropkick in the first half :). In the pack senior "Tiny," Sophomore "Diesel," and freshman Brock Erdman had notable contributions.

All in all the JBU men played as one unit, each player is deserving of praise. JBU Rugby will need to continue to work together in these coming months in order to be best equipped for the spring campaign. This weekend was a great learning experience and one that we must seek to replicate and supersede in areas that were highlighted. That said, humility and prayer will be the biggest things we can set our heart and minds to in the days that lie ahead.

- Coach Johnny Knox