

# THE CLUB STAR

Garnier Residential School  
Spanish, Ontario

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## RUGBY COMES TO GARNIER

History was made this fall. November was the first time that rugby had ever been played in the Algoma district. It is the first time that the boys of Garnier played the ancient and honourable game of Canadian football. Garnier is certainly the first all-Indian rugby team in Ontario, perhaps in Canada. Here is how it started. Espanola, a thriving town about forty miles from Spanish, is rapidly growing. It decided that, like Copper Cliff and Sudbury, it should have a rugby team. The Espanola High School team started to practice and then looked around for an opponent. High School officials phoned to Garnier and a best two of three series was arranged. The boys at Garnier had been playing touch-rugby for years but never "tackle rugby." The news ran through the school. Uniforms were improvised, until helmets, shoes and shoulder pads arrived.

We used the backfield which had played "touch-rugby" against Massey and played from the famous T formation. For two weeks the boys practised tackling, blocking, interference. The line learned how to take their man out and how to break through into the opposing team's backfield. Two Sundays before the first game a full dress rehearsal was staged. The Varsity squad played the Seconds. The girls from St. Joe's and our intermediate boys were interested spectators. Everyone from the smallest mid-get to the biggest senior boy talked rugby. Fr. McKenna drew up plays and Fr. Hannin pondered over the rules.

Garnier boys took quickly to the sport and found it a harder and tougher game than hockey. They practised after dinner, during recess and even in the recreation hall. The initial expense was heavy but the equipment with good care will last for years. Rugby provides us with a thrilling fall sport and brings our sports

## FATHER LORD'S DAY AT GARNIER.

Father Lord and our old friend Father Walsh were to arrive at 11.00 a.m. Friday, October 14th. We scrubbed, waxed and polished the chapel until you could see your face in the floor. At 1.30 p.m. Father Lord addressed the assembled students of Garnier and St. Joseph in our chapel. He spoke with his usual eloquence and sincerity. Even the youngest could understand his vivid words. In one of his own parables he outlined the benefits and greatness of Holy Communion. After the talk in the chapel the Senior Sodality members went up to the dormitory to put on their best tie and give their hair that extra brush. The Girls' Sodality had invited the boys over for an afternoon tea-dance with Father Lord as the guest of honour. Yes, it was the boys who were late- Father Lord soon met everybody and made them all feel right at home. He spied a piano and sat down to play. He soon had everyone dancing. About five Fr. Lord departed for Sudbury where he had to deliver a lecture.

## RUGBY (Continued)

program up-to-date with other high schools. Rugby is more than just a match of strength. It takes skill, practise, cool and quick thinking. The intermediates, "the seniors of tomorrow" had their chance. In their two games they showed that they had not watched the seniors practising without learning a trick or two.

Next September Garnier will be filling the air with footballs. Our strength lies in speed, deception, ball handling and forward passing. The Garnier boys took to the game like a duck to water, so who knows, perhaps we shall be the Notre Dame of Algoma.

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SPANISH, ONTARIO

## EDITORIAL.

Let your Christmas be merry. The saying "A Merry Christmas" is very appropriate and Catholic. There is merriment in the Christmas Mass. Its beauty, its music, its joyful message are tokens of the gay and happy heart of the Church. Indeed there is merriment in the world at Christmas. A brief taste of Christian faith and Catholic hope is given to all men. Christmas and merriment belong together. The first Christmas -star brought hope into a weary world. It has lighted all the Christmas tree lights in the world since that day. From the open mouth of the cave in which lay the gift of God, the Saviour of the world, has poured forth the gifts of Christmas time. Men give because God gave so much.

God returns to His world, even to that world which tries to forget Him. Stores glitter and sparkle with Christmas gifts. The Divine goodness is imitated by the unselfishness of men. Evil withdraws, for an innocent child steals the spotlight on Christmas day. Evil, darkness and sadness, the three robbers of merriment, vanish before the Child and His Mother. The heart is merry because God give a concrete proof of His love. The mind is merry because Christ is reborn in our lives. Our laughter is merry because it is re-echoed in the smiles of our friends.

Yes, we have a right to be merry. God has come into a world which at least on Christmas day cannot forget Him. The angels sing in joy. The shepherds come to the crib and return to announce the birth of the Saviour. The Magi, wise in wisdom, look upon the Light of the World and return to far distant lands with peace in their hearts. Christmas awakes in our hearts the height and depth of God's love. We have a right to be merry. The closer we are to the Child of the Manger, the merrier will be our hearts.

The Fathers, Brothers and Teachers of Garnier wish you and your relatives and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy 1950.

## DEBATE.

Grades XII and XI staged their annual debate on December 9th. The Grade XII upheld that "Canada withdraw from the British Commonwealth of Nations and join the United States of America." The speakers on the affirmative were Julius Neganigijig, Basil Johnston, Dominic McComber. Grade XI opposed the above resolution, the speakers were Cecil King, James Wemigwans and Clement Trudeau. Francis Commanda was chairman. The judges were Miss V. Dwyer, Miss M. Whalen, Miss M. Hnajchuck. The judges declared the debate a draw.

## DRAMATICS

Grades 7 and 8 staged the fantastic comedy Pinocchio. The story is familiar. Pinocchio, a puppet, runs away from home and school. He becomes a donkey and has many adventures. Pinocchio repents his folly, reveals a surprising goodness of heart and is changed by the Fairy Prince into a real boy. Tim Daybutch carried the difficult and long role of Pinocchio with poise and charm beyond his years. He was ably assisted by Edward Johnston, Peter Armstrong and Emmett Chiblow in the other main roles. Wayne De'ormier, Joe Marion and Percy Whiteduck acted the parts of puppets and the three wise doctors. Simon Kit-chikeg, Albert Bonaparte, Frank Abel and Leonard Greenbird gave very characteristic performances as donkeys. Two difficult scenes—cutting the puppet out of a log and getting the donkey stage coach on the stage — were carried out with success. The little Carol Singers sang four popular Christmas numbers. The Cadets, under the leadership of Mourice Bell, sang four old favorite hymns.

## INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL.

On Thursday, Nov. 24 the Intermediates staged their tournament.

The Canadians eliminated the Red Wings, 16 - 10; the Black Hawks conquered the Leafs 13-12.

In the finals Black Hawks triumphed over the Canadians 25 - 24.

**SPORTS.****Rugby—Garnier Defeats Espanola High**

November 4th the powerful black and white squad of Garnier went into action at Espanola. It was the school's first game of Canadian rugby. Espanola weighed the same on the line but had a triple threat in Jack Major, their 180-lb. half-back. Garnier elected to receive and the game was on. Frank Commanda ran the kick back to Garnier's 45. A series of end runs brought Garnier down to Espanola's 30. Garnier then advanced slowly and Espanola took the ball. They were forced to kick. Up the field with some fine running and passing came the black and white squad. A sweep around the end with good blocking sent Frank Commanda over for five. Alphonse Trudeau converted. Espanola was stopped on their 50. Garnier gave Frank good protection when he faded back to pass. Julius and Adam Roy made some nice catches. A beautiful pass to Eli Commanda gave Garnier another touchdown. Alphonse again converted. Espanola tightened up and although Garnier dominated the play they failed to score in the second or third quarters. In the last quarter big Jack Major ripped off yards but failed to get beyond Garnier's 20 yard line.

The second game was at Garnier. The local Separate School pupils, our cheering section from St. Joe's and our own boys were on hand to cheer the team. The weather was ideal. Espanola determined to avenge defeat. They played a good defensive game and stopped Garnier's fast backs and batted down forwards. Espanola stuck to a ground game and their plungers tore through the Garnier line. In the first quarter Espanola plunged for five. A fighting Garnier team blocked the convert. Garnier took to the air in the second quarter. A long pass to Adam Roy and another to Eli Commanda tied the score. Espanola blocked the convert. In the third quarter a long punt by Alphonse Trudeau drove Espanola behind its own goal line. They tried to run out the kick and failed. It was now 6-5 for Garnier. In the final quarter both teams battled evenly. A beautiful deception play, worked from the T reverse sent Adam Roy into the clear. Garnier was penalized for an offside. A long pass from Frank to Adam put Garnier again in scoring position but Espanola held and started a drive upfield when the whistle blew.

Garnier 12 — Espanola High 0.

Garnier 6 — Espanola High 5.

**TOUCH RUGBY.****Garnier Defeats Massey High.**

A NOSSA touch-rugby league was formed. However Blind River dropped out of the picture and left Massey to play with Garnier, Oct. 10 the first game was played at Garnier. The smooth working sextet in black and white was too much for the Massey team. Our two team system exhausted the visiting team. Garnier 46 — Massey 6.

The return game at Massey looked like an upset for the first quarter. Massey played over its head and kept the Garnier team tied up in their own fifty yard line. Then the Garnier backs broke loose. Beautiful deceptions and end runs soon chalked up a 38 - 0 score.

**BASKETBALL.****Maple Leafs Win Senior Crown.**

Monday, 8.30 p.m., Nov. 28, before a packed house the Garnier Intra-mural Senior Basketball finals started. The Black Hawks, league champions, paced by Julius, Rudy and Eli, were favoured to win. The Maple Leafs however set the pace. The Hawks woke up too late. The brilliant passing of the Hawks failed to break through the grim defensive playing of Frank, Ernest and Dominic. Maple Leafs 24, Black Hawks 17.

Everyone could see the second game was building up to be a fast, rough encounter. The Hawks were determined to cut down the 7 point lead of the Maple Leafs. Clement Trudeau, Maple Leafs, and Eli Commanda, Black Hawks, were disqualified in the first quarter. Both teams passed well and played a man to man defense. In the last quarter Ernie Nadjiwan, Captain of the Leafs, twisted his ankle and Julius Neganigijig, captain of the Hawks, was disqualified. The substitutes put up a good battle. Maple Leafs 13, Hawks 10.

Maple Leafs won the round 37 - 27.

**BY THE WAY.**

Mr. Davy, Inspector of Indian Schools for British Columbia, paid us a visit on Saturday, Nov. 26. He went into Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 classrooms. He was impressed with the classroom work and the social and athletic activities of the school.

St. Joe's basketball team showed the boys they too were a winning combination. The girls defeated Massey High girls, 26-2 and 26-10 in basketball. On Saturday afternoons Miss Gertrude Pitawanakat referees four girls' basketball games in our gym. Garnier wants to thank the St. Joe girls for their enthusiastic cheering at the football games and basketball finals.

You never can tell what youngsters will say or do. Eugene Williams wanted "second pinching" when the doctor came for the inoculations. Brother Laflamme, our infirmarian, was visiting some of his little sick boys. "What's wrong, Sylvestre?" "A sore tummy, brother." Then he came to little Jimmy Gabaw, "Well, Jimmy, what is the matter with you?" Jimmy looked up, "Cookies and Cornflakes."

**SPORTS BANQUET.**

October 22nd at 8.30 p.m., the annual Sports' Banquet was held. It was a get-together for the hockey and baseball teams of 1949. After a delightful supper, crests and letters were awarded to the 1949 hockey and baseball teams whose names were mentioned in the last issue of Club Star. Father Hannin, athletic director, spoke briefly, congratulating the winners of awards and thanking the hockey players for their co-operation. He announced the selection of the 1950 Senior Hockey Captain—Julius Neganigijig. Fr. McKenna, the rugby coach praised the Garnier athletes for their school spirit and sportsmanship. Julius, as the captain of the school's beloved sport, hockey, promised to keep the puck out of the goal if the rest of the team played as they had done in previous years. Frankie Commanda, one of Garnier's all time great athletes, assured the hockey coach that although Garnier was playing in senior circles they would give a good account of themselves.

**IN THE CLASSROOM.**

The reports of the mid-term examinations in October were mailed to the parents. Christmas examinations started Dec. 7 and continued through until Dec. 16. The reports of these tests will be mailed to the parents. We hope that they will not upset the Christmas cheer of any pupil.

**HOCKEY.**

Garnier in the 1950 season will play in the North Shore Hockey League, Senior Division. The calibre of the hockey can be judged from the fact that the winner of this league plays with Chapleau and the Soo (Sault Ste. Marie). The competition will be stiff yet we have always played better against senior teams. The first league game is scheduled for Jan. 7. League games run through January and the play-offs start about the middle of February.

**SOCIAL LIGHTS.**

The end of October ushered in a series of Hallowe'en parties. The Midgets, Juniors and Intermediates ducked and bobbed for apples. Judging by all the noise they made evidently they enjoyed the games. The 16teeners' Club were the guests of the St. Joe's Senior girls. The girls, our hosts, are to be congratulated for the splendid party which they staged. A dance was held at Garnier on Nov. 12 and another at the Girls' School, Nov. 26. The first and only skating party of this term was on Dec. 3rd. The few spots of gravel on the rink did not seem to effect the skaters.

The annual Christmas Prom was cancelled because the girls did not have the time to come to the dance. They had to practice their Christmas play and also get ready for the vacations. Julius and Cecil will have a chance another time to carry out their decoration schemes, and hope that the girls will not be too tired to come.