



Acalanes rugby team -- (front, from left) Erik Olson, Mike Gerser, Chuck Templeton, Mike Li; (middle) Andy Ward, Shawn Cullen, Doug Hardy, James E. Wilson, Eric Whitacker; (back) Mike Thompson, Gordon Young, Kirk Goddard, Brett Good; (not pictured) Mike Dumke, Ben Tressel, Brian Studwell, Eric Flum.

## Locals win national rugby title

The Lamorinda Rodents, made up of Acalanes High students and one Miramonte student, recently won the 17-18 age-group boys' national rugby championship.

Rugby is far from being a major sport in the U.S., but the Lamorinda area has always been known for having more than its fair share of rugby players.

The Rodents were organized by the late Pat Vincent, who directed the St. Mary's College rugby program until his death last spring.

A wild-card entry in the San Francisco tourney, the Rodents defeated the New York Xaviers 6-4 and the Del Campo of Sacramento 22-6 for the title.

"Pat was a great guy," said Goddard of the Rodents' founder. "He's the reason we wanted to win it. We are a memorial team and wore black patches on our jerseys with initials PBV for Pat Bernard Vincent.

"Our Acalanes' football team never accomplished what we should have last fall. We wanted to put it all together in rugby."

The Rodents were 19-3 and runnerup to Serra of San Mateo in the Bay Valley Conference, but Serra was disqualified for using two ineligible players.

New York was seeded No. 1 in the tourney. Del Campo, which entered with a 22-0 record, beat North Hollywood 9-1 to

showed a lot of administrative ability."

Goddard and teammate Gordon Young plan to enroll at St. Mary's in the fall with Mike Dunke headed for Cal. Other Rodent starters were Eric Whitaker, Jim Wilson,

Mike Gersper, Andy Ward, Ben Tresser, Mike Thompson, Brian Studwell, Sean Cullen, Doug Hardy, Chuck Templeton, Brett Good, and Eric Flum. Backup players were Joe Farrell and Mike Li.

"The feeling is something else," said Kirk Goddard, Lamorinda captain-coach. "It's taken us a couple of days to let it sink in. It's hard to believe we're national champs.

reach the finals.

Jim Murray, NorCal Rugby Union president, saluted Lamorinda, noting "We're very happy a team from our area reclaimed the title, Kirk (Goddard)