

The Review Sports

Rugby players honor memory of Josias Sterling

By Joseph Turkos

Over 200 rugby players gave their time and talents last week to honor a fallen comrade during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Players hit the pitch in the Second Annual Josias A. Sterling Memorial "Apple Pie 7s" Rugby tournament at Edgeley Field in East Fairmount Park Friday afternoon.

The tournament honors the memory of the late Josias A. Sterling. Sterling tragically lost his life at the age of 19 when he was swept away by a riptide in July 2009. Sterling, who's favorite desert was apple pie, was a student athlete/rugby player for both St. Joseph's Prep and Temple University. The tournament is the primary fundraising vehicle of the Josias A. Sterling Memorial Fund, a charitable foundation that pro-



Rugby players battle on the pitch Friday at the Second Annual Josias A. Sterling Memorial "Apple Pie 7s" Rugby tournament at Edgeley Field in East Fairmount Park.

vides scholarship funding for Prep students attending Temple University as well as a funding for a Water Safety Program for inner city youth.

"It was beyond my wildest hopes. It just went really well," Bill Gregory, the director of the

Josias A. Sterling Memorial Fund and organizer of the tournament, said.

Gregory is the head rugby coach at the University of Scranton. He coached Sterling at St. Joe's Prep and continues to be a close friend of the Sterling

family.

Joining the players were approximately 200 spectators, including volunteers and Josias' entire family. St. Joseph's Prep president Father Bur opened the day's festivities with an invocation. Afterwards players from six high school squads and eight collegiate teams competed in quick, action-packed seven-on-seven 14-minute matches on three different fields.

Although the final amount raised was not yet available at press time, Gregory said that a "nice amount" of money was raised. He expects the event to prosper and grow in future years.

Gregory remembers Josias as a giving person. The tournament is emblematic of the kind of person that Josias was, and helps to keep his spirit alive.