

# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



### 2007 Acalanes' Men's Tennis Season Overview

By Coach Brad Rieser

Courtesy of: Acalanes' Booster Club

After losing 15 senior members of the 18 players on the 2006 varsity squad, we knew this season's boys' tennis team was in for a challenging year. With 35 kids trying out for the 12-15 open varsity spots, the pre-season tournament was very competitive to determine who would make the varsity team. Many matches had to be played to provide a fair chance for all, and, as such, we entered into the first of our 19-game season against Campolindo without any official team practice or decision on what our doubles line up would be. We lost that one and continued to experiment a bit as the season rolled along, playing many challenge matches and trying various doubles combinations to achieve the strongest roster possible. Unbelievably, due to our match schedule and a bit of untimely rain, the squad had its first real team practice just before the second half of the sea-

son began! Yet, despite these challenges, the team proved to be incredibly deep and we defeated all but the three strongest teams in the 10-team league, eventually tying with Las Lomas for fourth place in the DFAL, with a winning league record of 10-8, 11-8 overall, which included two tough 5-4 losses that came down to the last individual match and could have gone either way.

In the season ending DFAL tournament, we placed 11 individuals in the tourney with the doubles team of Evan Kline and Jarret Nelson, both of whom mostly played singles all season, were the second seeded team and advanced admirably to the semifinals. Our other players in the event (Aaron Boltz, John Grimes, Sam Behbehani in singles, Alex Henze, David Fisher, team captain Yoonho Ji, Blake Padua, Jay Yarlagada, and Jason Cheung in doubles)

performed well but got tough draws, dropping their matches to seeded players/teams in the early rounds. Nevertheless, all had fun trying and valued the learning experience.

The 2007 boys varsity tennis team will be remembered as a team with a new bunch of diverse players that showed tremendous depth and a real passion to compete, surpassing all expectations to achieve a very respectable winning record that could easily have been even better. Already, the team is looking forward to next season, returning all varsity players except two terrific seniors, Sean Kersten and Jay Yarlagada, who teamed at #3 doubles to earn one of the top records in the league at their position and voted by the coaches All League Honorable Mention. Their fine play, sportsmanship, and team spirit will surely be missed.

### Oakland Strokes Wins Big at Long Beach Invitational

By Jaime Zepeda

On April 28th and 29th, the Oakland Strokes squad went to the Long Beach Junior Regatta. The Junior Varsity and Varsity teams for the Women's and Men's teams faced resilient opponents from across California. The races were held at the Marine Stadium, which was originally constructed for the 1984 Olympics. The Strokes shined as if they were Olympians, with nine 1st places, six 2nd places, and four 3rd place medals. Lamorinda athletes have made Oakland Strokes their home, and they showcased their athletic skills at the event. In the Women's Varsity-8 team, Alzizah Koorji (Miramonte) at coxswain, Julie Jones (Acalanes) in the stroke seat, Jessica Cherry (Campolindo), and Pia Hauch (Bentley) represented Lamorinda high schools. For the

Women's Junior Varsity-8 and 3V-8, Brittany Beck (Miramonte), Molly Castles (Bentley), Beth Goodwin (Miramonte), and Kendall Sandy (Miramonte) gave the strokes two 1st place finishes.

On the Men's side, the Varsity team gave Oakland Strokes two solid 2nd place medals. Thanks to the great effort by Alex Topacio (Campolindo) at coxswain, Garret Bell (Los Lomas) at stroke seat, Max Farrell (Bentley), Nathan Carbajal (De La Salle), James Lenczowski (Miramonte), Cole Williams (Campolindo), and Brent Watson (Miramonte) at bow, the Strokes barely missed 1st place two times. The Junior Varsity team faired equally well, with a 2nd place finish of their own. Alex Topacio (Campolindo), Garrett Bell (Los Lomas), Max Farrell

(Bentley), Nathan Carbajal (De La Salle), Evan Bontemps (Miramonte), Jason Luecker (Campolindo), Brent Watson (Miramonte), and Robert Chan (Miramonte), made notable contributions. Women's Novice and Frosh earned three 1st place medals, thanks in part to Dara Dickson (Acalanes), Dana Walsh (Miramonte), Kelly Bauer (Miramonte), Claire Grover (Miramonte), Piper Akol (Miramonte), and Nikki Dahlberg-Seeth (Miramonte). On the Men's side, Novice and Frosh earned one 1st place and two 3rd place medals. Notable contributions came from Daniel Migdale (Miramonte), Michael Schier (Miramonte), and Billy Deskin (Campolindo). For more information, visit the www.oaklandstrokes.org

Heads Up, Lamorinda Players, Coaches, and Fans  
We want your game scores, highlights, and photos.  
Please send your game reports, including player names and digital photos to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com.

### Hairy Horse Show

Submitted by Mara Constantin

The Moraga Junior Horsemen's Association is an organization that has been around since the '50s, and this year's annual Hairy Horse Show is May 19 starting at 9! It's "hairy" because the show is traditionally one of the first of the season and takes place before all the horses loose their winter coats. This is a very fun event for the whole family and better than ever - this year the show is to benefit Orinda's Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center. All ages participate in the show as well as watch the

skills of the riders and their beautiful horses in a gorgeous setting. There is a good variety of food available throughout the day including a scrumptious barbecue. Both the English and Western riding styles are represented at the show with the classes including showmanship at halter, equitation, pleasure, fences, lead line, and trail. This year's judge is Debbie Butler. The arena is at 423 Canyon Road - just follow Moraga Road to Canyon Road and volunteers will direct you to parking. Don't miss this

long-held, fun, and festive event! Contact MJHA president Jane Jewett at 377-7537 for entry forms and more information.



Karen Garcia and her pony Phoebe did well at last year's event

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