



SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Team Extreme: Lamorinda Girls' Lacrosse

By Gavin Schlissel

Lacrosse is a veritable phenomenon which as shaken the core of the Lamorinda area. Currently fielding 13 teams of players in grades 2-8, the Lamorinda Lacrosse club has become a pillar of springtime athletics.

One Lamorinda Lacrosse team rises above the rest: the Lamorinda girls 7th-8th grade A team: The Lamorinda Extreme. And the team is just that.

The Extreme have brought the club to the forefront of Easy Bay lacrosse.

Lacrosse is organized first on the district level, and then on the regional level. Currently, the Extreme is ranked first on both. With an undefeated regular season record of 12-0, the Extreme make quick work of any would be rivals.

They have steamrolled powerhouse teams such as the San Ramon Scorpions, and the Pleasanton Cyclone.

In a recent 11-4 decision

against the Grizzlies of Ross Valley in Marin County, Lamorinda girls showed their prowess and domination. Under the leadership of senior players like Alexandra Seclow, starting midfielder from Orinda Intermediate, and Madeline Schlissel, starting 1st home of Joaquin Moraga, the Extreme were able to uphold their perfect record and officially send the Ross Valley team home packing.

The game began with a 4-0 run by the Extreme to put Lamorinda in control of the tempo. At the conclusion of the first half of play, Lamorinda led by a score of 7-1, Sumner Van Brunt the lone scorer for Ross Valley.

In the opening minutes of the second half, the Grizzlies appeared ready to claim control of the tempo and the game. With two unanswered goals by Grizzlies Kathrine Findlay and Noelle Ruane, the Extreme

were forced to dial back up the intensity and reclaim their victory.

The game ended with three consecutive goals by Lamorinda to make the final score 11-4.

But the box score fails to tell the story of the game. Lamorinda, though they clearly matched or exceeded the skills of the Ross Valley team, won with strength of bench against the Grizzlies, who fielded no substitutes. Forced to play every minute, Ross Valley was unable to fend off the onslaught of Extremists.

"It wasn't like a victory where one team just wins," explains Schlissel, "I was one of those victories you have to work for. We won the game because we won the ground balls. We really out-hustled them." Schlissel finished the Ross Valley game with two goals and two assists.

Stanford fights to a 6-1 record

Contributed by Mark Zembsch

Stanford and USC, in first and third place respectively atop the standings in 6th-8th grade LMYA softball, thrilled the crowd at Stanley Middle School on May 12 in a game highlighted by outstanding plays on defense and aggressive long-ball hitting by both teams. Stanford's dominating pitching in the early-going provided the difference, however, as Stanford won 16-10. Stanford improved to 6-1 for the season, and USC moved to 4-3-1.

The story of the game was Stanford's pitching and defense -- critical to building an insurmountable 12-0 lead after five innings. Stanford's pitching was led by starter Rachel Kelley's three shutout innings, earning Kelley her third win of the season. Rebecca Crisp held USC scoreless in the fourth and fifth innings by striking out five.

Crisp preserved the shutout through five innings by stranding USC's Kat Mathis at third, after Mathis' long triple. Stanford again enjoyed contributions on offense from all 11 players, led by Siena Del Ponte's two long home runs (matching the feat established by teammate Emily Streeter in the first game of the season). Stanford's Crisp was outstanding on the bases, scampering

home four times.

Besides Del Ponte's power surge, Stanford's Emily Streeter hit for extra bases twice, and Crisp also doubled. Stanford's defense was nearly flawless, again led by Kayla Wiggins, who made a thrilling outfield catch of one of the longest-hit balls of the season, off the bat of USC's Mathis.

Grace Lovell led USC with three base hits; Kat Mathis and Natalie Deskin each slugged an extra base hit deep into an outfield gap. Jessie Kathan also contributed with two base hits and two runs scored. USC turned in several key plays on defense as well, led by Mathis' command behind the plate, Kathan's snag of a line drive at third base, and Deskin's solid play at short.

The May 12 game followed one of the best-played games of the season between the two rivals on Cinco de Mayo at la escuela de Joaquin Moraga. Both teams provided numerous thrilling pitcher-batter duels, heads-up base-running and outstanding defensive performances on that May 5 morning, with Stanford winning 15-10.

Stanford enjoyed great pitching from starter Rachel Kelley (earning her second win of the season), Rebecca Crisp (striking out six in her two in-

nings of work), and Ashley Heim (picking up the key save). Stanford's offense continued to be well-balanced, as all 10 players scored at least one run each.

Stanford's 15-run attack was led by Emily Streeter and Rikki Starks, who clubbed key extra-base hits; Karen Ranstrom, Emma Harris and Joelle Alley reached base multiple times and scored two runs each. Stanford, which has benefited by great defense all season, seemingly ended each inning with a breath-taking "web gem," highlighted by Kayla Wiggins' two outstanding catches, and Tela Zembsch's sterling glove work at second base.

UCLA's 10-run offense was led by Maile Hoyt (two doubles), Sarah Reynolds (two hits and three runs scored), Kalena Alva (two hits and two runs scored). UCLA pitcher Natalie Goepel impressed with her dominating three strike-out performance against the three batters she faced.

The season will be decided on June 2, with four games each remaining for Stanford and UCLA, and with third place USC continuing its charge in the second half of the season.

Miramonte Swim Club Registration Open

Submitted by Erica Zeidenberg

Miramonte Swim Club registration is ongoing and practices are starting on May 14. Miramonte is the only public community swim team and has a long history since our start in 1957. We swim at Miramonte High School's pool, certainly one of the best pools in the area. Because of the excellent facility and the intimacy of our team, we give our swimmers more pool time and more opportunities to swim in meets. Our community-based culture

fosters character-building and leadership, with many of our coaches coming up from the team ranks.

We are also friendly to working parents and kids who may want to do other summer programs because Miramonte Swim Club offers both morning AND late afternoon practice sessions. As part of our social team building we provide bowling nights, dinners, barbecues and other activities to encourage friendship among the team. Check the

team website for sign up information and forms, www.MSCswim.org. Contact Kenny Tsuboi at 377-7133 if you have questions.



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