



SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

LMYA Dolphins Take On East County Stingrays

By Kevin D. Shallat



Swimmers kick off meet at Acalanes

Photo by Jordan Fong

The LMYA Dolphins had a home meet against the East County Stingrays at Acalanes Saturday, June 16. The weather started out cold and windy, but that didn't prevent the swimmers from having a fun and rewarding day. Some swimmers walked away with ribbons, but nearly all the swimmers went home with smiles on their faces.

The first boys event of the day was the six and under 100-yard medley relay. LMYA won this impressive relay by almost two minutes, finishing with a time of 2:35.63. This relay team consisted of Christopher Vanhoven, Nicholas Catalanello, Christopher Rogers, and Alec Baker.

Alec Baker had a fantastic day for the LMYA Dolphins, as he went on to record five first place finishes. After the relay, Baker's next win came in the 25-yard freestyle, as he recorded a time of 25.07. His next conquest was the 25-yard backstroke, recording a time of 33.20. His last two events were perhaps his most impressive. He won the 25-yard butterfly by almost eleven seconds, finishing with a time of 30.45. His final event would put a cap on a stellar day, as Baker went on to help his 100-yard freestyle relay team finish in first place. His team won with a time of 2:16.66.

The LMYA seven- and

eight-year-old girls won the third event of the day by capturing the 100-yard medley relay. The team finished with a time of 1:24.48. Each swimmer on this relay team would go on to record at least one individual first place finish Saturday.

Melissa Elliott was one of the integral parts of the aforementioned relay team. She would take home three first place ribbons Saturday. She won the 25-yard backstroke with a time of 22.45. Elliott finished the day by capturing first place in the 25-yard butterfly as well, posting a score of 20.54.



LMYA Dolphin pushes forward

Photo by Jordan Fong

The other three swimmers of the relay team took home two first place ribbons a piece. Kaitlin Zarembinski took first place in the 100-yard IM, with a time of 1:46.15. Becca Buck posted a time of 24.74 in winning the 25-yard backstroke. The final swimmer in the girls relay team was Ally Taga-Anderson. She took

first place in the 25-yard freestyle, with her time of 17.41.

A few other swimmers stood out with their impressive times Saturday. Reider Martinsen coasted to a first place finish in the six and under boys 25-yard backstroke. He won this race by almost ten seconds, finishing with a time of 31.51. Eight-year-old Mathew Renfro also posted an impressive time with his 31.68 blue ribbon finish in the 25-yard breaststroke.

Head LMYA Coach Kristen Sissener was very impressed with the improvement of this team from last year. Sissener said

that what makes LMYA special this year is that if the kids want a super competitive environment, they can have it. Or, if they just want to have fun, they can come and do that as well. "With the kids who want to compete, we are teaching them not just to swim, but to race," Sissener said.

World Class Soccer in Lamorinda

By Kevin D. Shallat

For those of you who haven't heard, there is a women's amateur soccer team in Lamorinda and they are called the Lamorinda East Bay Power. The team played Sunday, June 17 against the Sonoma County Sol at Acalanes High School. The Power lost this game 3-2, but the fans were entertained with excellent soccer by both teams.

They have been around since 1988, but few people know about them. The team consists of players who have graduated high school to the post college graduate age.

The Power controlled the game throughout much of the first half. With the defenders being so active on the offensive end, they were able to keep the ball in the Sol's zone for much of the half. It didn't take long for midfielder Sarah Churchill to record a goal for the Power. Churchill's shot deflected off the Sol's goalkeeper and sailed into the net for 1-0 lead.

Defender Mimi Yuh kept the pressure on the Sol during the first half by taking a number of good shots at the goal. One of her shots bounced off the right bar of the goal. The Sol fought back and scored before the end of the half to tie the game at one goal apiece.

The Power didn't take long to get the lead back after half. Fullback Stephanie Wieger lofted a beautiful pass to the other fullback Lauren Smith. Smith timed her kick perfectly and booted the ball into the right side of the goal, untouched.

The control and the lead would soon disappear, as the Sol came back with a vengeance. Power fullback Venus Williams had a nice rolling shot that just missed the left side of the goal. Unfortunately, the Power would not have many more opportunities to score the rest of the match, as their defense lacked the aggressiveness it had in the first half.



Long-time women's amateur soccer league takes on Sonoma County Sol at Acalanes

Photos by Andy Scheck



"We played well, but we had too many individual defensive mistakes in the second half," said goalkeeper and Club Manager Katie Pittman.

The star for the Sol in this game was Annie Mablivio. She scored two times in the second half to give the Sol the lead for good.

Power Head Coach Ernesto Silva is very proud of the talent, not only on the Power, but in the entire league. "It would be nice to get the local community to realize that they have a chance to watch and sup-

port the best women's soccer program in the country, right in their backyard," said Silva.

Despite the increase in talent, there has been a decrease in financial support for the Lamorinda team. Silva goes on to say that this is the first year the women have had to pay their own way to play on the team. Without some financial backing, he is not sure whether the team can survive. Silva and the rest of the Lamorinda East Bay Power are asking for donations and your support.

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