

# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



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### Local Golfer Records Top Three Finish At Junior Golf Tournament



Paul Griessel, age 8, of Lafayette (left) stands with Eric Angeles of Martinez and Dominic Solomone of Pacheco at the Buchanan Fields Summer Junior Golf Tournament in Concord  
Photo by Jennifer Griessel

**P**aul Griessel, age 8, of Lafayette not only competed against golfers from all over the East Bay at the Buchanan Fields Summer Junior Golf Tournament in Concord, Aug. 13, but he managed to finish tied for second place in the boys nine and under age group, despite the fact that he is a year younger

than many of the other golfers. Griessel finished second with a score of 41 for nine holes.  
"I usually have a fade, but this day I got my swing right and the balls were going straight," he said. His best score recorded this summer was a 34 at Grayson Woods Golf Course in Pleasant Hill.

You would think that at age 8 he was just beginning his golf career, but Griessel has been playing for nearly five years and has already put together an impressive resume. In 2005 he was the Saratoga Country Club little junior champion in the seven and under age group.  
During Griessel's short but successful career, he has had an array of great teachers and mentors along the way. His interest in the game began around five years ago when his father brought home John Daly's video, "Grip It and Rip It." After seeing that video, Griessel would tell his father, "I want to play, I want to play." Griessel still takes direction from his father and John Daly, but has since moved on to two new coaches: Kelly Brown and Jenny Park-Choi. Park-Choi is an LPGA member who used to compete in the LPGA tour.

When talking with Griessel it is impossible not to notice the passion and excitement he holds for the game of golf. Griessel's eyes lit up when asked what he likes about golf. "You're active and you get to whack away at a little ball."  
His favorite player is, of course, Tiger Woods, but not because he makes millions of dollars or hits the ball 300 yards, but because he has won so many trophies.  
In the future Griessel plans to play golf for Stanford or Cal, and maybe one day play on the PGA tour. For now, though, he will continue to play golf and attend school at Saklan Valley School in Moraga. Griessel's advice to other young kids who want to play golf is simple, "Keep on trying and you'll become really good."

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### Ready For Some Football?

By Jennifer Wake

**W**ith temperatures reaching triple digits, it's hard to believe it's nearly football season. The football squads from the three Lamorinda high schools put on their gear last week, preparing for the upcoming season, with cheering crowds and hard-hitting action just around the corner.

Miramonte comes into the season after a third-place finish in the DFAL last year with a 6-3 record, Campolindo was fourth with a record 5-4, and Acalanes was sixth at 3-6 – good enough to qualify them for the North Coast Section (NCS) playoffs. The Matadors lost the section title game to Novato after winning the NCS 2A East Bay playoffs.

While losing many top players to graduation, the Mats held on to quarterback Trevor Boswell, who proved himself a strong asset. Miramonte also sees the return of middle linebacker Grant Hyger and offensive lineman Nolan Pfeffinger.

The Dons' All DFAL First Team junior wide receiver Brooks Baker, as well as offensive tackle Brian Garthwaite (who was also honored by the DFAL), return to the field, while the Cougars bring back quarterback Scott Scharff and linebacker Mike Greco.

You can catch pre-season games this week, with Campolindo taking on Piedmont at home and Acalanes at Livermore, 7 p.m. on Sept. 7, and the Mats at Capuchino-San Bruno at 1 p.m. on Sept. 8. (Regular season varsity games start at 7 p.m.; JV at 4:30 p.m. Fridays.)

Lamorinda face-offs include: Sept. 14 (Campolindo at Miramonte); Sept. 28 (Miramonte at Acalanes); and Oct. 12 (Acalanes at Campolindo).

### DFAL Football Schedule for Miramonte, Campolindo and Acalanes

- Game 1:**  
**Friday, Sept. 14**  
Campolindo at Miramonte  
Acalanes at Alhambra
- Game 2:**  
**Thursday, Sept. 20**  
Miramonte at Alhambra  
Northgate at Acalanes
- Game 3:**  
**Friday, Sept. 28**  
Miramonte at Acalanes  
Campolindo at College Park
- Game 4:**  
**Friday, Oct. 5**  
Miramonte at Northgate  
College Park at Acalanes
- Game 5:**  
**Friday, Oct. 12**  
Concord at Miramonte  
Acalanes at Campolindo
- Game 6:**  
**Friday, Oct. 19**  
Acalanes at Mt. Diablo  
Miramonte at Las Lomas  
Campolindo at Alhambra
- Game 7:**  
**Friday, Oct. 26**  
Campolindo at Northgate  
Miramonte at Dublin  
Acalanes at Concord
- Game 8:**  
**Friday, Nov. 2**  
Dublin at Acalanes  
Las Lomas at Campolindo  
College Park at Miramonte
- Game 9:**  
**Friday, Nov. 9**  
Mt. Diablo at Miramonte  
Campolindo at Concord  
Acalanes at Las Lomas

### Water Polo Players Bring Home the Gold

By Kevin D. Shallat

**B**ret Lathrope, 16, was one of three Lamorinda players selected to play on the USA Water Polo National Cadet Team which features the best players, 16 and under, in the nation. Although Lathrope's USA team faced other national teams from the Americas which featured an 18 and under age group, they still managed to finish with a 9-0 record and take home the gold at the 2007 Youth Pan American Games in the Dominican Republic on August 4-12.

Lathrope was selected along with Miramonte teammate James Perry, and Lamorinda teammate Nick Hoversten, after a lengthy selection process that brought the first selection group to 40 water polo players. Fifteen were selected from those 40 to travel to Montenegro for the final selection process, which cut the team down to 13 players. The swimmers were required to participate in a swim-a-thon for donations and raise at least \$500 dollars per player to help pay for their travel expenses.

During the team's quest for the gold medal they had a few close calls against teams



Team Left to Right: Assistant Coach James Lathrope, Head Coach Jason Lynch, Andrew Lighterink, Griffin White, Danny White, Chris Wendt, Nikola Vavic, James Perry, Clayton McFadden, Nick Hoversten, Spencer Hamby, Bret Lathrope, Max Bricklin, Gavyn Wild, Josh Samuels  
Front Row: USA and Dominican Water Polo organization officials  
Photo provided

that were older and had more experience in the game. The USA team played the best Canadian team twice: Each game was close, but they wound up beating team Canada in the championship game to win the gold medal. "It was pretty cool holding the ball and counting down as our coach was yelling in celebration," Lathrope said. The Puerto Rican players and fans were also seen cheering the American team on, beating the drums and chanting, "USA, USA."  
Playing the attacker po-

sition, which is geared toward a more offensive skill set, Lathrope says, "The position is like a shooting guard in basketball." When asked who his hero or mentors are, Lathrope cited Kirk Everist, a former Olympian, and one of his coaches, James Lathrope (no relation), who is a coach for Miramonte High School and Lamorinda Water Polo, as well as assistant coach of the USA cadet team.  
One of the most exciting and helpful things for him right now has been watching a family friend, Peter Var-


alles, 23, compete on the USA national team. Lathrope said that if young kids want to get serious about water polo they have to swim as much as they can, play water polo as much as they can, and watch as many water polo matches as possible.  
Thankful for the experience he received while on the USA cadet team, Lathrope is confident that this experience will help him with his quest of making the junior national team next year, for the 18 and under age group.



Miramonte Football Team at Practice Photo by Jordan Fong

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