



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Saint Mary's Rides Green Wave with Win at Rainbow Classic

By Kevin D. Shallat (reporting from Honolulu Hawaii)



Patrick Mills (13)

Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's men's basketball bounced back from their first loss of the season, after the Southern Illinois Salukis spoiled the Gael's brief ride in the top 25. The Gaels traveled to

Honolulu, Hawaii where they began a three-day tournament at the Outrigger Rainbow Classic, which started on Thursday, Dec. 20 for the Gaels. Saint Mary's survived a low scoring affair to

beat the Tulane Green Wave by a score of 64-57.

Before the opening of the game, the starting five for both teams, along with the coaches, received leis in a nice pre-game introduction ceremony. A few of the Gaels threw the game-worn leis into the stands where some happy Saint Mary's fans were happy to catch them.

It didn't take Patrick Mills long to record the first two points of the game, as he flew down the lane for an easy layup. Mills didn't quite have his "A" game, but was still quicker to the basket than everybody else, and managed to finish with 23 points. Every time Tulane made a run, Mills would answer with a jumper or drive to the basket to keep the Green Wave at bay. Mills was fortunate to have both his parents fly in from Australia to watch the games. "It was a special game," Mills said. "It's been a while now since I've seen them, and since they've seen me play. I've had to

try my best to give them their money's worth."

Once again the Gaels received good contributions from their bench. Yusef Smith crashed the boards and came up with a couple of crowd-pleasing blocks. Smith finished with eight rebounds and two blocks in only 14 minutes of play.

Both Mills and Tron Smith did a good job of attacking the basket in the first half. They were both able to penetrate the Green Wave defense while protecting the ball on their way to the basket. This type of presence, and physical play helped the Gaels jump out to a 32-21 halftime lead.

In the second half the Gaels were never in jeopardy of losing the game, as they cruised the rest of the way. Omar Samhan had an efficient game, as his minutes were limited due to foul trouble. He would finish with 11 points and five rebounds in 24 minutes. Carlin Hughes gave the Gaels a spark off the bench, as he was a

perfect 4-4 at the free-throw line. Hughes finished with nine points, two rebounds, two assists, and two steals in 22 minutes.

With all of the potential distractions that one might find while playing in Hawaii, the Gaels seem

as focused as ever. "I love (Hawaii), it's everything people said it was going to be like, we're just having fun, but at the same time we have a job to do here," Mills said.

#### Highlights from Saint Mary's Friday night win over East Tennessee State at Rainbow Classic:

- Randy Bennett sets SMC wins record with 111 coaching victories.
- Yusef Smith matched his career-high with 11 points
- Simpson had his fourth double-double of the season and 11th of his career with 15 points and 12 rebounds
- Simpson's 12 rebounds marks the sixth double-digit rebound game of the season and 15th of his career.
- Lucas Walker had a career high with 12 points

- Patrick Mills had a career-high 8 assists
- Carlin Hughes tied his career-high with five made 3-pointers, going 5-of-9 from beyond the arc.
- With 11 made 3-pointers, Saint Mary's made 10 threes in a game for the fourth time this season.

The Gaels went on to play the championship game of the Rainbow Classic on Saturday, Dec. 22 against the winner of the Ohio/Louisiana-Lafayette game.

### Miramonte's Dominant Defense Sinks Newark Memorial

By Steven Johns



Katie Batlin (21)

Photo Gavin Schlissel

The Miramonte Matadors girls' basketball team showed its offensive prowess and defensive dominance in an early preseason game on Thursday, Dec. 20 when the 2-1 Matadors took the court against the 5-3 Newark Memorial Cougars. After a competitive first half, the Matadors came out firing in the second half to win comfortably by a score of 66-42.

The Matadors got off to a good start when senior guard Katie Batlin scored three times to make the score 8-3. The stout Miramonte defense held the Cougars to only 6 points in the first quarter, while the offense was able to put up 12 points.

The Newark Memorial Cougars staged a comeback in the second quarter with five three-pointers. However, Miramonte point guard Ashlee Burns kept the Matadors ahead with 10 points of her own. At the end of the half, Miramonte led a close game by a score of 29-24.

The Matadors came out of the half on fire with a 10-0 run. The Miramonte defense was again dominant, holding the Cougars to only 4 points in the third quarter. Senior guard Katie Evans put all of the momentum on the Matadors' side with two threes and a long jump shot.

The Cougars were no match for the

Matadors in the fourth quarter. Miramonte continued its dominances by starting off the quarter on a 16-4 run. The Cougars scored 10 points late, but did not have enough time to make up their 24 point deficit. The victory was sealed off when sophomore point guard Lauren Kimble drained a long three pointer.

Miramonte was strong outside the arc, making 7 three-point shots, and was able to convert many of its free-throws. Newark Memorial was also hot from the three-point line, making 9 from behind the arc, but the Cougar's poor free-throw shooting diminished any chance they had to win this game.

The Matadors were led by Ashlee Burns, 20 points, and Katie Batlin, 13 points and 1 block. Katie Evans had 13 points while Stephanie Golden scored 10 points and led the defense with 4 blocks.

The Miramonte girls hope to take their momentum from this overpowering win against Newark Memorial though the holidays and into January when they begin their division play. The Matadors will start off their division play against Mt. Diablo and Las Lomas. They will have to continue to have a strong offense and a stout defense to get past 6-0 Northgate a few weeks later.

### Salesian 70, Acalanes 66 in Double OT at East Bay Extravaganza

By David Anderson

The Acalanes Dons couldn't finish off the Salesian Pride in a sensational double overtime contest that left the Dons on the short side of a 70-66 resolution Saturday Dec. 15 at Saint Mary's College. The Dons (5-3) held a comfortable lead for most of the game until the Pride (6-1) resurrected midway through the third quarter cutting the lead to five with the fourth quarter still to play.

Salesian came out playing hard in the fourth with spirited play by Justin and Jabari Brown (who combined for 50 of Salesian's 70 points) and was able to tie the game 55-55 on a Justin Brown free-throw to send the game into its first of two overtime periods.

The Dons took the lead in OT and looked to have the Pride beat but weren't able to keep Justin Brown from hitting a desperation 3-pointer from well beyond the arc to tie the game as time expired in overtime.

when the Dons were forced to foul with three seconds remaining.

Joey Anderson (who saw significant playing time last season in the Don's CIF Playoff run) led the way for Acalanes with 23 points. Donovan Christensen added 16 points and Dexter Masland followed with 14 for the Dons.

Acalanes looks to build upon their experience in the preseason as they enter DFAL league play in the coming weeks. The Dons are starting off strong with a 5-3 record after beating El Cerrito, San Rafael and Redwood-Larkspur in the NorCal Tipoff Classic along with Elk Grove in the Chris Vontoure Memorial Classic at De La Salle. The team stumbled during their final two games of the De La Salle Tourney with tough losses to Fairfield (lost in overtime 74-72) and Bellarmine of San Jose. They went on to split their games in the East Bay Extravaganza at Saint Mary's beating Sir Francis Drake and losing to Salesian. Two of the Dons' losses came in tough overtime decisions that could have gone either way.

The Dons are set to begin DFAL play at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 2 at Northgate High School.

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