

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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## Varsity Rugby Starts Season Strong with 6 Straight Wins

By Chris Roberts

The Lamorinda Rugby Club varsity boys came out strong this season taking the championship title at two SoCal tournaments, then shutting out Santa Rosa in their first pre-season home game for a combined 6 wins and no losses.

SLO/Arroyo Grande Tournament: The first tournament games of the season were held at Arroyo Grande during the weekend of Jan. 19, 20. Despite starting at 6 a.m. from Lafayette, the boys came out strong in Game one against a

good Southern Orange County (SOC) team. Evan Schlinkert scored the first try of the season two minutes into the match. SOC came out stronger in the second half and finally broke through for a try and 2 point conversion, but Lamo played a strong defense to shut down SOC for the remainder of the match resulting in a 14-7 win.

Game two of the Arroyo Grande tournament pitted Lamo against the local Mutineers RFC. Punishing tries by Cole Huntley, Kurt Drinkwater and others gave Lamo the edge as they loosened up and handily won this match by a score of 28-5.

Game three was against the SLO Hearts. Charlie Smith began with a try three minutes into the first half. AJ Taylor scored his first try of the season in the 11 minute. As the match wore on, persistent offense against a tough SLO defense added up to a 17-0 win for Lamo.

Day two of the Arroyo Grande tournament was a single "finals" game against a depleted yet spry SOC team that fought hard all the way to avenge their earlier loss to Lamo. Goals by Grant Hyjer and Junior Vei within the first 12 minutes was all the scoring that Lamo could muster but it was enough as they hung on for a 14-12 victory. Bo Richter's perfect 2-for-2 conversion kicks were ultimately the difference.

UCLA/"Pac 10" Tournament: On a stormy Friday, Jan. 25, the team and coaches loaded the bus for a long, wet ride to the UCLA hosted "Pac 10" tournament. At 7:30 a.m., the barely rested boys ran onto the UCLA pitch invigorated by the sunny Saturday morning and



the opportunity to play a "proper" rugby match in the mud! They kicked off to a physically imposing squad from Silicon Valley, but Lamo immediately showed their speed and passing skills, continually stringing out the Silicon Valley defense. Final score was 39-0. The university coaches from Cal, UCLA, Oregon and Washington all complimented Lamorinda's outstanding level of team play and individual skill sets.

Santa Rosa is Shut Out: On a cold and rainy Saturday, Feb. 2, Lamorinda Varsity shut out the powerful Santa Rosa Panthers at Miramonte.

Coming Up: Be there for the season opener against De La Salle this Saturday, Feb. 9, at Miramonte High School. You can go to [www.lamorugby.com](http://www.lamorugby.com) for the complete frosh and varsity schedules.

