

SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Saint Mary's Golf Finishes Stellar Season 30th In the Nation

By David Anderson



Senior Chadd Cocco, who has three top-five finishes this season, had the lowest round of any St. Mary's Gael at the NCAA Championships
Photo submitted by Rich Davi

The Saint Mary's Men's golf team finished the season thirtieth in the country this past weekend after qualifying and competing in the National round of the 2008 NCAA Championship Tournament in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The team advanced to the final round after finishing seventh out of 27 teams in the West Regional tournament in Bremerton, Washington. This appearance marks the first time that a Saint Mary's Men's golf team has advanced to the National Championship round of the NCAA tournament, while being just the team's second NCAA tournament appearance.

Saint Mary's ended their run at the championship with a final score of 307, or 19 over par for the round. Chadd Cocco, a senior from Bend, Oregon, came painfully close to securing one of the six individual spots in the finals after posting a score of 225 for the tournament, which forced a three way playoff with Scott Langley of Illinois, and Jurrian van der Vaart of Virginia Tech. Cocco ended up missing the cut after a van der Vaart birdie on the fourth playoff hole forced him out of the running for the final spot in the six man final.

Despite not playing as well as they would have liked, the Gaels finished with their best season in school history. Head Golf Coach Scott Hardy said about competing in the finals that "it was an exciting and good opportunity to get there [with the great competition], but it would have been nice to be able to put up a better fight."

The team's success this year and in previous years is due in part to the work of Hardy. Hardy seems to have a knack for keeping up with the bigger and stronger teams such as Stanford and UCLA that seem to get first pick when it comes to recruiting.

After taking over in 2001, the team has seen a vast improvement. The Gaels advanced to the Regional finals for the first time in history in 2005, and this season marks the first time the Gaels have advanced to the NCAA Championship Tournament in school history.

Things are looking good for the future of Men's Golf at Saint Mary's. As Hardy points out, "I'll be interested to see how we do. We've got a great recruiting class, and if we can do the same thing with the young guys [next year] that would be great."

Local Cyclists Go the Distance

Information submitted by the Garff and Rains families



Chandler Haueter is in front, followed by Shaun Garff, Chris Rains, Gregg Rogers, and Parry Garff as they pass through northern Utah on their way to Seattle

In 1991, Gary and Lynn Anderson of Piedmont founded the Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Fund (EBMRF). Their son and daughter had both been afflicted with a rare, tragic skin disorder called Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB). After living short lives filled with pain, Chuck Anderson died at the age of 27 and Christine Anderson at age 14. This spring, four students from Brigham Young University, including Campolindo graduate Shaun Garff and Miramonte grad Chris Rains, embarked on a 2600-mile bicycle trip to raise funds and awareness for the disease that affects more than 100,000 Americans, most of whom are children.

EB is characterized by infection and blistering of the skin. Simple daily occurrences such as bumps, bathing or even human touch can create new blisters or increase infection. Most EB patients do not survive beyond their twenties.

The Garff and Rains families

are friends of the Andersons. "I've seen kids who have this disease and have seen how painful it is," said Shaun Garff. "I'm motivated by the thought that a cure is right around the corner and children can be freed from this pain very soon. I want to be part of that."

The trip started on May 12 in Provo, Utah. The men (Garff, Rains, Parry Garff and Chandler Haueter) rode from central Utah north through Idaho to Seattle and then headed south along the Pacific Coast. They arrived in the Bay Area on June 7th and spent a few days resting before their scheduled departure for Santa Cruz on Thursday. The trip will end in San Diego.

EBTrek'08 is a student-run venture organized under the non-profit Adventures for a Cause. More information about the trek can be found at <http://www.ebtrek08.org/>, and about EBMRF at <http://www.ebkids.org/>.

Miramonte Seniors Win LMYA High School Hoops

By Jack Fernbacher



Mavericks player Rob Grier is swarmed by the Nads twin towers Lincoln Haley (10) and Sammy Karp.
Photo Doug Kohen

After winning the OYA High School Basketball League in 2007, the unstoppable force made up of eight determined seniors nicknamed the Nadadores took the LMYA by surprise.

"I'll be honest. I really didn't expect to do very well," said Nadador point guard Scott Williams. "None of our play-

ers are on the varsity basketball team at Miramonte. Some of the players on our team couldn't even make the freshman team and we are going against teams like the Cavaliers that has four varsity players."

The Nadadores, who played as the Timberwolves in the LMYA, went 8-1 on the

season and won first place in LMYA that ended on June 7. The Nads won their first seven games, winning two of those games by on two points.

"We had good chemistry on the team the whole season and used a strategic play called cherry-picking," said third-year Nadador Lincoln Haley. "We would out-run our opponents and score easy layups the entire game and nobody ever caught on."

The one team that did catch on to the Nads' brilliant game plan was the Cavaliers. When the Nads faced off with the Cavs, the Stanley Middle School gym was sold-out thirty minutes before the tip-off. Miramonte students represented both teams, but the Cavaliers featured four varsity players including one player in John Toman who can dunk.

"I was guarding John and let him go baseline on me and he dunked the ball," said fourth-year Nad Timothy Eckhart-Fong. "Players that can dunk shouldn't play in LMYA because no one can stop them."

In the game against the heavily favored Cavs, the Nads trailed the Cavs by fourteen points at halftime, but they didn't give up. In the game, the Nads were brilliant from the free-throw line making thirteen of fourteen attempts.

Yale-Bound Nadador Sudiptho Paul and fellow teammate Sammy Karp took the game into their own hands in the second half and led an unbelievable comeback to put the Nads up by one point with seventeen seconds left in the game. Shaky free throw shooting for the Cavs allowed the Nads to get back in the game.

"Sudiptho drove the ball to the basket and all the de-

fenders swarmed him, so he dished it off to me," said Sammy Karp about the drive that put the Nads in the lead. "I couldn't believe they left me open and I made an easy layup."

As the crowd went crazy in the final seconds, Miramonte varsity point guard Zachary Akin drove to the hoop and was fouled with a controversial one second left on the game clock. Akin calmly made his first three throw to tie the game, but the Nads point guard Williams rattled him with his smack talk to make him miss the second free throw.

"Zac missed the second free throw, but my man John Toman tipped the ball in and we defeated one of the best basketball organizations of this century," said Cavs general manager and six foot four shooting guard Wilson Cheung.

After losing to the Cavs in week 8, the Nads needed a win in the final game of the season to clinch first place in the league. In week 9 the Nads faced the Mavericks, a team consisting of juniors from Miramonte. With stellar playing in the first quarter by their amazing shooting guard who scored 14 points in the first quarter, the Nads easily rolled over the Mavs and won the LMYA title.

When shooting guard Matt Randleman was asked about what the future lies for the Nads players in basketball he said, "we are all going off to different colleges, so we won't be playing with each other. We all hope that basketball will make us successful in life."

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