

Kim Vandenberg Almost Makes It

By Steven Johns

As the current Olympic trials end, one name should stick out to Lamorinda fans: Kim Vandenberg. Vandenberg, a native of Moraga and former Campolindo Cougar, was trying to make the U.S Olympic swim team and compete in the 100 butterfly and the 200 butterfly.

Vandenberg's high school career was filled with awards and records. She was a six time North Coast Section champion with two championships in the 50 free and 100 free and one championship in the 200 free and 500 free. Vandenberg is the national high school record holder in the 100 free with a time of 49.41. In 2000 Van-

denberg was the number one ranked swimmer in the nation in the 200 fly with a time of 1:58.9. That same year she also qualified for seven events in the Olympic Trials.

At UCLA Vandenberg continued her successful swimming career. In 2002-2003 Vandenberg was named the Pac-10 newcomer of the year and placed fifth in the 200 fly in the NCAA Championships, the highest of any UCLA swimmer. In 2003-2004 Vandenberg was a NCAA All-American in the 200 fly and the 100 fly. She also set school records in those two events that year. In the summer of 2004 Vandenberg made it to the finals of

the Olympic Trials. Unfortunately her fifth place finish in the 200 fly did not net her a place on the 2004 Olympic team.

Vandenberg made it to the finals for both the 100 fly and the 200 fly but unfortunately fell just a bit short in both events. In the 100 fly Vandenberg finished in 7th place with a time of 58.84, .73 seconds behind the leader. In the 200 fly, Vandenberg's best event, she came in 3rd place with a time of 2:08.48, only 1.15 seconds behind second place.

Vandenberg has had a very successful career and could set her sights on the 2012 Olympics.