



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Lacrosse Star Doesn't Stop For Summer

By Tim Fong



Alex Seclow

Photo Tim Shearer

At age eight, Alex Seclow started playing lacrosse. Although there were no girls' teams for her age group, she still played and dominated the boys she competed against. Now, at age 15, Seclow is still dominating.

Seclow will be a sophomore at Miramonte High School in the fall, and made the varsity lacrosse team as a freshman. During her freshman season, she helped the Lady Matadors advance to the North Coast Section Semifinals where Miramonte was ousted by Monte Vista.

During the summer Seclow plays for Triple Threat Varsity, a prominent club team that has traveled to national tournaments in Colorado, Pennsylvania, New

Jersey, and Maryland. These tournaments allow players to gain experience, be seen by college recruiters, and improve their game.

"The tournaments are a great chance to play higher level lacrosse and be seen by college recruiters," explains Seclow, who hopes to play college lacrosse; these tournaments can help make this dream a reality by providing the needed exposure to recruiters.

The national tournaments are important to recruiters because of the reputation of the West coast as being weak at lacrosse. The East coast usually boasts the strongest players and teams; however this does not dis-

courage Seclow and her teammates from continually competing in tournaments with predominantly East coast teams.

"East Coast teams have a reputation for being better than the West coast teams, so it's always fun to show them we can play too. They start playing younger on the East coast and many more girls play. Some people think that East coast teams pass quicker and are more aggressive, but we have been able to hold our own against many of the teams," Seclow stated.

Traveling with the team allows Seclow and other teammates to spend time together and become close friends.

"I have had such great experiences with Triple Threat - not only do I become really close with my own team mates, but its fun getting to meet girls from all over the country like Vail, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Boston and New Jersey," said Seclow.

However, Seclow never forgets the real reason for competing in such intense tournaments, concluding, "The best part of traveling to tournaments and playing in games is getting the chance to improve my lacrosse game."

All this hard work may pay off and allow Seclow to fulfill her dream of playing college lacrosse.

Moraga Country Club

Treats the Community to Great Tournament

By Sophie Braccini

Some Lamorindans plan their vacations around it: Moraga Country Club's (MCC) Stead Open, the tennis tournament they do not want to miss. "This will be our 22nd year," says MCC Tennis Director Mark Orwig, "every second week in August, we have between 220 and 280 participants registering to compete in men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles." The free event attracts thousands of visitors every year from all of our neighboring cities; they come to see great tennis and unusual games.

"What is specific about the Stead Open is that it is not a professional event," explains Orwig, "still, there is \$25,000 in prize money to be won, so we attract some very good players." You may not see Federer, Nadal or Sharapova on the Moraga courts, but definitely some great players; some on the Tour at this time, some ex-professionals and some nationally ranked juniors. The eclectic group makes for unusual encounters and very interesting games, a delight for spectators.

When the event was first envisioned, Orwig began working with Michael Stead, the owner of many auto dealerships in the East Bay. Since then, the Stead family has been a great sponsor and supporter of the event. This year



Darrin Cohen of Lafayette in last year's Mens' Doubles Final Photo Tod Fierner

the Club secured the support of an additional generous sponsor, Barons Jewelers. It is thanks to the sponsors that the event is free for the public. "We do this for the community," says an enthusiastic Orwig, who spends many hours on this event every year, "the Club is completely accessible during the tournament, the parking is plentiful, food is available and the restaurant is open to all during the week." As a special treat for people who work

during the week, Orwig announces that featured matches will be presented in the evening, starting at 5:30 p.m.

This year's tournament runs from August 5th-10th. The public can check the results and announcements on bulletin boards at the Club or by calling 376-1314. USTA players can register until July 26th by sending an email to Orwig at Mark@moragacc.com.

Correction: In our July 9 story, Little League All-Stars Start Sizzling Summer, we incorrectly named one of the players for the 10-year-old All-Stars. Our apologies to pitcher Jake Berry; there is no Jake Rowley on the team.

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