



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

DFAL Boys Basketball Gets Under Way

By Conrad Bassett

The three Lamorinda boys varsity basketball teams have been traveling far and wide through California, each hoping that their pre-season schedules would prepare them for the upcoming Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) competition.

All three teams enter DFAL competition with winning pre-season records.

The Acalanes Dons went 7-4. They lost three of their first five games but followed with wins in five of the last six games. They lost to powerful De La Salle as well as Kennedy (Richmond) but defeated several other North Coast foes, including Piner, Rancho Cotate, and San Rafael. Corey Collins, Steve Maze, and David Masi have contributed to a balanced Don attack.

Miramonte played in two tournaments, finishing in second place in both the Wine Valley Classic in Napa and the Sand Dune Invitational in San Francisco. The Matadors won four of their last five games, featuring Chris Hatfield and Eric Obeysekere as leading scorers in most of the games. They have also faced strong competition, being edged 77-74 by perennially strong St. Mary's (Berkeley) as well as Chico (63-59) but beating Amador Valley and Terra Linda.

The Campolindo Cougars

played in three tournaments, winning two out of three games in each one on their way to an 8-5 record. They played well in the Mission Prep Christmas Classic in San Luis Obispo, beating St. Joseph's and host Mission Prep handily after losing to Fremont (Los Angeles).

Campolindo also had the opportunity to battle defending state champion Campbell Hall and stayed close for three periods until losing 72-54. Junior Kellen Ito has led the team in scoring, rebounding and blocks, while senior Chris Dyer has been consistent with several steals and assists.

Acalanes has not played any teams that Miramonte or Campolindo played during pre-season. Both Campolindo and Miramonte played Skyline (Oakland). The Cougars beat Skyline (Oakland) in overtime but Skyline edged out Miramonte.

All of the other schools in the revamped DFAL had winning non-league seasons with one exception - newcomer Dougherty Valley.

The DFAL season opened on January 6 with Campo traveling to Miramonte and Acalanes traveling to Las Lomas. Results were not available at press time. Check our Varsity Calendar for upcoming home games.

Women's Basketball Counts

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Coach John Brewster huddles with his 6th grade St. P CYO team just prior to their half-time scrimmage in the Gaels' McKeon Pavilion during the January 4th game against the Pacific Tigers. "I want you to score, to not be afraid to shoot," he said. Photo Robin Schoettler Fox

Last year, almost two-thirds of Division I NCAA membership - 198 institutions - participated, attracting more than 592,000 fans across the Pack the House games, with 96 institutions breaking single-attendance records and five programs recording their first-ever sell-out game.

While you're at McKeon Pavilion, look around. See all those young girls? Those may be the faces of the future of women's basketball.

At least, says John Brewster, who took his 6th grade CYO team to Sunday's game against the University of the Pacific, "They can dream."

Brewster has coached twenty five basketball teams, everything from CYO to high school, about half of which have been girls' teams.

Just going to women's collegiate games helps make big things seem possible for girls, says Brewster: "Girls learn not to give up, not to think that it's just a game for boys."

Believing in the dream is easier for girls who know SMC scholarship freshman Katie Batlin was the star of last year's North Coast

Section Division III champs, Miramonte High School.

Or that Assistant Coach Tracy Morris Johnston is the Campolindo graduate who became a star Saint Mary's player and remains the school's all-time leading scorer with 1,807 points.

At its best, women's collegiate basketball is exciting and fun to watch. But it's different than the men's game. Don't come expecting dunks, says Brewster. The women's game is more pure, more focused on fundamentals, team play.

Competition though is tough. Sunday's game against Pacific was a nail-biter, coming down to a foul shot with 3 seconds left in the game, SMC taking the win, 71-70.

According to the NCAA, women's collegiate basketball trends are good: "In terms of interest, participation, skill level and excitement, all the indicators are pointing up."

But attendance remains a challenge nationwide. At Saint Mary's, thanks in part to Patrick Mills' near celebrity status, men's basketball games often sell-out the

Gaels' 3500-seat McKeon Pavilion.

For women's games, the school typically closes the upstairs, leaving 1500 court-level seats for fans, most of which go unused.

Coach Paul Thomas works off-court to build interest. There are bi-weekly fan breakfasts, community presentations, and now a once-a-month local radio broadcast.

Meanwhile, Staci Hamaguchi, Director of Athletic Promotions for SMC since 2007, brainstormed ways to draw in more students, alumni and community fans.

Half-time scrimmages attract families; so do youth team days. There's Kids Work McKeon, a new program aimed at giving boys and girls a peek at game-day operations.

Now eyes are on that January

24th afternoon game.

Last year, Saint Mary's Pack the Pavilion game registered season-high attendance figures, but Portland won the contest for the WCC.

"This year we want to break (attendance) records of the last five or six years," says Hamaguchi. "We're piling everything on, making it big."

And that starts with the level of play - San Diego is tough competition. Go for it, the coaches told Hamaguchi.

"If we bring our 'A' game, it's going to be a great game," Hamaguchi recalls the coaches saying.

"If we come out with a victory, it's going to be exciting. If we don't, they'll see that we played hard the whole time."



St. Mary's Sierra Chambers (10) blocks Devaneil Hampton (20) of Cal from driving to the basket. Photo Jordan Fong

Local Lacrosse Players Battle in Breast Cancer Tourney

Submitted by Evangeline Walsh



Photo Evangeline Walsh

Former Lamorinda Lacrosse Club coach Pat Takahashi refereed the December 2008 inaugural Battle versus Breast Cancer Lacrosse Tournament, with several of Takahashi's former local players participating. Takahashi was the first Lamorinda Lacrosse Club coach when the program expanded to include 6th-8th grade girls in 2003; these former players are now in high school. Organized by California High School head varsity lacrosse coach Scott Corso, the

tournament used a 7-player versus 7-player format. Eight teams competed, with over 100 girls donating their \$30 entrance fees. Referees and coaches donated time. All profits went to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Pictured (left to right): Emilia Harband (Acalanes), Erin Walsh (Miramonte), Pat Takahashi, Alex Seclow (Miramonte), Rachel Ozer (Campolindo), Devin Frazer (Acalanes) and Brooke Winslow (Acalanes).



SMC Gaels Home Games

Fri, Jan 9	8:00 PM
Men's Basketball	Santa Clara Moraga (McKeon Pavilion)
Sat, Jan 10	2:00 PM
Women's Basketball	San Francisco Moraga
Sun Jan 11	7:00 PM
Men's Basketball	San Francisco SF (War Memorial Gym)
Thurs, Jan 15	6:00 PM
Men's Basketball	Loyola Marymount Moraga (McKeon Pavilion)
Fri, Jan 16	All Day
Women's Tennis	Cal Winter Invitational at Berkeley
Sat, Jan 17	All Day

Women's Tennis	Cal Winter Invitational at Berkeley
Sat, Jan 17	5:00 PM
Men's Basketball	Pepperdine Moraga (McKeon Pavilion)
Sun, Jan 18	All Day
Women's Tennis	Cal Winter Invitational at Berkeley
Mon, Jan 19	All Day
Men's Tennis	Cal Winter Invitational at Berkeley
Sat, Jan 24	2:00 PM
Women's Basketball	San Diego Moraga
Thu, Jan 29	7:00 PM
Women's Basketball	Gonzaga * Moraga

LMYA Spring Sign-ups go Online

Submitted by Gint Federas

L MYA online registration for spring sports runs from January 10 - 20. Please go to www.lmyasports.com for updates and to register for the following sports:

- Tee-ball**, co-ed (kindergarten)
 - Soft baseball**, separate girls and boys divisions (1st grade)
 - Baseball**, boys (2nd/3rd grade)
 - Softball**, girls (2nd/3rd grade, 4th/5th grade, 6th/7th/8th grade)
 - Volleyball**, girls (5th-8th grade)
 - Volleyball**, boys (5th/6th grade boys play in 6th grade girls' division. 2 boys per team, maximum)
 - Soccer camp** (boys, 3rd-8th grade)
 - High Hoops Basketball** (high school)
- Fees vary by program. Most programs are \$185, except Kindergarten - 1st grade tee-ball and baseball, which are \$140. There are registration discounts for coaches and other volunteers.

Varsity Home Game Calendar ••• High School Varsity @ Home •••

Wednesday, January 7	Miramonte @ Acalanes, 5:30pm	Wednesday, January 14	Dougherty Valley @ Miramonte, 5:30pm
Girls Soccer	Boys Basketball	Girls Soccer	Boys Basketball
Dougherty Valley @ Acalanes, 6:15pm	Miramaonte @ Acalanes, 7pm	Acalanes @ Campolindo, 6:15pm	Las Lomas @ Campolindo, 7pm
Boys Soccer	Girls Soccer	Boys Soccer:	Dougherty Valley @ Miramonte, 7pm
Las Lomas @ Miramonte, 6:15pm	Dublin @ Acalanes, 6:15pm	Campolindo @ Acalanes, 2pm	Girls Soccer
Dublin @ Campolindo, 6:15pm	Saturday, January 10	Friday, January 16	Las Lomas @ Acalanes, 6:15pm
Friday, January 9	Boys Soccer:	Girls Basketball	Boys Soccer
Girls Basketball	San Ramon Valley @ Acalanes, 5pm	Las Lomas @ Campolindo, 5:30pm	Campolindo @ Miramonte, 6:15pm

Patricia Battersby, Ashley Battersby, Joan Cleveland, Joan Eggers, Joan Evans, Linda Friedman, Marianne Greene, Pamela Halloran, Dexter Honens II, Debbie Johnston, Hal Kaufman

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