



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Mills Off the Court but Still in the Game

So what if Patrick Mills' hand injury keeps him on the bench? That doesn't mean his head isn't in the game. Just ask fans who watched Mills during SMC's game against University of San Francisco on February 5, the first home game since Mills' broke his hand during the fated road trip to Gonzaga's gym.

Wearing a hot pink sweater, Point Guard Mills seemed to have become... well, "Assistant Coach" Mills, eyes intent on the court action, his body up and down from his spot sitting among the coaching staff, approaching individual players for time-out mini-talks.

After the game, Coach Randy Bennett said he thought Mills' active involvement was great, even Bennett's idea: "I told him at the beginning, he can't play but he can still help lead."

It was Diamon Simpson, though, who explained with a slight smile that, really, all this advice was just business as usual. Mills, he said, was always very "observant."

"It's not just this one game that he stepped up and said something," said Simpson.

"What he sees on the court, he's going to tell you."

And what caught Mills' eye from his new bench seat at the USF game? "Tonight he was talking about open shots, make sure that you're comfortable shooting shots."

And his teammates apparently were - the game was a blowout, 79-58, leaving fans plenty of reason to be distracted by Mills, the pink sweater, and his new courtside leadership role.

RSF0x



### Saint Mary's Falls Short Against Gonzaga

By Mikaela Cowles



Diamon Simpson takes it up, up, up... and in, at the Gonzaga game  
Photo Doug Kohen

The Saint Mary's men's basketball team lost a heart breaker on Thursday, February 13, at home to the No. 19 ranked Gonzaga, 72-70. The 3,500 capacity crowd of McKeon Pavilion was energized adding to the difficult venue of what Gonzaga's head coach Mark Few calls, "a little cracker box gym."

With 14 lead changes, 11 ties and 38 fouls, the game came down to the final seconds as Carlin Hughes scored 8 points to bring the Gaels

within one, 71-70. Despite suffering a highly controversial call of Delay of Game by the refs, Saint Mary's head coach Randy Bennett didn't look for any excuses as they suffered their first home loss of the season.

"We had our chances," said Bennett. "Until we can look at ourselves and say we can take care of the ball, that's what's going to happen."

With the recent loss of leader Patrick Mills due to injury, the Gaels have seen lineup changes in the last

four of their games. Facing the Bulldogs, Bennett looked to gain a defensive advantage with three new faces in the starting five. Mickey McConnell, Wayne Hunter and Lucas Walker combined with seasoned starters Diamon Simpson and Omar Samhan to create a fast paced, highly physical game.

Steven Gray opened the scoring for Gonzaga, hitting a three pointer within the first minute of the game. Saint Mary's Wayne Hunter countered the Bulldogs attack with a three of his own and continued the game shooting 4-7 from behind the arc. Hunter, known as one of the best defensive players in the WCC, showed how formidable he is. 13 minutes into the first half he stopped the Bulldogs guard Jeremy Pargo in a one on one fast break. Hunter finished the game with 18 points.

Leading scorers Samhan and Simpson were met with strong resistance in the post during the first half, as the Bulldogs forced both players to shoot off the block and off balance. Saint Mary's stayed in the game by shooting an impressive 6-10 from three-point range, sending the Gaels and the Bulldogs to locker at halftime, tied 36-36.

Four minutes into the second half, Simpson broke the 1,000 rebound mark, making the 15th player to accomplish this in the WCC history. Simpson finished the game with 12 points and 15 rebounds.

Down to the wire Gonzaga showed their poise, fouling Wayne Hunter with 8 seconds left at half court, which due to Gonzaga's low foul count forced Saint Mary's to take the ball out of bounds at half court and Hunter to turn the ball over on his inbounds pass. As the Gaels fouled to stop the clock, Pargo hit his first of a one and one, making the score 72-70 for the Bulldog win.

The Gaels postseason dreams look rocky as they search late in the year for a new presence at point guard. Bennett said when they find that, "I think we'll start being a pretty good team again."

**Send sports stories and ideas to:**  
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
or call 925-377-0977

### 3rd Grade Lady Panthers Take First in League

Submitted by Art Thoms, III



(L-R) in the front row are (standing) Grace Carlson, Kailey Meyer, Vanessa Vaisnor, Lexi Fraser, Olivia Reinecke, Ashley Thoms, Zoe Del Rosario, Olivia Heyman, and (kneeling) Cate Combi.  
Back row: Art Thoms III, Art Thoms, Jr., Rob Combi Photo Molly Meyer

On January 31, this St. Perpetua (St. P) 3rd grade girls' basketball team completed its season by clinching the CYO West Diablo

League Champion title. With players from St. Perpetua School, Burton Valley, Happy Valley and Springhill, these Panthers comprised one of four St. P teams in their 10-team league.

They won their first playoff game against another St. P team, a 17-16 thriller left undecided until the final seconds. Then they beat St. Mary's (Walnut Creek), 29-10, in the championship game.

Former Oakland Raider, Art Thoms, Jr., coached the team with his son, Art Thoms III, and Rob Combi.

Said the younger Thoms: "It was a special season. We had a great group of girls and parents. It was like a big happy family and the girls had a lot of fun."

The team followed up their championship game by attending the Warrior-Spurs game and playing at halftime.



Extreme Red Zone Photo Doug Kohen

**Lamorinda Weekly** is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, CA

**Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133**  
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com

We're a community newspaper, and we welcome your input:  
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com  
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
Art, theater, community events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com  
Business news or business press releases: business@lamorindaweekly.com  
School stories/events: schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
General interest stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Publisher: Andy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, phone 925-330-7916  
Associate Publisher: Wendy Wuerth-Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
Editor: Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com  
Advertising: Wendy Wuerth-Scheck; 925-377-0977, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

24,500 printed copies; 23,200 mailed to homes and businesses in Lamorinda. 1,300 delivered to pick up locations. Layout Andy Scheck, Moraga. Printed in California.

Staff Writers:  
Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com  
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com  
Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com  
Andrea A. Firth; andrea@lamorindaweekly.com  
Jean Follmer; jean@lamorindaweekly.com  
Contributing Writers: Linda U. Foley, Conrad Bassett, Susie Iventosch, Mikaela Cowles, Guy Dotan, Alex Crook  
Sports Editor: Robin Schoettler Fox  
Photos: Tod Fierner, Doug Kohen, Jordan Fong, Robert Johnson, Sheryl Cardiff

Home Games	Time	Event	Opponent
Thurs, Feb 19	8:00 PM	Men's Basketball (McKeon Pavilion)	San Diego
Fri, Feb 20	2:00 PM	Baseball	Oregon
Sat, Feb 21	11:00 AM	Baseball	Oregon
	12:00 PM	Softball	UC Davis
	12:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Loyola Marymount
	2:00 PM	Softball	UC Davis
Sat Feb 28th	2:30 PM	Baseball	Oregon
	2:00 PM	Men's Basketball (McKeon Pavilion)	Utah State
Sun, Feb 22	1:00 PM	Men's Tennis	UC Davis
	1:00 PM	Baseball	Oregon
	1:00 PM	Women's Lacross (Saint Mary's Stadium)	UC Davis
Tue, Feb 24	2:00 PM	Baseball	San Jose State
	3:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Southeastern Louisiana
Thurs, Feb 26	7:00 PM	Women's Basketball	Pepperdine
Friday Feb 27	1:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Binghamton
	3:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Brown
Sat Feb 28th	12:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Gonzaga
	1:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Utah Valley State
	2:00 PM	Women's Basketball	Loyola Marymount
	3:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Binghamton
Sun, March 1	12:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Pacific
	2:00 PM	Softball- Gael Classic	Brown
Wed, March 4	2:00 PM	Baseball	CS Bakersfield
Fri, March 6	2:00 PM	Baseball	Sacramento
	4:00 PM	Men's Tennis	Santa Clara
	4:00 PM	Women's Lacross (Saint Mary's Stadium)	Stanford

For up to date schedules see:  
[www.smcgaels.com](http://www.smcgaels.com)

• Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified •

**Classes Offered**

**Contra Costa Adventure Boot Camp**  
Get fit in these Fun, Fast Paced, One hour, Outdoor Classes for Adults. All fitness levels. Early morning classes available. You know you want it! 925-457-4587, www.ContraCostaBootCamp.com

**Music lessons**

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MTAC member. Competition, CM exam Preparation. Rita Yegiazaryan 283-7601

**Office space for rent**

**MORAGA Office Space Available**  
Building faces scenic Moraga Rd. across from Rheim Shopping Ctr. Plenty of parking, beautifully landscaped, grounds maintenance included. Ste A, 866 sq. ft. \$1500+common costs per month Suite D, 342 sq. ft. \$679+common costs per month. Contact Kate (510) 727-1800 x313 or katieB@5Aspace.com

**Vacation Rentals**

**Mexico- Cabo San Lucus**  
Stunning home on the Pacific Sleeps 10, daily maid, 254-5539 www.villacontenta.com

**Martha's Vineyard House private beach with dock**  
Katama Bay-Edgartown sleeps 12, great for families call 925-330-1983 www.wuerthminnow.com

**Rental wanted**

Neat lady, non-smoker, CMT, w/Rat Terrier dog, seeks room to rent in Canyon. 925-339-4161

**Massage**

**Professional Massage Therapy**  
Prevent & treat chronic pain, injury & emotional stress w/out drugs or surgery. 15 yrs exp. Located in Star Pilates Non members ok. New clients save \$50 off 2 sessions. Thomas James Helean NCTMB, PFT 925-285-8669 www.starpilates.com

**Services**

**House cleaning**

**Housecleaning**  
With references, 925-640-6311

Submit online: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com>

**\$3 per line in bold, \$2 per regular line,**  
3 lines minimum (max 30 Characters per line)

**Services**

**Windows & Gutters**

**Raingutter cleaning & Window washing**  
Prompt/Friendly/Reliable Lafayette Resident Joe Ryan (925) 210-7400

**Reliable Window Cleaning**  
Friendliness & remarkable results. Windows, Gutters, Pressure Washing. (925) 254-7622 ReliableWindowService.com

**Handyman**

Your project needs help? Paint, fix, build, pressure wash, decks, electrical, plumbing, concrete & more. Inside & outside jobs. Professional and Reliable. Call Terry: 925-788-1663

**PROFESSIONAL QUALITY WORK**  
**All types of repairs done.**  
Woodworking, Electrical, Audio, Leak repair, Drywall, Painting and more. Clean neat & on time! No job too small, Senior Discount. ☎ 708-6053/283-3240 (925) E-mail: mlou812@pacbell.net