



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Lamorinda's Youth Baseball Season Begins

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Campolindo varsity baseball team at the Moraga Opening Day Photo Andy Scheck



OBA's 25th anniversary Photo Andy Scheck



One of many Lafayette Little League Opening Day Jamboree Games Photo Robin Fox

Moraga Baseball Association: The Tradition Continues

The teams raced into the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM) gym, each with its own theme song blasting from the speakers. Literally sliding into their position on the gym floor, the players were raring to go even if wet field conditions

meant no games that day.

"They (the kids) always have a wonderful time at Opening Day," said Joe Rosenbaum, president of MBA. "We want them to have fun. We want these kids to learn how to play baseball the right way, but also learn sportsmanship and teamwork as well."

Speeches, first pitches and raffles filled the agenda for the morning. The Campolindo varsity baseball team was introduced with their coach, Max Luckhurst, who spoke of the importance of education first, sports next. There was even some good-natured ribbing when each Campo player introduced themselves and where they played as a kid. When a few mentioned they played in Lafayette, boo's intermingled with laughter and applause.

Eleven-year-old Caleb Whalen was just looking forward to playing ball. "The best part is that you get to be competitive against other people," he said. "That, and when you get a hit."

Orinda Baseball Association: Celebrating 25 Years

Balloons, commemorative baseball hats, and a host of past OBA board members were on hand to celebrate OBA's 25th anniversary. Before the ceremonies even began, a festive atmosphere filled the Wagner Ranch campus with team photos, pitching challenges, whistle ball home-run contests, carnival games and food. When the teams filed into Wagner Ranch's gym they passed through a gauntlet of Miramonte Varsity Baseball players, raking in the high-fives before they took their place on the gym floor.

From the welcome by OBA president Greg Anderson, to the impressive list of awards, including the Curtis Bottomley and Will Newton awards, and finally, the "first pitch" thrown by event sponsor Orinda Motors, it was all baseball, all the time. "Our mission is to serve the community of Orinda and provide a quality baseball program for our kids," said Anderson. To celebrate the 25 years of OBA, Bob Hegarty, known locally as "The Father of Orinda Baseball," was given special

recognition for his tireless efforts on behalf of Orinda Baseball.

"There is nothing better than a young man playing baseball," said Hegarty. "All you have to do is go to Opening Day and look at those kids with their uniforms on and the smiles on their faces. There is nothing more rewarding in this world." **Lafayette Little League: Play Ball!**

Buckeye and Chaney Fields were open early, hosting a Jamboree play schedule, with limited blocks of time to ensure each team had a chance to play in the two-day opening celebration. Varsity players from the Acalanes baseball team were on hand, illustrating what being a role model is really about. Members of the high school team helped out both days of the event, getting the young players warmed up, assisting pitchers and catchers during the games and even raking and prepping the fields between games.

At noon on Saturday, play stopped and "Unplugged," a rock band featuring Lafayette Little League players, took the stage and performed several songs. After a welcome by LLL president Dan Ventrelle, an a'capella choir, the "Rocktets," comprised of Joaquin Moraga eighth graders, sang the national anthem and then, as most players appreciated, it was back to baseball for the rest of the afternoon.

"Our goal is to provide every kid of every level with the best baseball experience that we can," said Ventrelle. "We are fortunate to have so many positive adult role models to teach them about the game."

That sentiment showed in nine-year-old Ryan Regan of the AAA Division's Angels when asked about his favorite part of baseball. "There's no arguing," Regan said. "It's nice to play baseball. And it's a good team."

Cougar Football



FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 4 - 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 13 thru July 24 (M - F)
TIMES: 1:30 - 5:00 P.M.
FEES: \$270 (T-shirt included)

FOR REGISTRATION FORMS, CONTACT:
925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@acalanes.k12.ca.us

Congratulations 2009

LMYA Champions

Submitted by Gint Federas

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3rd Grade Boys - Kentucky Wildcats
Coaches: Rob Middleton and Jeff Merken | 6th Grade Girls - Duke Blue Devils
Coach: Jeff Mitchell |
| 4th Grade Girls - Duke Blue Devils
Coaches: Alex Malinovsky and Chris Easter | 6th Grade Boys - Boston College
Coaches: Rick Larson, Scott Rickman |
| 4th Grade Boys - Kentucky Wildcats
Coaches: Stuart Park and Eric Flett | 7/8 Girls - U Conn Huskies
Coaches: Karen Elliott and Stig Svedberg |
| 5th Grade Girls - Cal Bears
Coaches: Kevin Porep and John Fellner | 7/8 Boys - U Conn Huskies
beat Indiana 46 to 40
Coaches: Mike Inserra, Darrell Christian |
| 5th Grade Boys - Kentucky Wildcats
Coach: Brent Bird | |



7th/8th grade girls LMYA champions U-Conn Huskies: Back row (left to right) Coach Stig Svedberg, Lauren Mitchell, Georgia Jansky, Julia Elliott, Madison Maderious, Head Coach Karen Elliott. Front row (L-R) Melia Green, Claire Svedberg, Megan McMillan, Ruth Shaffer Photo Colin Elliot

Local Youth Collection Used Baseball Equipment

Written with information provided by Phil Hoffman and Laura Traxler



OBA players (left to right) Will Richardson and the Shepherd brothers, Kevin and Steven Photo Laura Traxler



Campo varsity baseball player Michael Hoffman with equipment collected at MBA's Opening Day Photo Phil Hoffman

MBA and OBA families came to Opening Day ceremonies with gently used baseball gear that will soon hit new fields of play beyond Lamorinda.

Campo varsity baseball player Michael Hoffman spearheaded the equipment drive at MBA's Opening Day. Those equipment donations, with an estimated (if new) value of \$10,000,

are bound for Richmond, Oakland and Rodeo athletic programs. Enough to uniform and equip 3 teams with baseball shirts, pants, cleats, mitts, bats and more, including some catcher safety gear. An idea Hoffman had when remembering playing summer youth baseball against those leagues, including one team whose players wore t-shirts with

numbers hand-written in Sharpie.

Meanwhile, at the OBA 25th anniversary opening day festivities, three OBA players - Kevin and Steven Shepard, and their friend, Will Richardson, prepared for spring break in a slightly unconventional manner. They collected used equipment and sold baked goods to buy game-day balls, things they will

pack for their spring break vacation to Puerto Vallarta. A gift for Puerto Vallarta's Little League, in its inaugural season this spring. The boys' families have been working with Bob Cohen, a sports reporter for the Banderas News in Puerto Vallarta, who is the "go to" guy for the new Little League there. Laura Traxler, Kevin and Steven's Mom, made the initial contact with Cohen while looking for a charity to help support while they were on vacation. The boys made a great start on Opening Day, but there's room for more. "We welcome all donations of gently used mitts and bats for 9-14 year old boys," says Traxler. "I can assure you they will be delivered to the Puerto Vallarta Little League children in late March." Contact Laura Traxler at lauratrax@comcast.RSFox



4th grade girls LMYA champions, Duke: Front row (left to right) Emilie Malinovsky, Dante Bamont, Lindsay Easter. Middle row: Jaime Brown, Gwen Kessenich, Josie Cole, Heidi Stanford, Melissa Elliott. Back row: Coach Alex Malinovsky, Coach Chris Easter Photo Karen Elliot

MBA Box Scores for February 28 to March 14, 2009

Submitted by Donald DePaolo

Moraga Baseball Association

Pony Division

March 7, 2009

Rodeo 5 - A's 3
A's Highlights: Havel 1-2, SB; Nichols 2 RS, SB, 1 IP, 3 K, 0 R's; Hofmann SB, 1 RS, Gong 1-2, 2 RBI; Rochlin 2 2/3IP, 7 K's, 2 R; Kiriaze 1 1/3IP, 3 K's, 1 R; Armen 1 IP, 3 K's, 2 R.

Moraga Baseball Association

Bronco Division

February 28, 2009

Orinda Fire 5, Moraga Mariners 4
Mariners Highlights Sean Smith 2-3, 3 RBI, 2 IP, 2K; Damien Stoner 2-3, 1 RS; Will Coates 1-2, 1 RS, 1RBI; Matt Koelzer 1-1, 1 RS.
Moraga Nationals 15, Moraga Giants 14
Nationals Highlights: Andrew Willmore 1 IP, 1 ER, 1K, 2-for-4, 1 RBI, 3 RS; Matt Zurnacian 2-for-3, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Jacob Molloy 2 IP, 1 ER, 3K, 1-for-3, 1 RBI, 1 RS
Giants Highlights: Peter Goshorkhi 2-for-4, 1 RBI, 4 RS; Sam Phillips 2-for-4, 3B, 2 RBI, 2 RS; Brendan Gordon 2 IP, 0 ER, 3 K, 1-for-4, 1 RS; Eric Dunning 2-for-4, 1 RBI, 2 RS
Moraga Rays 3, Orinda Outlaws 5
Rays Highlights: Jack Stephens 4 IP, 1 ER, 2-for-3, 2SB, RBI; Scott Smoot 2 for 3, SB, 1RS; Neil Kelley 2 for 3,

SB, 1RS; Jake Rider 1 for 3, RBI.
March 7, 2009:
Pleasant Hill 6, Moraga Rays 4
Rays highlights: Ben Skinner 2 for 3, 1 R, 1 SB; Jake Rider 1 for 2, 2 RBI; Neil Kelley 2B, 2 RBI.
Moraga Nationals 13, Piedmont Bears 3
Nationals Highlights: Matthew Tuan 3 for 4, HR, 2 RS, 7 RBI, 2 SB, 3 IP, 1 ER, 4 Ks; Matthew Zurnacian 2 for 3, 1 RS, 2 RBI, 1 SB, 2 IP, 1 ER, 3 Ks; Brian Lyle 2 IP, 0H, 0W, 6Ks; Michael Wright 2 for 4, 2B, 2 RS.
March 8, 2009:
Moraga Rays 14, San Ramon 2
Rays highlights: Ryan Geisreiter 3 IP, 1R, 5k; Ben Skinner 3 for 4, 2b, 2 RBI; Nick Fafoutis 2 for 3, 3 runs, 2B, 2 RBI
San Ramon 7, Moraga Rays 2
Rays highlights: Scott Chen 1 RBI, 2B; Neil Kelley 2 for 2, 1 R; Patrick Ratchford sac fly RBI
March 14, 2009
Moraga Nationals 8, Orinda Fire 5
Nationals Highlights: Andrew Willmore 1 for 2, 2 R, 1 RBI, 2 SB, 2 BB, 2 IP, 0 ER, 3 Ks; Matthew Zurnacian 3 IP, 2 ER, 4 Ks; Marty Cunnane 1 for 2, 1 RBI; Michael Wright 1 for 2, 1 R, 2 RBI, 2 SB, 1 BB.
Moraga Giants 11, Piedmont Wildcats 7

Wildcats Highlights: Dylan 2-for-4, 2 2B, 2 RS; Bennett 1-for-4, 1 RS; Cameron 1-for-4, 1 RS
Giants Highlights: Patrick Duryea 2-for-5, 1 RS; Jack Gordon 2-for-4, 1 RS; Brendan Gordon 4 IP, 1 ER, 6 K, 2-for-5, 1 RS; Eric Dunning 3-for-5, 2B, 2 RS

Moraga Baseball Association

Mustang Division

March 10, 2009

Angels 7, Yankees 2
Angels Highlights: Sterling Strother 2-for-3, HR, 2 RBIs; Ryan McNally 1-for-3, BB, 2 IP, 4 K's; Kyle Hinds 1-for-3, RBI, 2 IP, 5 K's.
Yankees Highlights: Harry Finnerty 2-for-2; Nick Bishop 1-for-2, RBI, 1 IP, 0 ER; Michael Hooper 1-for-2, 2B, BB.
March 14, 2009
Moraga A's 9, Moraga Orioles 7
A's Highlights: Westphal 2 IP, 2K's, 1ER, 4-for-4, 3RBI's, 3SB, 2RS; Kronenburg 2IP, 2K's, 4BB, 3ER, W, 2-for-4, 1RBI, 1RS; Gabrielson 1-for-3, 1RBI; Lawrence 2 IP, 3K's, 2BB, 1ER, 0-for-2, 1RBI, 1RS.
Orioles Highlights: Caro 2IP, 2K's, 1BB, 0ER, 1-for-3, 1 2B; Lyon 1IP, 3K's, 2BB, 0ER, 1-for-2, 1 2B, 2 SB, 2RS; Hillhouse 1-for-1, 1RBI, 1RS; Erickson 1IP, 1K, 1ER, 1-for-3,

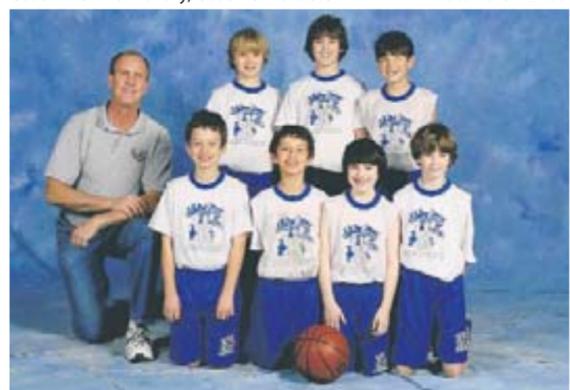
2RBI's, 1RS.
White Sox 13, Yankees 12
White Sox highlights: Tommie Vega 3-for-4, 2 RBIs, 2 RS; David Cushing 2-for-4, 3 RS; Jackson Reneau 2-for-3, 4 RBIs.
Yankees highlights: Michael Hooper 2-for-3, 3B, RBI, 2 RS; Casey Kiriaze 1-for-2, 2 RBIs, RS; Trevin Kroichick RBI, unassisted DP; Jacob Pappa 2 BBs, 3 RS.
Mustang Angels 10, Mariners 0
Angels Highlights: Aaron DePaolo 2-for-3, 2 Runs; Nick Morgan 1 IP, 2 Ks, 1-for-4, 1 Run, 2 RBIs, 1 BB; Richard Gong 3 AB, 2 Runs, 2 BB.
Mariners Highlights: Jason Rodriguez 2 IP, 5 Ks, 1-for-2; Greg Wenning 2 IP, 3 Ks, 1-for-2; Connor Peterson 1-for-2.

Moraga Baseball Association

Pinto Division

March 14, 2009

Moraga A's 10, Moraga Cubs 6
A's highlights: Jeremy Gunderson 2 for 3, 1B, 2B, 2RS; Bryan Kikugawa 3 for 3, 3 1B, 2RS; Dominic Gillibert 2 for 3, 1B, 2RS; Casey Chambers 1 for 2, 2RS.
Cubs Highlights: Grant Harper 2 for 3, 2 1B, 2RS; Peter O'Donnell 2 for 3, 2 1B, 1RS; Connor Gregg 3 for 3, 1B, 1RS; Keoni Vuong 2 for 3, 2RS.



4th grade boys LMYA champions, Kentucky Wildcats: Back row (left to right) Coach Stuart Park, Jason West, Justin Plummer, Jake Oxendine. Front row: Isaac Thomas (Park), Julian Scoglio, Avery Novick and Kyle Flett. Not pictured: Ryan Levy and Coach Eric Flett Photo submitted by Gint Federas

Lafayette Little League Scores, March 9 - March 14

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division

Dodgers 7 Giants 1
Cardinals 2 Yankees 1
Cubs 13 Redsox 6
Angels 3 A's 0
Angels 13 Yankees 6
Dodgers 5 Cubs 1
Cardinals 6 Yankees 6
A's 4 Redsox 2

AAA Division

Redsox 6 Marlins 4
Cubs 4 Giants 3
Dodgers 8 A's 6
Angels 7 Yankees 4
Cardinals 16 Mets 8
Mets 12 Giants 11
Yankees 8 Cubs 6
Redsox 10 Angels 9
Marlins 13 A's 13
Dodgers 16 Cardinals 10