



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Lamorinda Dominates CYO Diocese Championship Play

By Robin Schoettler Fox

In box scores of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) results, Lamorinda did well in basketball this year, sending more than a dozen teams to the 2009 Oakland Diocese play-offs and taking home five championship titles, girls and boys combined. Teams representing grades 4 through 8 earned berths to the single-elimination Oakland Diocese bracket championship playoffs by winning local league and/or tournament play.

"With over 1200 basketball teams in CYO this year, to have five diocese champions (from Lamorinda) is an accomplishment," says Bill Ford, CYO Director for the Diocese of Oakland.

St. Perpetua's (St. P) 6th grade Panthers, coached by Rob O'Reilly and Ed Saribay, avenged last year's 5th grade double-over time championship game loss to Christ the King (Pleasant Hill) by beating essentially the same players in this year's final game, 42-40. "They're league rivals and they've had our number all season long," said Coach O'Reilly. "We needed our best performance of the season to beat them and we got it today. Coming into this game, I had a good feeling about our chances because each one of our players improved over the season, and things were really coming together for us in our playoff run."

The 7th grade championship games looked like a local contest, as Lamorinda teams faced each other in the final girls and boys games. Santa Maria's 7th grade girls beat St. Perpetua, 42-27. On the boys' side, St. Perpetua took the title, beating St. Monica's, 56-42. Panther Coach Mike Cassidy said their Moraga rival was tough competition, had been throughout league play. "Saint Monica's was the only team that beat us all season," said Cassidy.



St. P's 6th grade Champions: Seated: Casey Harrington. Standing (left to right): Coach Ed Saribay, Zach Stromberg, Tyler Petite, Joey Hewitt, Matt O'Reilly, Kevin Hull, Scotty Fox, Head Coach Rob O'Reilly, Sam de Roque, and Calvin Saribay. Not Pictured: Kian Simpson Photo Teresa Saribay



St. Perpetua and St. Monica 7th grade players share post championship game smiles. Front row (left to right, St. P's in black; St. Monica in white) Andrew Zolintakis, Andrew Cassidy, Isaac Christian, John Lauth, Justin Dunn, Matt Thomas. Middle row: Walter Brennan, Zach Kisner, Alec Weber, Luke Hoyle, Mathew Gong, Even Raff, David Ortego, Jr., Denis Karas. Back Row: Coach Eric Smith (St. Mo), Ryan Smith, Grand Sivesind, Daniel Zur, Head Coach David Ortega (St. Mo) and Coach Mike Cassidy (St. P). Not pictured: Coach Steve Lauth (St. P) Photo Ken Kisner

The Panthers, though, were particularly motivated to repeat the team's 2008 diocese championship because they'd dedicated the 2009 season to their former coach, the late Ken Nelson, who succumbed to cancer just prior to the season's start.

Two other local CYO teams also now hold 2009 diocese championship titles: Santa

Maria's 4th grade girls team, coached by Kelly Sopak and Sue Ellen Thomas, won the girl's East Diocese championship by beating Holy Rosary (Union City), 28-16, in the final game. St. Perpetua's 5th grade Lady Panthers, coached by Alan Ikeya and Bret Asterlind, beat St. Catherine (Martinez), 32-30.

St. Monica 2nd Grade Boys Win Championship

Submitted by John Kronenberg



Photo Chun-hong Gon

On February 1, the St. Monica (St. Mo) 3rd grade boys' blue division national basketball team concluded its season by winning the CYO West Diablo League Championship. While the team, coached by John Kronenberg and Jim Buckley, was comprised of 2nd graders from Los Perales, Camino Pablo and Rheem Elementary schools, they "played up" into the

3rd grade league and then qualified for the playoffs against the Red Division by going undefeated in league play.

In the first playoff game, St. Mo rallied for a 44-26 victory against St. Catherine's. The Championship game against Christ the King was a hard fought contest that went down to the final seconds with St. Mo winning by a 35-31 score to

cap a great season.

Pictured are (front row, L-R) Keoni Vuong, Tommy Raftis, Aidan Lyon; (middle row) Jonathan Gong, Luka Brown, Jake Chan, Nick Kronenberg, Lucas Allen, Paddo Buckley; and (back row) Coach John Kronenberg. (Not pictured: Coach Jim Buckley)

Mats End Season in Redding



Senior Eric Obeysekere was named 2009 DFAL Most Valuable Player Photo Jordan Fong

Miramonte Matadors, the undefeated DFAL league champions, ended their 2008-2009 boys basketball season on the road last week, losing in the first round of the NorCal play-offs, 52-51, to Enterprise High School (Redding). But the team wasn't going to dwell on the negative.

"We had an amazing season," said Coach Dave Brown. "We won the DFAL title, had a 16 game winning streak and played for the NCS championship. And although we finished with a pair of tough losses, I'm really proud of our guys and what they accomplished — both on and off the court. They're an extraordinary group of young men, and I feel quite fortunate to be their coach."

No surprise, the Matadors are well represented in the DFAL All League boys basketball teams. Senior Eric Obeysekere earned Most Valuable Player. Chris Hatfield was named First Team DFAL, while both Davis Louie and Jared O'Leary made Second Team DFAL. Spenser McDonald was given Honorable Mention. While the Mats will graduate Obeysekere and O'Leary, they'll have a solid start on next year's team with Hatfield, Louie and McDonald all returning. RSFox

Lamorinda Cougars Win USSSA Winter Nationals in Phoenix

Submitted by Anne McNally



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The Lamorinda Cougars punched their return ticket to the Elite World Series by capturing the USSSA Winter Nationals in Phoenix, Arizona in January. The Cougars will be looking to defend their 2008 travel ball national championship at this year's Elite World Series (12 and under) to be

held at the Disney Wide World of Sports Complex in Florida this summer.

At the Winter Nationals, the Cougars defeated the Arizona state champion and previously undefeated Arizona Desert Blaze 1-0, behind the combined pitching of Joe DeMers (Pleasant Hill) and

Matt Bicker (Los Altos). In the championship game, the Cougars defeated southern California powerhouse SGV Cobras 7-3 behind the complete game pitching performance of Daniel Slominski (Livermore).

Joe DeMers was selected tournament MVP both for his contributions on the mound, at the plate, and for his outstanding defensive work at catcher. DeMers hit .562, with 12 RBI's and 7 extra base hits to pace the offense. Other Cougars who hit over .400 for the tournament included: Mitch Hart .733 (Granite Bay), Daniel Slominski .500 (Livermore), Conner McNally .461 (Moraga), Ryan Weisenberg .428 (Alamo), Jake Rider .400 (Moraga). The Cougars will return to Arizona for the Spring Nationals in late March.

VARSITY HOME GAME Calendar ••• High School Varsity @ Home •••

Wednesday, March 18

Baseball
Washington High @ Campolindo, 3:30pm
Boys Volleyball
Campolindo @ Miramonte, 6pm

Thursday, March 19

Softball
Dublin @ Campolindo, 4pm
Boys Tennis
Dougherty Valley @ Acalanes, 3:30pm
Boys Golf
Campolindo v. Dougherty Valley @ Moraga CC, 3:30pm

Friday, March 20

Baseball
Albany @ Acalanes, 3:30pm
Boys Lacrosse
Miramonte @ Acalanes, 7pm
Girls Lacrosse
Acalanes @ Miramonte, 7pm
Swimming
Dougherty Valley @ Acalanes, 3:45pm

Wednesday, March 25

Track
Las Lomas @ Acalanes, 3:45pm
Dublin/Alhambra @ Campolindo, 3:45pm

Tuesday, March 24

Baseball
Las Lomas @ Acalanes, 4pm
Dougherty Valley @ Campolindo, 4pm
Softball
Las Lomas @ Acalanes, 4pm
Dougherty Valley @ Campolindo, 4pm
Girls Lacrosse
Alhambra @ Acalanes, 7pm
Dougherty Valley @ Campolindo, 7pm
Boys Tennis
Dublin @ Miramonte, 7pm
Boys Golf
Dublin @ Acalanes, 3:30pm
Alhambra @ Campolindo, 3:30pm
Boys Golf
Campolindo v. Alhambra @ Moraga CC, 3:30pm

Wednesday, March 25

Track
Las Lomas @ Acalanes, 3:45pm
Dublin/Alhambra @ Campolindo, 3:45pm
Dougherty Valley @ Miramonte, 3:45pm
Boys Golf
Campolindo v. Las Lomas @ Moraga CC, 3:30pm

Thursday, March 26

Baseball
Dublin @ Miramonte, 4pm
Softball
Dublin @ Miramonte, 4pm
Swimming/Diving
Alhambra @ Miramonte, 4pm
Boys Tennis
Acalanes @ Campolindo, 3:30pm
Alhambra @ Miramonte, 3:30pm
Boys Golf
Acalanes v. Miramonte @ Orinda CC, 3pm

Friday, March 27

Boys Lacrosse
Las Lomas @ Campolindo, 7pm
Dougherty Valley @ Miramonte, 7pm
Boys Volleyball
Northgate @ Acalanes, 6pm
Las Lomas @ Campolindo, 6pm
Dougherty Valley @ Miramonte, 6pm

Tuesday, March 31

Baseball
Alhambra @ Acalanes, 4pm
Miramonte @ Campolindo, 4pm
Softball
Alhambra @ Acalanes, 4pm
Miramonte @ Campolindo, 4pm

Thursday, April 2

Baseball
Acalanes @ Miramonte, 4pm
Dublin @ Campolindo, 4pm
Softball
Acalanes @ Miramonte, 4pm
Dublin @ Campolindo, 4pm

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