

# Saint Mary's Finds Providence in Las Vegas

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Omar Samhan #50 Photo Tod Fierner

"We needed to win this [WCC Conference Tournament] to raise the level of our program, and we did. We got it done."

Leading up to the Championships, the Gaels faced off against the #3 seeded Portland Pilots in the semifinals on March 7th and came away with the 69-55 victory. Freshman guard Matthew Dellavedova, junior guard Mickey McConnell and senior center Omar Samhan all finished the game with 16, and freshman guard Jordan Page scored his Saint Mary's career-high with 14.

The win advanced the Gaels to the WCC tournament championship game.

The Gaels held the Zags scoreless until just under the 17 minute mark thanks to a three pointer and two layups by McConnell, who finished the half with

14 points for the Gaels. Saint Mary's didn't let the Zags take the lead the entire half, and heading into halftime had a 30-29 lead over the Bulldogs.

Gonzaga took two brief one point leads at the beginning of the second half and tied it up 35-35 with 14:26 to go in the game but the Gaels weren't giving in. Saint Mary's took back the lead after a three pointer by Dellavedova and never looked back.

"A lot of people said we couldn't do it," said senior center Omar Samhan. "At the beginning of the year nobody had us in the NCAA tournament, especially as an automatic bid...but here we are."

Saint Mary's Head Coach Randy Bennett started taking out his starters with 1:23 left to play and, along with the rest of the coaching staff and players on the bench, took a minute to realize what was happening.

"At that moment I was just so proud," Bennett said. "Proud of our guys, proud of what this team had accomplished."

His "my team is going to the NCAA tournament smile" was matched with a roaring crowd of Saint Mary's fans rushing the court to celebrate as the clock hit zero. The Gaels' 81-62 win over Gonzaga was followed by the announcement of WCC Tournament MVP Mickey McConnell, who had a career high 26 points for the Gaels, and all-tour-

namment team members senior forward Ben Allen, who also had a career high of 20 points in the game, and senior center Omar Samhan.

Selection Sunday named Saint Mary's a #10 seed in the Southern Regional of the NCAA tournament, scheduled to take on #7 seeded Richmond on Thursday in Providence, Rhode Island, at 11:50 a.m.

"Hopefully they're prepared," said Bennett. "There's nothing you can do, tournament experience is tournament experience. Mickey [McConnell] has it. Ben Allen has it. Omar Samhan has it. They have an understanding of what it means to be in the tournament and play. Our other guys don't have that, but hopefully the season has prepared them."

The Richmond Spiders enter the game with a 26-8 overall record, coming off a loss to #17 Temple in the Atlantic-10 Tournament Championship. The Spiders have won 12 of their last 14 games and finished the Atlantic-10 season with a 13-3 record. Richmond is led by junior guard Kevin Anderson, the Atlantic-10 Player of the Year who averages 17.8 points per game, followed by David Gonzalez, who averages 14.5.

The winner of Thursday's game will meet the winner of #2 seed Villanova and #15 seed Robert Morris in the second round on Saturday, March 20.

# Positive Coaching Earns Reward

Campolindo Water Polo Coach Honored

Submitted by Linda Lim



Kim Everist coaching from the sidelines last year (cap #8 Emily Gerst) Photo Lyle Nishimi

Kim Everist, coach of the Campolindo High School Water Polo Team and USA Junior National Water Polo Team, has won Positive Coaching Alliance's coveted Double-Goal Coach Award Presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance for her positive impact on youth athletes.

The award is for coaches whose first goal is winning, and whose second, more important goal is teaching life lessons through sports. Everist will receive her award at Positive Coaching Alliance's 2010 Na-

tional Youth Sports Awards Dinner and Auction sponsored by Deloitte, April 17, at Stanford University's Maples Pavilion.

"Kim wins on the scoreboard, and more importantly, she wins by creating a positive, character-building sports experience for youth athletes," said Jim Thompson, PCA's founder and executive director. "Ultimately, the youth athletes Kim coaches are the real winners, and as those athletes become tomorrow's leaders our society as a whole wins."

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# MBA Box Scores for March 6-8, 2010

Submitted by Donald DePaolo

**Moraga Baseball Association**  
**Bronco Division**  
**March 8, 2010**

**Moraga LA Dodgers 7,**  
**Piedmont Bombers 10**  
Dodger Highlights: Jack Lawrence 2 2/3 IP, 4K's, 5ER's, 0BB, 6H, 1RS; Kevin Hoffinger 2 1/3 IP, 3K's, 5ER's, 0BB, 8H, 1-for-3, 2SB's, 1R; Matt Koelzer 3-for-4, 2SB's, 1R; Nick Bishop 1-for-3, 2B, 2RBI's; Jake Oxendine 1-for-3, 2BB's, 2SB's; Jake Rolfe 1-for-4, 1SB.

**Moraga Baseball Association**  
**Bronco Division**  
**March 7, 2010**

**Moraga A's 16, Orinda Predators 9**  
Predators Highlights: Elijah Hodges, 2 IP, 5K's, 1-for-2, 1RS; Kevin Henson, 3-for-3, 2 doubles, 2RBI, 3RS; Will Lyons, RBI; Quinn Thomas, 2RS.  
A's Highlights: Richard Gong, 3-for-3, 2B, 4RBI, 3RS; Dom Edwall, 1-2, RBI, 3RS; Scott Hillhouse, 1-for-2, RBI, 2RS; Quinn Lyon struck out 4 of 5 batters faced; Jason Rodriguez, 2 2/3 IP, 2 hits.

**Moraga LA Dodgers 4,**  
**Piedmont Titans 14**  
Dodgers Highlights: David Cushing 2 IP, 4K's, 1ER, 0BB, 1H, 1-for-3, 2RS, 2RBI's; Jack Lawrence 2 IP, 1K, 3ER, 0BB, 3H; Tommy Vega 1 1/3 IP, 1K, 6ER, 2BB, 2H, 2-for-3, 1RS; Jake Rolfe 1 2/3 IP, 2K's, 4ER, 1BB, 1H; Matt Koelzer 1-for-4, 2B, 1RS; Gabe Dusauzay 1-for-2; Solomon Dusauzay 1-for-2; Kevin Hoffinger 1-for-1, 2SB's.

**Piedmont Bombers 9,**  
**Moraga Cardinals 2**  
Cardinals Highlights: Tristan Westernoff 2 1/3rd IP, 2K's, 2BB, 1-for-3; Perry Walker 2 IP, 5K's, 1BB, 1-for-3, 1RS; Calvin Gee 1-for-3, BB, SB.

**Moraga Baseball Association**  
**Pony Division**  
**March 7, 2010**

**Moraga Cougars 12,**  
**Danville Diablos 0**  
Cougars Highlights: Hunter Rosenbaum 4 IP, 3K's, 0ER 2H, 1-for-1, 1RS, 1RBI; Scott Singh 3-for-3, 2B, 1RS, 3RBI; David Ortega 2-for-3, 2B, 1BB, 2RS, 3RBI, Kurt Vergara 1-for-2, 2B, 1BB, 2RS, 1RBI.

**Pleasant Hill Rip City 12,**  
**Moraga Tigers 8**  
Tigers Highlights: Sean Pappa 3 for 5, 2B, 3SB, 3R; Sam Phillips 2 for 4, SB, R, RBI; Eric Dunning 1 for 3, SB, 2RBI, 2IP, 0R; Andrew Willmore 2 for 4, SB, 2R, RBI, 4IP.

**San Ramon 15, Moraga A's 0**  
San Ramon Highlights: R Soderman 2-for-4; A Tsurda 2-for-3, 2RBI's; J Nejedly 3-for-4, 3RBI's, M Pangelinian 2-for-4, 4RBI's.  
Moraga A's Highlights: Mark Santaguida 1-for-3; Rohit Verma 1-for-2; Damian Stoner 1-for-2.

**Moraga Baseball Association**  
**Pony Division**  
**March 6, 2010**

**Moraga Cougars 1,**  
**Pleasant Hill Hawks 0**  
Cougars Highlights: Phillip Rei 3 IP, 3K's, 0ER 1H, 2-for-3, 1B, 1RS; Matthew Tuan 4 IP, 0ER, 1H; Scott Singh 1-for-3, 1RBI; Kevin Lehman 1-for-2.  
Pittsburg Pirates 10, Moraga Tigers 0

Tigers Highlights: Sean Pappa 1 for 2, SB; Peter Golesorki 1 for 2; Manny Manzone 3 IP, 6K.

**San Ramon 16, Moraga A's 0**  
San Ramon Highlights: Cam G 3-for-3, 5RBI's; Garrett L 2-for-3, 3RBI's; Michael R 2-for-2, 2RBI's, Riley S 1-for-2, 2RBI's  
Moraga A's Highlights: Rohit Verma 1-for-2; Evan Lawrence 1-for-2

**Moraga Baseball Association**  
**Mustang Division**  
**March 6, 2010**

**A's 4, Mariners 3**  
As Highlights: Carter Whiting 3-for-3, 1RS, 1RBI; Aaron DePaolo 1-for-2, 2B, 1RBI.  
Mariners Highlights: Harry Curtiss 2 IP, 4Ks, 1ER; Kyle Leuteneker 1-for-2, 2B, 1RS.

**Moraga Baseball Association**  
**Pinto Division**  
**March 6, 2010**

**New York Yankees 20, Orioles 9**  
Yankees Highlights: Rex Curtiss 4-for-4, 2B; Jake Crumbaugh 3-for-3, 2B; Chase Peterson and Sean Donovan 3-for-3.  
Orioles Highlights: Braden Maher 3-for-3; Aidan Lyon 3-for-4 2B; Sam Morasch 3-for-4.

# SMC Women Fall in WCC Tournament but Qualify for NIT

By Caitlin Graveson



Jasmine Smith (32) hit a lay-up late in the game to bring the Gaels within two points 58-56. The Waves held on to win 62-56. Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's basketball finished the regular season 12-2, the second best record in the West Coast Conference (WCC) and the school's best record since 1989-1990. Their record secured them a number two seed and a two-round bye in the WCC tournament. New changes to the National Invitation Tournament qualification requirements also guarantees Saint Mary's post season play if they do not qualify for the NCAA tournament.

The Gaels traveled to Las

Vegas on Sunday, March 6th for the WCC tournament where they faced #3 Pepperdine University. Just two weeks prior to the playoff match-up, Saint Mary's defeated the Waves 52-38 in Malibu. Unfortunately, Lady Luck was on Pepperdine's side in Sin City and the Gaels fell 62-56.

"Last year we planned to not be in this position again. We played hard...but it wasn't good enough and unfortunately, we can't take that back for the older girls," said junior forward Louella Tomlinson,



Louella Tomlinson (2) notched a double-double in the loss. Photo Tod Fierner

who recorded a double-double for the Gaels with 18 points and 14 rebounds. Tomlinson, the WCC Defensive Player of the Year, also notched six blocks.

The Gaels came out strong against the Waves in the first half, building a 26-18 lead with five minutes to go in the half. Pepperdine increased their defensive pressure, forcing 11 turnovers from the Gaels in the final 11:30 to play. With 1:25 to go in the half the Waves tied it at 26 all, and it remained so heading into the locker

room. To open the second half Saint Mary's reclaimed a nine point lead. However, the Waves again upped the defensive pressure and incited a run which gave them the lead. With about a minute to play, red-shirt sophomore Jasmine Smith hit a lay-up to cut the lead to two, 58-56. The Gaels were forced into the fouling game and could not overcome the deficit.

# MBA Hits a Homer With Used Equipment Drive

Submitted by Phil Hoffman

On Saturday, March 6, the Moraga Baseball Association (MBA) held its Opening Day Ceremony with refreshments, music, the traditional first pitch, and introduction of the Campolindo Cougar varsity baseball team. Not only was it a fun day with great weather, but it was also the last day of a six-week long Used Baseball Equipment Drive that resulted in the collection of over \$30,000 of equipment, valued as if new.

This equipment drive was led by MBA veteran Ryan Hoffman, now a Campolindo freshman baseball player, and Scott Hillhouse, a current MBA Bronco player and Rheem Elementary School fifth grade student. Hoffman and Hillhouse were assisted by

friend Ryan Hooper and little sisters Annie and Olivia Hillhouse.

Over the past six weeks, Hoffman coordinated with the organization "Used Baseball Equipment for Inner City Kids" to determine needs in the Bay Area. He then published advertisements in the MBA and Campolindo High School newsletters. Thanks to the generosity of MBA, LMYA, Campolindo Baseball, and many families in both Moraga and Lafayette, Ryan and Scott collected nearly 1,500 items including bags, balls, bats, catchers equipment, cleats, gloves, mitts, first aid kits, helmets, tees, field equipment, training aids, home plates, bases, and clothing. This equipment will be donated to underfunded baseball programs throughout the East Bay.



Ryan Hoffman (left), Scott Hillhouse (right) Photo Phil Hoffman