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Splashball - A First in Northern California

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Doug Kohen

environment.

"When I grew up in Lafayette, Louisiana, we had three sports to choose from, and two of them were football," says Chris Cooper, who now lives in a much closer Lafayette. "Our kids are so lucky to have so much to choose from," he says, adding that his six-year old son, Warren, loves Splashball. "What better thing could you do on a hot Sunday afternoon?" asks Cooper.

Four coaches and eight assistants are in the pool with the children at all times. Recent Cal graduate Heather Stewart is one of the coaches. "It is so much fun to teach the little ones," she says, "the ratio of coaches/assistants to players is over 1 to 4; we want this to be safe." The sport is played in a shallow pool and the children sit on Swim Noodles. Stewart adds that she is amazed at how much enthusiasm the kids have. "They play at 120%," she says.

Cooper believes, "By the time the Splashball players reach the first level in water polo at age ten, they will definitely have an edge."

The Splashball season runs through November 7th and new players are still being accepted. Register at Moraga Parks and Rec, http://moraga.ca.us/production/moraga_parks_recreation.php. Lachance says LWP plans to offer Splashball again in 2011 with spring, summer and fall seasons. For more information about LWP go to <http://www.lamorindawaterpolo.org/>.

Reach the reporter at: sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

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