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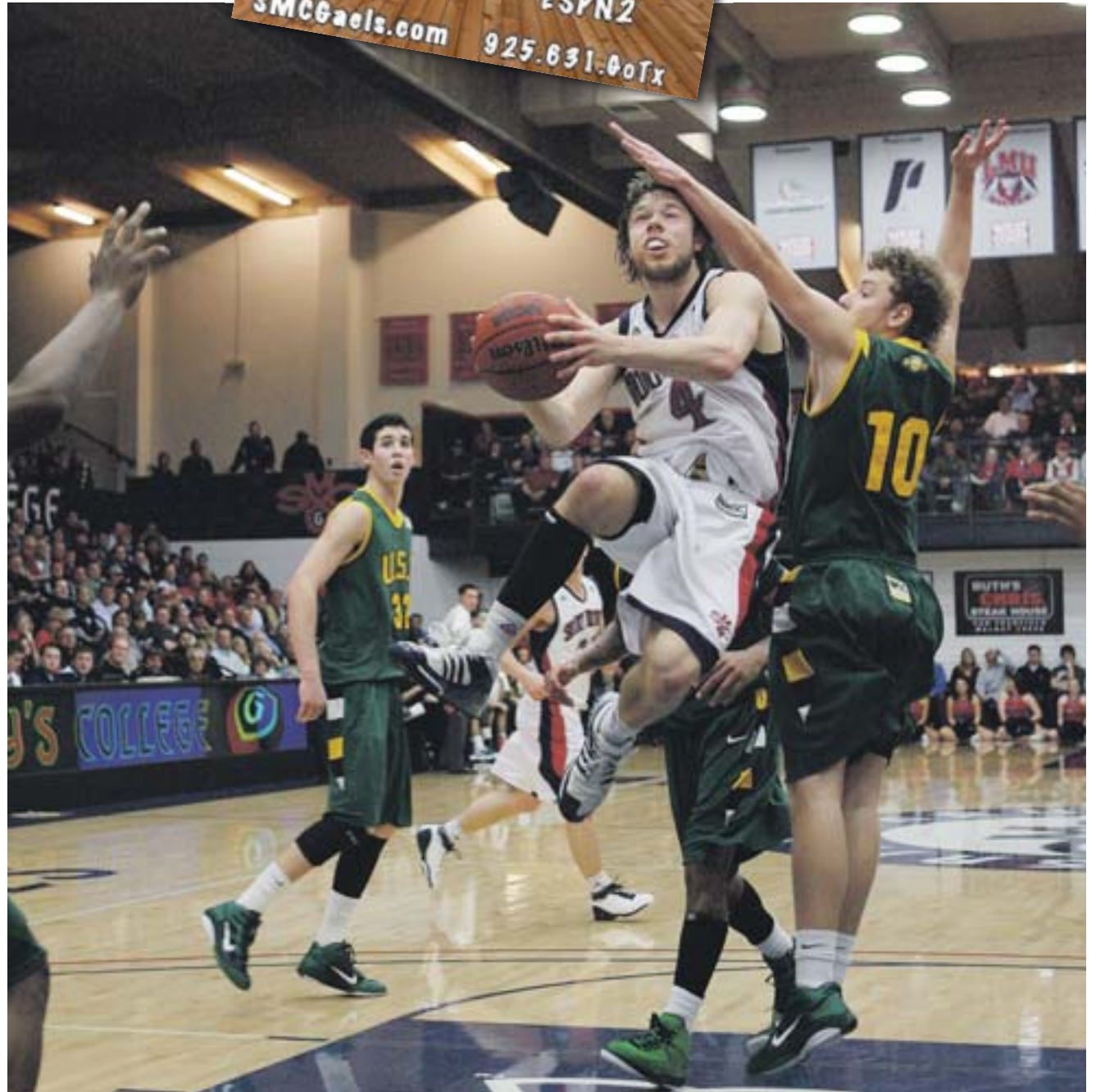
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Wednesday, January 19, 2011



Rob Jones (22) had 15 points and nine rebounds over Santa Clara.



Matthew Dellavedova (4) drives to the hoop over USF's Marko Petrovic. Dellavedova had 13 points in the win. Photos Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's Wins Two at Home Gaels Break Top 25

By Bryant West

Quote of the Week:

"You, Mr. and Ms. Commission Member, are the multiplier effect that you thought was just something you read or heard about in a Ben Bernanke speech."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

The Saint Mary's men's basketball team stormed into West Coast Conference play and broke into the Top 25. The Gaels played four regular season games the last two weeks and in those four games only trailed four times. The team was recognized for their excellent play and ranked #22 in the AP poll and #21 in ESPN/USA Today Coaches poll.

Saint Mary's expanded their win streak to ten games, the third longest winning streak in school history. The Gaels have opened 4-0 to improve to 16-2. The team returned home after two road games last week to take on USF and Santa Clara. The Gaels bested USF on Thursday in a hard-fought 71-57 victory, followed

by an 84-59 smashing of Santa Clara on Saturday.

Even after Saturday's rout, head coach Randy Bennett maintained the team could play better. "We can, we can play better," he said. "We still have to get better defensively. We're getting there."

It wasn't all fun and games for Saint Mary's, with an injury scare at halftime during the Santa Clara game. Sophomore guard Matthew Dellavedova was injured late in the first half and needed help getting to the locker room but did return in the second half. Saint Mary's is already playing without sophomore guard Jordan Page, who is out the remainder of the season with a knee injury. ... continued on page S2

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Slides on Slopes

By Sophie Braccini

With the rainy season seriously upon us and dramatic news coming from countries where rain is causing severe problems, we asked the three Lamorinda Public Works Departments to talk about the effect of rain on our own hills. All three are on guard and will intervene any time a road is impacted. On private properties, it is the sole responsibility of the homeowners to organize slide prevention and cleanup.

"Since Moraga is built in the hills, we have a number of areas that are affected by slides," says Jill Mercurio, Moraga Public Work Director and Town Engineer. "During the huge storms we had five years ago, many of our hillsides slipped. The ones that tend to cause us the most ongoing maintenance are Bollinger Canyon Road, Camino Pablo, and Rheem Boulevard." Mercurio reports that so far this year Bollinger Canyon has had four slides that have each resulted in 50-100 cubic yards of rock at the base of the cliff and/or into the road. On site, the crews have installed the "sacrificial fence," an inexpensive intermediary solution that is there to retain the rocks, but will ultimately fail and need replacement.

Orinda's Director of Public Works and Engineering Services, Charles Swanson, reports that there have been no serious slides in Orinda in the last two years. "There are many areas throughout the city with homes and roads that have been constructed on very steep slopes that we pay a little more attention to when it rains," acknowledges Swanson. Past slide sites include Zander Drive, Canon Drive and La Espiral.

According to Lafayette Public Works Services Manager Ron Lefler, there haven't been slides in Lafayette since the storms of December, 1995 and January, 1996. "There were two significant slides within City rights-of-way during those storms; neither slide damaged private or public property," he says. "Pleasant Hill Road was temporarily blocked in the south bound direction for a short period of time. After the initial cleanup, temporary measures were taken to control and prevent additional sliding. The slide areas were monitored during the remainder of the rainy season. The slide areas were repaired the following summer."

... continued on page L2

Wednesday delivery for Lamorinda Weekly!

In an effort to get the paper to you in a timely manner, we are converting our delivery method from the U.S. mail to a local home delivery service that will place the paper on your driveway every other Wednesday.

If you live in Lafayette, this issue should have been delivered to you on Wednesday, January 19.

Home delivery to Orinda and Moraga will begin in February. Please call (925) 377-0977 or email homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com if you have any questions.

California Independent Film Festival—What's in it for You?



By Andrea A. Firth

If you have never gone to an independent film festival, here's your chance. The 13th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) will be held at the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga from January 28th through February 3rd. ... read on page L1

Orinda Hosts Contra Costa Mayors Conference



By Lucy Amaral

The City of Orinda hosted mayors, council members and representatives from the Board of Supervisors from Contra Costa County as they gathered January 6 for their monthly Mayors Conference. The group meets regularly to discuss city issues and, this time, to make a number of committee appointments.

... read on page L5

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