

# LAMORINDA SPORTS & SCHOOLS

## High School Swim Teams Finish at the top of DFAL

By Marissa Harnett



Photo Doug Kohen

The rain held off on Saturday, May 14th until the seven teams within the Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) finished swimming to determine league champion. As expected, the competition was stiff with many close races. At the end of the day at Campolindo's Soda Center, nine meet records fell (see sidebar) and all three Lamorinda high schools finished extremely well.

On the men's side, Miramonte achieved first place over top-ranked Campolindo by a very small margin. Third place went to Acalanes. In the women's competition, Campo was the overall winner with Miramonte placing second. Acalanes came in

fourth behind Las Lomas. Swimming is not so much about team scores as it is about individual performances and achieving personal bests. Miramonte sophomore Charlie Wisner had a great day, finishing first in both the 200 yard IM and the 100 yard breaststroke – both with comfortable two-second margins. The explosive men's 50 yard freestyle was over just 20.71 seconds after the starting gun with a new record set by Acalanes senior Piankhi Gibson. Campolindo senior Jeffrey Strausser, who was the top seed and previous record holder, gave Gibson a run for his money finishing a half second behind him. Campolindo senior Dana Holt

also had a fantastic meet. Holt won the 50 yard freestyle with a half second margin over Miramonte senior Sierra Robbins; they finished with the times of 23.54 and 24.04 respectively. In the 100 yard freestyle Holt touched out Las Lomas' Taylor Carlson in a hold-your-breath finish.

Although nine records were broken, Miramonte coach Don Heidary stated, "I was not surprised that many records were broken. The league is very competitive and there are a number of nationally ranked swimmers. I would imagine that most of the records were set as unshaven swims, which makes it that much more impressive."

Event	Previous record	NEW record	NEW record holder
Women's 200 yd Medley relay	1:43.94	1:43.92	Las Lomas
Men's 200 yd Freestyle	1:40.18	1:38.19	Jackson Miller – Las Lomas
Men's 50 yd Freestyle	20.89	20.71	Piankhi Gibson – Acalanes
Women's 100 yd Butterfly	56.02	55.70	Jaclyn Amog – Las Lomas
Men's 100 yd Butterfly	49.60	49.21	Piankhi Gibson – Acalanes
Men's 500 yd Freestyle	4:33.78	4:32.62	Jackson Miller – Las Lomas
Men's 200 yd Freestyle relay	1:25.69	1:25.64	Campolindo
Men's 100 yd Backstroke	51.36	50.52	Sven Campbell – Campolindo
Men's 400 yd Freestyle relay	3:08.40	3:07.15	Campolindo

### Campolindo Men Take NCS

In the NCS finals held this past weekend the Campolindo men – six time defending champions—once again came out on top. Coach Dave Schurhoff said, "NCS is the pinnacle of our season and the biggest stage for swimmers on the high school level in the east bay. North Coast has been a focus for our men's team all year."

Acalanes took fifth place, and Miramonte came in sixth out of the field of 40 schools. The Campolindo women finished in 3rd place, followed by Miramonte and Acalanes in 7th and 11th place, respectively, out of 37 schools.

In a DFAL rematch, Acalanes senior Piankhi Gibson once again edged out Campolindo senior Jeffrey Strausser, this time by only .08 of a second, to win the 50 yard free; Gibson also won the 100 yard butterfly. The Campolindo women took the 100 yard freestyle relay, and senior Dana Holt won the 50 yard freestyle.

Two NCS records changed hands between Campolindo and Miramonte. In the men's 200 yard medley relay, Miramonte seniors Nick Deaver and Aleck Ryner, junior Robbie Fluegge, and sophomore Charlie Wisner broke a record set by Campolindo in 1984, finishing at 1:34:16. Campolindo in turn took a record that had been held by Miramonte since 1987, in the 400 yard freestyle relay—the team of Strausser, juniors Robert Ashby and Tor Jensen, and sophomore Sven Campbell came in at 3:03:97.

**Other new NCS records include:**  
 Men's 200 yard IM, sophomore Steven Stumph (Campolindo), 1:49:46  
 Men's 200 yard freestyle relay, Campolindo, 1:23:35 (seniors Jeffrey Campbell and Nick Zolintakis, Ashby, and S. Campbell broke their own record, set in the preliminary round)  
 Men's 100 yard breaststroke, Charlie Wisner (Miramonte), 55.27  
 Men's 100 yard backstroke, Sven Campbell (Campolindo), 49.74  
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## Orinda Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Andrew Bathgate



Photo provided

The Rotary Club of Orinda recently held its annual Field Day, for 3rd-5th graders, at Del Rey Elementary School. Violet Bathgate, pictured above winning the 50 yard dash, took two first place and one second place finishes. Bathgate has won top-point honors three years in a row.

## SMC Player Reaches NCAA Singles Championship

By Rebecca Eckland



Alex Poorta

Photo Tod Fierner

Alex Poorta is no ordinary collegiate tennis player; today she becomes Saint Mary's College's first female tennis athlete to participate in the NCAA Singles Championship in Palo Alto, adding yet another notable accomplishment to her extraordinary career.

Poorta, whose parents are both tennis players, began playing at the age of nine in her hometown of Amsterdam. "I played tennis and field hockey at the time and I decided to stick to tennis," she said. By the time she was 13, she practiced daily. By 16, she was playing internationally and was recruited to play under scholarship for the Gaels.

SMC tennis coach Lisa Alipaz said Poorta's presence has brought many noticeable changes. "She incited a level of professionalism that wasn't in the program before. Her

work ethic, training intensity and the hours she puts in to be in peak competition shape—both on and off the court—has made everyone else better."

Poorta's absolute dedication to her sport has led to a list of accomplishments few athletes can boast of. She was the first Gael to compete in the All-American Championships and the 2011 WCC Athlete of the Year. But Poorta's smile spreads wide when she says that her most memorable accomplishment of the past four years was beating the top nationally ranked tennis player in a match. "Last year, we won Conference. It was the first time," says Poorta, who is proud of her team.

The team's first round of NCAA Conference Tournaments on May 14 ranked them third in the conference; yet Poorta's excited for her debut at

the Singles Championship. She has continued training since the NCAA Tournaments for the singles match on May 25. "It's good the match is later; she'll have finals out of the way and can focus on her tennis," said Alipaz. "She really deserves all the credit," said Alipaz. "She's so self-driven and has worked so hard to better her game. Not every college player gets better, but every year she has focused on some aspect of her game and improved it and has added new dimensions to her sport. I applaud her for always trying to improve-- and always getting better."

Will Poorta continue to play following graduation? Her coach hopes so; but Poorta isn't sure. She plans to remain in the Lamorinda area and when asked if she'll stop playing, she said: "Maybe-- but I might miss it too much."



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