

# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



## Orinda Bandits Win 680 Pony Tournament

Submitted by Mike Hardwick



Back row, from left: Coach Robert "Flip" Filipas, Chris Greenfield, Nick Valcke, Jack Kovalik, Holt Goodwin, Connor Jackson, Spencer Hardwick, Tommy Larsen, Coach Rob Ellis; front row: Eric Nyman, Will McConnell, Clayton Stehr, Ryan Anderson, Jarrett Perches, Josh Lee (not pictured) Photo provided

The Orinda Bandits took the season-ending 680 Pony Playoff Tournament in Twin Creeks with a 16-8 championship victory over the Pleasant Hill Hawks.

The Bandits beat the Danville Rawlings 8-1 in the semi-finals to take on the Pleasant Hill Hawks.

Both teams scored three runs in the first inning. In the second inning, Josh Lee suffered

an injury to the kidney and was taken to the emergency room. Distracted by their teammate's injury, the Bandits gave up three more runs in the third inning. However, Orinda re-focused to score 11 runs in the next two innings to take a commanding lead and eventually the game.

The Bandits finished their season with a 24-6 record.

## Moraga 11U All-Stars

Submitted by Ron Kroichick



Front row, from left: Jacob Pappa, Travis Hartman, Trevin Kroichick, Jake Walgenbach, Jay Thomas, Carter Whiting, Shun Ishida; middle row: Park Windatt, Connor Peterson, Harry Curtiss, Jason West, Vince Mossotti; back row: asst. coach Ron Kroichick, asst. coach Brian Walgenbach, head coach Christ Whiting Photo Taizo Ishida

Moraga's 11U Bronco League All-Star team staged a spirited comeback on its way to finishing fourth in the Pony-sanctioned tournament July 5-10 at Wagner Ranch in Orinda.

The Stars opened the tournament with a 5-2 loss to Bel Passi, the tourney's eventual runner-up. Moraga seized a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Vince Mossotti pitched four-plus strong innings and left with the game tied 2-2 - but Bel Passi scored once in the fifth and twice in the sixth to win.

The Stars trailed 6-1 in their next game, against Ceres. Moraga then sprung to life in the bottom of the fifth, scoring three runs to slice the deficit to 6-4. The Stars eventually scored four times, capped by Harry Curtiss' RBI single and Parker Windatt's sacrifice fly, to take an 8-6 lead.

Carter Whiting pitched the final inning to preserve Moraga's thrilling 8-7 victory. The win sent the Stars into another elimination game, which they dropped to Bel Passi.

## Orinda "Beast" Reaches Regional Tournament

Submitted by Dennis Wong



Top row, from left: Brad Catron, Dennis Wong, John Dean; middle row: Matt Meredith, Declan McManus, Zachary Donner, AJ Fraser, Stevie Wilder, Declan Curran; Bottom row: Kyle Jasper, Charlie Mollahan, Campbell Hoskins, Bennett Millham, Nicholas Wong, Nicholas Bohm, Hayden Catron. (not pictured, Tanner Zwhalen) Photo Cathy Bohm

The Orinda nine-and-under all-stars, "the Beast," played in three summer tournaments finishing first or second in all three to earn a berth to the Pony Regional tournament on July 13 in Brentwood.

The team reached the semi-finals of the Pony Regional by beating Blossom Valley and Brentwood to reach the semi-finals, but lost to Morgan Hill and Paso Robles to finish in third place and end their summer season.

The team had to learn to play with

"leads" and "pick-offs" in tournament play because the OBA does not allow it in their regular season.

The team won the Moraga Madness tournament June 18-19 and then placed second in the United States Specialty Sports Association tournament in Turlock June 25-26. The team placed second behind Bel Passi in the Pony Sectionals June 29-July 3. Despite the loss, the second place finish was enough to qualify for the Pony Regional tournament.

## Orinda Aquatics "Character First" Camp

Submitted by Julie Carlson



Photo Don Heidary

Orinda Aquatics' motto is "Character First" and for the first time, coaches Don and Ron Heidary emphasized this to their student athletes at Character Camp.

Swimmers age 10-and-older spent two hours a day practicing but also working on more

than just stroke development and technique; the coaches spent time discussing character, leadership, personal responsibility and perseverance.

The proceeds of the camp are being donated to OA's Swaziland, Africa Swimming Program.

## Softball Takes Second at State

Submitted by Alan Goepe



Back row, from left: Katie Chase (San Ramon Valley), Courtney Strand (Monte Vista), Cori Griffin (San Ramon Valley), Sarah Reynolds (Campolindo), Brenna Williams (Campolindo), Olivia Haney (Carondelet), Shelley Suhling (Campolindo), Natalie Goepel (Acalanes); Front row: Katie Palma (Acalanes), Becca Crisp (Campolindo) Photo provided

The Lafayette Lightning 16U club softball team took second place at the United States Specialty Sports Association State Championships in Hayward over the Fourth of July weekend. The

girls played eight games in three days to make it to the finals. They lost to the San Jose Aces. Katie Chase and Olivia Haney earned All-Tournament MVP honors in the losing effort.

## Lafayette Little League All-Stars Shine

Submitted by Todd Bequette



District 4 Champion 11-year Old All-Stars Photo provided

Lafayette Little Leaguers are in the midst of one of the most successful postseasons in league history.

The 11-year olds All-Stars captured the league's second ever District 4 title, playing errorless ball in its four tournament games and outscoring opponents 28-3. In the title game, played at Lafayette's Buckeye Field, the local stars shutout Antioch, 6-0.

Ty Whelehan pitched three complete games in the tournament, including two shutouts. Matty Vicencio and Kyle Mizell combined to take down the defending champion, Continental of Concord, by allowing just one hit and one run in an 11-1 quarter-final win.

Matt Burns and Robby Rowell led

Lafayette's potent offense by accounting for 13 of the team's 23 runs batted in. Burns smashed two home runs while Rowell and Kyle Mizell each hit one of their own. Burns delivered the decisive blow in the title game, connecting on a towering three-run bomb.

The 11-year olds advance to Woodland this week in pursuit of Lafayette's first sectional championship.

The Lafayette 12-year olds All-Stars had one of the best showings in recent years, placing fourth in the 13-team District 4 Tournament. The locals got off to a fast start, thumping Concord American League, 10-0, on the strength of Devan Regan's shutout pitching and a home run by Ryan Levy. Levy pitched the stars to their next win against Continental (Walnut Creek).

After two tough losses, the squad rebounded with another blowout victory over Concord American. Levy pitch five shutout innings and Paul Griessal ripped a bases-clearing triple.

The Lafayette 9-year olds All Stars won nine-of-11 on its way to competing for championships in two tournaments. At the Tassajara Valley Tournament in Danville, the Lafayette boys rattled off three straight victories before falling in the semi-finals, 4-3 to Foothill Pleasanton. In the Granada Tournament in Livermore, the all-stars again raced to the championship game, only to come up one run short against Canyon Creek, who rallied with four runs in their final at bat.

The nine-year old were led by flame throwers Nick Kresnak, Vince Bianchina, Ryan Reilly and Murphy Baker. In the Tassajara tournament, Kresnak muscled up for grand slams in one game.

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Email questions or your resume to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com