

SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Saint Mary's Men's Soccer Looks for Relief in WCC Play

By Alex Kozela



Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's men's soccer team wrapped up a difficult preseason schedule last weekend and now looks for improved fortunes in West Coast Conference play. The Gaels (1-3-3) travel to San Diego on Friday, September 30th to open the regular season.

The road to conference has been less than forgiving, with a schedule that included games against two nationally-ranked teams, #17 UCLA and #3 Creighton.

"We definitely want our non-conference schedule to prepare us for conference, and it's been a very challenging non-conference schedule," said Gaels' head coach Adam Cooper.

After defeating UC Davis 1-0 in

the team's first game on August 27, the Gaels went 0-3-3, culminating in a 0-1 loss to powerhouse #3 Creighton Saturday, September 24.

Despite Gaels' senior keeper Doug Herrick's best efforts in registering seven saves, Creighton (8-0-0) capitalized in the 37th minute on a penalty kick that preserved the Bluejays' perfect record. Creighton also outshot the Gaels 17-9 overall, while slightly edging Saint Mary's on shots on goal, 7-6.

In addition to the games against difficult teams, the team's congested schedule hasn't done the Gaels any favors.

"It's not easy to play an overtime game on Friday, get in a bus for five hours Saturday, and play another

overtime game on Sunday, both against very good teams," said Cooper, referring to the team's consecutive draws against Sacramento State and CSU Bakersfield, 1-1 and 0-0, respectively.

The Saint Mary's offense hasn't been successful thus far. The Gaels have only found the net three times this season: sophomore forward Justin Howard scored off a header in the lone win over UC Davis; freshman defender Bobby Connor scored against #17 UCLA in a 2-1 loss in Los Angeles; and senior midfielder Justin Grider nabbed an 89th minute equalizer in a 1-1 draw against Sacramento State.

The team's defense, however, has been solid, allowing only five



Photo Tod Fierner

goals in seven games. Much of the statistic can be attributed to the play of Herrick, who has 19 career wins and is only three wins shy of the school record, currently held by Kellan Wilson (1999-03) with 22 wins.

The Gaels haven't won in San Diego since 2008 and will look to reverse that trend Friday. Saint Mary's finished fifth in the seven-team West Coast Conference last

season 10-8-1 overall and 6-6-0 in WCC play.

The team will remain in Southern California for a Sunday meeting with Loyola Marymount. The Lions defeated the Gaels in both of the teams' meetings last season. Saint Mary's will make its 2011 WCC home debut on Friday, October 7 at 4:00 p.m. against Bay Area rivals Santa Clara at Saint Mary's Stadium.

Lamorinda Soccer Club Program Results

Submitted by Benson Chan



The Lamorinda United 95 U16 Boys finished in first place at the Mustang Stampede and second place in the Juventus Tournament of Champions and the Ballistic United Summer Classic.

Photo Jen Donat

The Lamorinda Soccer Club teams spent the summer at practice and tournaments. Over the course of the summer the teams improved to finish on top.

"The kids leave the program and go out into the world bringing

with them a feeling that because of what they have learned and accomplished as soccer players, their dedication and hard work will enable them to ignite a passion and to master whatever they put their mind to, both on and off the field," said Mo-

hamed "Mo" Mohamed, Technical Director of the Lamorinda Soccer Club.

Highlights include:

- Boys U11 Navy (Lamorinda United 00) – semi-finalist at Mustang Stampede

- Boys U12 Navy (Lamorinda United 99) – champion at Santa Cruz Beach Soccer Championships
- Boys U13 Navy (Lamorinda United 98) – second place at Santa Cruz Beach Soccer Championships
- Boys U16 (Lamorinda United

- 95) – champion at Mustang Stampede, second place at Juventus Tournament of Champions and at Ballistic United Summer Classic

- Girls U11 Navy (Lamorinda United 00) – second place at Diablo FC Summer Challenge, and third place at Pleasanton Rage Showcase Juniors

- Girls U11 White (Lamorinda United 01) – third place at Azuri Summer Classic

- Girls U12 Navy (Lamorinda United 99) – champion at North vs. South Summer Classic, and semifinalist at Pleasanton Rage Showcase Juniors

- Girls U13 (Lamorinda United 98) – third place at Pleasanton Rage Showcase Juniors

- Girls U14 (Lamorinda United 97) – champion at US Club Regional, second place at Pleasanton Rage Showcase Juniors and semi-finalist North vs South Summer Classic

- Girls U16 (Lamorinda United 95) – champion Mustang Stampede and at Pleasanton Rage College Showcase

- Girls U17 (Lamorinda United 94) – champion at Schwan's USA Cup, Pleasanton Rage College Showcase, second place at US Club Regional, and quarterfinalist at San Diego Surf Cup XXXI

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words):

letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Sport events/stories/pictures:

sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Art, theater, community events:

calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Business news or business press releases:

business@lamorindaweekly.com

School stories/events:

schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com

General interest stories/Community Service:

publ@lamorindaweekly.com

Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck;

andy@lamorindaweekly.com

wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Editor: Lee Borrowman;

lee@lamorindaweekly.com

Advertising: 925-377-0977

Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Katie Malone; katie@lamorindaweekly.com

Circulation: 26,200 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

Staff Writers:

Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com

Laurie Snyder; laurie@lamorindaweekly.com

Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com

Sports Editor: Caitlin Graveson

sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Teen Coach: Cynthia Brian;

cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com

Food: Susie Iventosch; suziven@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Andrea A. Firth, Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Rosylyn Aragonese Stenzel, Lucy Amaral, Alex Crook,

Alex Kozela, Rebecca Eckland, Marissa Harnett,

Lou Fancher, Nina Mohan, Barry Hunau (cartoonist)

Photos: Tod Fierner, Doug Kohen, Ohlen Alexander

Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck, Jonas Scheck,

Amanda Griggs. Printed in CA.

Lamorinda Weekly,

P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133

Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136;

email: info@lamorindaweekly.com

www.Lamorindaweekly.com

Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Moraga Newcomers Club
- Magic Library Bash Full of Surprises
- Free Tai Chi at the Reservoir
- LaMorinda United Honored at WPS Championship
- Caldecotts 4th Bore One Year In
- Rhythm and Meaning Orinda Jazz Festival to Benefit Hurricane Irene Victims
- Lamorinda Soccer Club Undefeated
- Creative Lamorinda Mothers Turn Their Passion into Business
- Water Polo Season Preview
- Continued Fine Tuning of Proposed Townhomes at Hungry Hunter Site

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.