

Meet the Mats' New Boys' Basketball Coach

By Conrad Bassett



Drew McDonald Photo Kevin Nguyen

The new Miramonte High School boys' basketball coach, Drew McDonald, is familiar with Mats' basketball, working with the boys' and girls' programs as an assistant coach. Next season, McDonald will take on the new leadership role as head coach.

"I am very excited about resuming coaching as a head coach as, although it is a huge amount of additional work, it is an opportunity to create something, rather than helping someone else execute their vision," McDonald said.

The first order of business was to put together a staff of assistants. Mike Miller, described by McDonald as "a

fantastic instructor" will join Steven Dyer, an assistant from last year.

McDonald's relationship with Miramonte started long before his involvement with the coaching staff. He was a three-sport athlete for the Matadors in high school, playing water polo, basketball and swimming. "Basketball being the sport that filled the time between the other two," McDonald said.

His love for basketball developed when he began coaching youth basketball at the CYO level 12 years ago. He also started Pure Hoops, an AAU club that filled the gap locally for players moving on to AAU travel teams.

His coaching career at Miramonte started six years ago when he assumed the head coaching position of the junior varsity team. His coaching career has been filled with adjusting from the head coach to assistant coach positions, moving from JV coach to assistant boys' varsity to assistant girls' varsity.

McDonald's knowledge of the program and the players has allowed him to jump in with both feet this season and he hopes to compete in a tough Diablo Foothill Athletic

League. He takes the reins of a team that was one game away from going to the NCS finals last season and returns four-of-five starters.

Still, McDonald knows that competition will be tough. "Dublin returns everyone and is probably the most talented group, and Campolindo returns an excellent team and adds some talented underclassmen," McDonald said.

The team has had several open gyms and has been busy throughout the summer getting to know each other by playing in summer leagues and travel tournaments.

"The summer is the time that we hope to give the motivated kids a chance to improve themselves and to give the team the underpinning of how we want them to play together," said McDonald.

This will be McDonald's first year in many that he has not been involved in coaching a team with a McDonald playing for him. He had the opportunity to coach his son, Spenser, and his daughter, Devon.

He said it will be different, but his coaching will remain the same. "As a coach I want to teach and I want to deal with the athletes as honestly and

directly as I can. At the varsity level, the athletes know they don't get a trophy for showing up any more and my experience has been that they know you're there to make them better and

to expect their best."

Come next November, local prep basketball fans should look forward to another competitive year at Miramonte.

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Lafayette Little League Summer Update

9's All-Stars:

Submitted by Shannon Vicencio

The Lafayette's 9-year-olds defended their first tournament win with another title run at the 11th Annual Joey Moore Memorial Tournament. An impressive 5-0-1 record brought the 9's a second straight championship against a familiar opponent in Tassajara Valley.

10's All-Stars:

Submitted by Matt Hansen



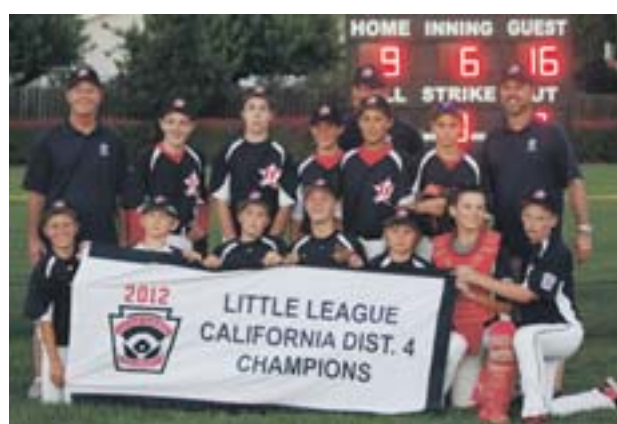
Top row, from left: Coach Brian Baker, Nicolas Bamont, Jack Larsen, Colby Burns, Nick Kresnak, Brett Donat, Tommy Thrasher, Coach Matt Hansen; bottom row: Murphy Baker, David Sniderman, Owen Hansen, Vince Bianchina, Jack Muren, Luke Miles, Ryan Reilly; not pictured: Coach Rick Bianchina

The Lafayette 10-year-old All-Stars opened their post-season with a victory over Danville's All-Stars at Buckeye Field. The win set the stage for a successful run in the District 4 tournament, winning five games and outscoring their opponents 61-26. After a loss to eventual District champion Walnut Creek, the 10's peeled off four victories in a row before their run toward the championship ended against Antioch on July 6th.

Following District, the 10's competed in their first invitational tournament of the summer at the 26th Annual Granada Little League Invitational Tournament held in Livermore that featured eight District All-Star teams. The 10's won their semifinal game against top-seeded Canyon Creek 12-2 and beat Tassajara Valley 10-0 for the championship in four innings. They will finish the summer at the "Chachi Corral Tournament" in Danville.

12's All-Stars:

Submitted by Shannon Vicencio



Front row, from left: Seppi Ortman, Matty Vicencio, Ty Whelehan, Ryan Regan, Dexter Varrelmann, John Torchio, Jake Finegold; back row: Tyler Schenone, Matt Burns, Robby Rowell, Kyle Mizell, Tyler Ewing
Coaches: John Whelehan, Buddy Rowell and Mark Vicencio

In the Little League International Tournament, Lafayette's 12 year-old all-stars won the District 4 Championship by beating Antioch 15-9. The win marks the first time that a 12 year-old team from Lafayette captured a District Banner and the second time this group of players brought home a championship.

The road to the title was not an easy one because Lafayette lost a game early in the tournament and was forced to play through

the loser's bracket. Facing elimination in seven consecutive games, Lafayette played some of their best baseball, compiling an 8-1 record.

In the Championship game, Lafayette stormed out to a 15-4.

Lafayette moved on to Sectionals held in Fairfield, but lost early in the tournament

12's:

Submitted by Jill McTaggart



Photos provided

Lafayette Little League fielded a 12-year-old tournament team this summer, playing in three local tournaments. The team went 9-4, going to the finals in two out of three tournaments. The team won the Granada Tournament, placed second in the TOPS Tournament, and lost in the semi-finals of the Livermore National Tournament.

The team was led by the hitting of Chris Armanino, Drake Fetting, Ryan Burnett, Justin Pratt, Will Grace and Kevin Tuholski; the fielding of Gareth Kwok and Ben Ross; the pitching of Matthew Moorehead, Daniel Flaherty, Brian Merken, and Michael Bone; and the catching of Jared Kolsut and Nick Shimmer.

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