

Lamorinda U12 Boys Finalists at Davis Legacy Premier Cup

Submitted by Juliandra Rittmann



Top, from left: Coach Evan Sassano, Andrew Heilmann, Cristian Alfaro, Sebastian Calderon, Ryan Nickens, Max Rittmann, Owen Peck, Miles Bergman, Nick Govea, Rhett Skvarna and Matthew Alm; front: Cole Curtis, Mason Archer, Adrian Fernandez-Lopez, Ernesto Cruz, Brendan McCulloch, Jonas Dao, Tony Guzman, Jack Cusumano and Jorah Delbanco

Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U12 Boys Navy team was a finalist in the Davis Legacy Premier Cup Tournament (Sept. 26-27) in Davis, California.

Local Fencer Finishes Third at North American Cup

Submitted by David Kornguth



Kornguth, top left, receives her third-place medal

Photo provided

Lindsay Kornguth, a Miramonte freshman, took third place in epee at the North American Cup Division II event held in Richmond, Virginia on Oct. 10.

Lindsay earned a National "B" rating, which qualifies her for Division I, the most selective level of tournaments in the nation.

Sea Serpents Make a Splash

By Rosie Chester and Makenna Millham



Sea Serpent Lily Grenning smiles at the EBSS Laney College Meet. Photo Deanna Wentzel

Everyone has a different definition of what qualifies as victory. For some coaches and athletes, victory comes every Sunday at the Campolindo Soda Aquatic Center. They participate in East Bay Sea Serpents, a nonprofit swim team affiliated with Special Olympics of Northern California. EBSS caters to children and adults with disabilities and serves as an outlet to have fun, while also providing aquatic fitness and skill.

For some Miramonte students, these victories have been witnessed first-hand. Many Lamorindians participate in Sea Serpents as volunteer coaches or athletes, helping children and adults with disabilities that includes Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders and cerebral palsy.

For Miramonte junior Charlotte Curran, Sea Serpents has been a very rewarding experience. "The biggest takeaway has definitely been learning how to work with people with different abilities and figuring out how to articulate instructions or compromise," she said.

Miramonte senior Patrick Kirbach has made huge strides in advancing his swimming career. Kirbach has swum with Sea Serpents since he was 6 years old and has moved his way over from the shallow pool—where more developmental skills are practiced—to the deeper pool, where stronger swimmers have a workout-style practice. When asked about his favorite aspect of Sea Serpents Kirbach said, "I like being able to be in the water and kick my legs. My favorite strokes are breaststroke and backstroke."

The program benefits athletes as well as parents. Anna Tague, mother of long-term swimmer Nicole Tague, has seen her daughter

improve over the years due to volunteers and the positive vibe of the program. "To have a team of students and adult volunteers donating their precious weekend time to support children with special needs is a gift to our community," Tague said. "The relationships built between the Sea Serpent athletes and families with the youth coaches are inspiring and I think benefit every person involved."

Not only is Sea Serpents a good workout and learning experience, it's a fun way to spend time with a variety of swimmers and coaches. Veteran coach and Miramonte junior Matthew Coleman has been instructing for two years. "The best part is seeing everyone progress, because everyone really does get better," he said.

East Bay Sea Serpents was founded in March 2001 by Joleen Silverfoote. Since 2010, the director has been Brian Wentzel, who has been offering his time and expertise since 2010 with the help of his wife, Deanna, who takes photos of the athletes and volunteers. "I would say that there are two aspects of Sea Serpents that stand out for me," Wentzel said. "First, of course seeing the athletes learn, grow and expand their aquatic skills is amazing. Secondly, I love the aspect of working with our community's youth as volunteers for the program."

More information about Sea Serpents may be found at <http://www.eastbayseaserpents.org/>.

Editor's note: This story was written by Miramonte High School Mirador staff writers, and was originally published in the Oct. 8 issue of The Mirador. Published with permission.

Miramonte Defeats Campo in NCS Final Rematch

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The Mats appear to be reaching peak form after scheduling a tough preseason slate, which included two matches against Harvard-Westlake Academy (Los Angeles, Calif.), one of the nation's premier teams. The Wolverines won both times.

Overall, the team is reliant on leadership from a strong senior class. Last fall, junior Tyler Abramson and senior Alex Zamanian earned first and second team all-league honors last fall, respectively. According to Lathrop, the team needs contributions from up and down the roster to make a run at another NCS title.

The Cougars (10-6 overall, 2-1 DFAL) are off to yet another strong start, although some new faces have made their way into prominent roles. Freshman Beck Juradius is the team's starting two-meter player, and while young, he's slowly turning into a force to be reckoned with near the cage. Seniors Cole Stevens and Yurii Hanley, who earned first and second team all league honors in 2014, are staples once again for the Cougars.

Price saw a fine effort from his team against the Mats. "Effort had nothing to do with (the loss)," he explained. "We've just got to keep getting better."

The team will participate in the upcoming North-South Tournament at Sacred Heart in Atherton, where there will some of the better teams the Bay Area has to offer. There Price's team will have an opportunity to polish up its game before entering what is shaping up to be a competitive final sprint.

Both teams boast talent out of the pool as well. Mats senior Jack Niehaus recently

returned from New York City screening his short documentary, "Of Bears and Men," at the All American High School Film Festival. It was a finalist in four different categories. Campolindo's Nikhil Suri, who plays French horn, was recently given a chair on San Francisco's Symphony's Youth Orchestra. Suri is also receiving interest from Ivy League schools for playing water polo.

The Acalanes Dons (9-7 overall, 1-2 DFAL) are having an up-and-down season so far, showing flashes of brilliance and disappointment. They beat rival Campolindo twice in the preseason, for instance, but then suffered an 11-6 loss to the Cougars a week after blowing out Dougherty Valley by a margin of 21 goals.

"Good team defense fueled our solid early season results," said coach Clarke Tamiriki in an email. "We have had trouble maintaining that defense which has led to a lack of focus of late."

A strong senior group that includes Tommy Fellner and Jack Winther, who both earned second team all-league honors in 2014, and Evan Wentzel headline the roster.

Like their peers, the Dons prepared for the grueling DFAL schedule with a tough slate of preseason matches against some of California's top teams. However, in order to be successful, they're going to have to recreate some of their early season mojo.

"We have not played our best water polo in the last couple of weeks and need to regain the focus that we had early season," Tamiriki said. "When we are playing to our strength, I feel we stack up well (against other DFAL teams)."

Lady Mats Turn Tide on Cougars, Win 11-4



Grace Tehaney

Photos Jeanette Broad

The Miramonte Lady Mats (9-4 overall, 3-0 DFAL) also won their rivalry match against Campolindo (9-7 overall, 1-2 DFAL). Unlike the boys, who have been evenly matched in recent years, the 11-4 victory marked the first time the Lady Mats beat the Cougars in nine seasons. The 'Super Sophomores,' which includes two-meter specialist Grace Tehaney, Carson Broad, Katrina Drake, Kelly Murphy and Skylar Savar, has been the foundation of the team's success this fall. Senior goalkeeper Paige Miller, who recorded eight saves against Campo, leads the team's superior defense. "We can focus on defense because we have so many great athletes on this team," head coach Noel Murphy explained. "Scoring just happens." The girls were runners up at the Western States Tournament in Modesto this past weekend and face off against co-DFAL leader and rival Acalanes on Wednesday Oct. 21.



Carson Broad

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