

Orinda Soccer Player Takes Game to National Stage

Submitted by Mary Staff



Photo Kelley Cox

Orinda soccer player, Samantha DeVecchi, was invited to compete in an elite soccer tournament with some of the top players in the country.

The Miramonte junior was one of 18 players selected to represent Region IV in the 2015 US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP) Girls Thanksgiving Interregional Tournament in Boca Raton, Fla. The Region IV team is made up of top players from the 15 Western States.

The weeklong tournament featured some of the best players in the country from each of the

four US Youth Soccer Regions. Players worked alongside some of the nation's top coaches to enhance their problem solving skills within the game, and further their technical and tactical abilities.

DeVecchi talked about her experience at the camp. "This was a great opportunity for me. I played with, roomed with, and became friends with some of the best players in the country. The training was intense, fast, physical, and grueling, but fun at the same time. We trained in the classroom, as well as on the fields."

US Soccer's ODP Interregional Tournament is a system in which players are identified, evaluated, and developed for possible inclusion on US Olympic and National Teams. US Youth Soccer ODP claims members of Major League Soccer, the National Women's Soccer League, and the majority of current and past national and youth national team members, as alumni.

At the conclusion of the camp, the coaches gave each player a written evaluation of their overall skills. DeVecchi said her evaluation was informative. "It showed me some things I do well and also gave me positive feedback on what I need to continue to work on."

"Playing against the Womens' National Team was awesome" DeVecchi said, when asked to summarize her experience. "They were so fast, so aggressive, and they were on you in a flash." She added, "When we had our chance to play against them, I felt like I played well and upped my game, but they were awesome."

Currently a member of the Danville Mustang ECNL U16 team, DeVecchi has been in the ODP Program for the past four years.

Lamorinda United 97 Finish 4-0 in Surf College Showcase

Submitted by Nicole Yuen



Photo provided

Lamorinda United 97 finished their first Surf College Showcase with a 4-0 record, outscoring their opponents 14-2 and bringing home the Swami Division Championship. Two of these victories were over Colorado's No. 1 team, Broomfield Blast and Washington's No. 1 team, PSPL Surf Academy. The girls show-

cased their possession-style of soccer for hundreds of college coaches during the Thanksgiving weekend. As the team heads into their winter break, they look forward to completing their final Spring season with Lamorinda United 97 in 2016.

Lamorinda U15 Boys Declared Champions of the 2015 NorCal Premier NPL2

Submitted by Vivian Alfaro



Photo provided

It was a phenomenal fall weekend for Lamorinda U15 Boys soccer at the 2015 NPL Fall College Showcase in Turlock, Calif. In order to secure first place, the boys needed two wins over the weekend. On Saturday, Nov. 21 they faced San Mateo County Star and won 4 to 1 win with goals scored by A. Cardenas, A. Alfaro, A. Sanchez, and A. Guzman. On Sunday, they won their final league match against PAC San Jose Academy, 2-1. Both goals were

by A. Guzman. PAC San Jose Academy gave Lamorinda a great fight that came down to the end. The boys played together, eliminating multiple offensive threats and were able to clinch the NPL2 Champions title. With a lot of sweat, some blood and plenty of hard work and training, the boys finished strong in 1st place with a 7-1-1 record and are NorCal Premier NPL2 Champions.

Spartans Win 5th Grade Girls Turkey Shootout Title

Submitted by Stephanie and Jay Williams



Back row, from left: coaches Jay Williams and Eric Yabu, Annie Coane, Kylie Williams, Julia Hirahara, Kalena King, coaches Sarah Garcia and Stephanie Williams
Front row: Ava Garcia, Camille Yabu, Mina Wang, Kristin Muraoka

St. Monica's fifth grade Spartans depended upon balanced scoring and team defense to prevail in the 15th annual Turkey Shootout in

Walnut Creek, a three-day tournament sponsored by MVP Flight basketball.

Advertising

LMYA 2015 SOCCER SEASON CLOSURES WITH PANACHE

The Lafayette Moraga Youth Association's Soccer program is the biggest game in town. The season runs from early September until mid-November. On November 21, the top teams in each of the older age groups competed in the season finale "Commissioner's Cup"; an all-day event and festival at the Lafayette Community Fields. The LMYA Soccer program is headed by Joe Dougherty and Heidi Hambidge in Lafayette and Matt Helder in Moraga.

The winners are:

4th Grade Girls, NETHERLANDS



Left to right in the picture are: Coach Stuart Crumbaugh, Selma Ahmed, Romey Crumbaugh, Riley Regan, Katherine Yokomizo, Carley Hudson, Riley Markham, Lauren Anderson, Mia Damon-Espinas, Catelyn Cereghino and Coach David Cereghino. Not in the picture but also on the team, Ana Hays and Maddie O'Ball

4th Grade Boys, TIMBERS



Pictured: Bottom Row -Daniel Vasankari, Collin Malmquist, Evan Sverak, Blake Pepper, Caleb Sherman
Top Row - coach Jim Malmquist, Tobias Case, Colten Haas, Mason Lane, Nick Dietsch, Nate Lyons, Will Paulsen, Jack Steven, Coach Bob Sverak - Not Pictured Gavin Davidson

5th & 6th Grade Girls, USA



Pictured, back row, left to right: Coach Joe Dougherty, Coach Mark Poole. Middle row, left to right: Rylan Smith, Lila Waechter, Charlotte McKenzie, Sadie Burks. Front row, left to right: Julia Poole, Kaitlyn Keely, Sarah Gohres, Sara Archer, Krista Keely, Cate Condy, Kylie Siegel, Georgia Winkles, Gianna Giordano, Emily McDonsals, Sarah Bryn Owens, Riley Baker, Katie Dougherty.

5th & 6th Grade Boys, Orinda Thunder



Top Row (from Left): Palmer Hightower, Antonio Godwin, Cole Foster, Eliav Feiger, Oscar Rolfe, Aaron Lee, Tyler Bullock, Kenny Hilton, Coach Andrew Lee
Bottom Row (from Left): Cooper Womack, Michael Wen, Arik Shehter, Joshua Lee, Kevin Cunningham
Not in Picture: Soren Anderson, Tyler Singh

7th & 8th Grade Girls, England



Top row (L to R): Ciara Moses, Maxine D'Orazio, Natasha Malinovsky, Caitlin Smith, Sydney Zimmerman, Emma Phillips, Leah Macarewich, Kira Niyogi, Georgina Williams; bottom row: Angela Chavez, Hannah Goett, Brooke Stafford, Katherine Groszewski, Kennedy Merrion (not pictured Tallulah Clancy and Isabel Powell)

7th & 8th Grade Boys, Liverpool



Top row standing from left to right: Ismael Ali, Isaih Coleman, Thomas Schrader, Eli Harper-Jorgenson, Bobby Nelson, Jared Steuber. Bottom row kneeling from left to right: Cooper Schnurr, Walter Workman, Brandon Gentry, Jackson Heglie, Alec Driver, Not Pictured: Sy Antonino, Ryan Brown, Forrest Butris, Lewis Collinson, Anthony Mirabito. Coach Will Workman