

## Orinda 9U All-Star Team Wins Bigtimer Baseball Tournament

Submitted by Marc Leibowitz



Bottom, from left: Luke Holden, Tyler Akel, Grant Kurtz, Gian Maguire. Kneeling, from left: Preston Rguem, Kobe Wong, Luke Milmoie; standing: Jason Wong (coach), Archer Eames, Anderson Butner, Marc Leibowitz (coach), Charlie Watters, Ethan Yu, Tarik Rguem (coach), David Leibowitz  
Photo Haidee Wong

The Orinda 9U All-Star team defeated the Blossom Valley (San Jose) Mustang All-Stars, 15-0, to win the Bigtimer Baseball 2016 Memorial Day Tournament in Santa Cruz on May 30.

Strong pitching, consistent hitting and stingy defense propelled Orinda to victory over an impressive field of travel and all-star teams from Sacramento, the East Bay, the Peninsula and the South Bay. The All-Stars went 4-1 over the weekend, outscoring their

opponents 31-2 in the semi-final and final games against Hard 90 Pound Premier and Blossom Valley. Archer Eames and Grant Kurtz starred on the mound, while David Leibowitz, Luke Milmoie and Tyler Akel led the offensive charge and Preston Rguem, Kobe Wong, and Anderson Butner anchored the defense. Ethan Yu, Charlie Watters, Luke Holden, and Gian Maguire also contributed key hits and stolen bases.

## U14 AB Seals Win Tourneys to End Four-year Run Together

Submitted by Kevin Reilly



Back row, from left: Jon Zuber (manager), Jake Delaney, Nick Kresnak, Tommy Thrasher, Kade Shipp, Luke Miles, Nicolas Bamont, Grant Harper. Front row, from left: Vince Bianchina, Declan Curran, Will Windatt, Ryan Reilly, Owen Hansen, Jack Muren  
Photo Matt Hansen

The AB Seals, managed by Jon Zuber, won 14U tournaments in both Woodland, Calif., and Medford, Ore., in May to successfully conclude four-plus years of tournament baseball together. On May 15 the Seals won the "Twist It" tournament in Woodland and

then traveled to Oregon where they went undefeated in six games at the Memorial Day tournament in Medford, including a 10-5 win over DC Express from Roseburg, Ore., in the championship game.

## Orinda 14 U Bandits Fight Their Way to Gold Championship

Submitted by Junaid Khan



From left: Ryan Ansel, Nico Hsu, Coach Robert Filipas, Amir Khan, Lucas Olsen, Nick Acevedo, Quentin Breznikar, Nick Wong, Cambell Hoskins, Nick Watson, Greg Austin, Coach Rob Ellis, Chris Watson  
Photo provided

The Orinda baseball team 14 U Bandits are the 2016 680 Diablo League Gold Champions. The championship tournament was held June 3-5 in Santa Clara.

Manager Robert Filipas credited a true team effort for the win, with every player contributing with timely hitting and outstanding error free defense. Coach Robert Ellis orchestrated the pitching rotations to allow the Bandits the depth to finish: Greg Austin, Nick Watson, Campbell Hoskins, Quentin Breznikar were the winning pitchers throughout the tournament, while Lucas Olsen and Nick Wong provided clutch relief. Ryan Ansel and Amir Khan showed nerves of steel with nail-biting saves. Nico Hsu and Campbell Hoskins alternated at catcher, throwing out multiple base runners trying to steal.

Ansel and Khan brought the big lumber to Santa Clara as both hit timely home runs

that measured over 300 feet. The championship game was a fantastic back and forth battle that came down to the last inning. In the top of the seventh inning, Bandit right fielder Nick Acevedo made a great running catch in right field which prevented the go ahead run from scoring, followed by third baseman Chris Watson snaring a rocket off the Bulldawgs bat for the final out. The Bandits had one more chance to win the game and tournament heading into the bottom of the seventh.

The Bandits, started their half of the seventh with back-to-back doubles by Olsen and Khan, followed by an intentional walk to Wong. With the bases now loaded and the crowd roaring, the inning and game ended in dramatic fashion with a walk-off single by Austin, which plated Olsen for the winning run and sent the Orinda fans in attendance into wild celebration.

## Nationals Beat Giants for Little League Title in Majors Division

Submitted by Sharyn Harrington



Top row from left: Sean Harrington, coach Allyn Oh, Graham Oh, Chase McReynolds, Dante Montgomery, Mason Michilitsch, Manager James Harrington, Nathan Kim, Luke Pearson, coach Dan Otoole, Connor Otoole; Bottom row from left: Kyle Bielawski, Colin Krznicar, Cooper Kenney; not pictured Alex McLin  
Photo provided

The Lafayette Little League Championship game for the Majors Division was held Saturday June 4, at Buckeye Field. The

Nationals and Giants battled it out through two great games. The Nationals came out on top after a walk off home run by Graham Oh.

## Lamorinda Track Stars Exceed Expectations at State Championship

...continued from page C2



Julia Lyons

Photo Gint Federas

Like Acalanes, Campolindo brought one athlete to Clovis in junior Niki Moore.

"His performance was a good

one considering it was his first time at that venue," said head coach Chuck Woolridge after Moore ran in sixth place in the third heat of the

800-meter preliminaries. "He was up against the best competition that he's seen in his career. He stayed very poised and executed his race

as best as he could in a very tough field."

The race marked yet another high point in Moore's transformation from young sprinter to middle-distance star. The week before State, Moore won the 800-meter race at the NCS Meet of Champions.

"I think it's a nice progression [for Niki]," Woolridge said. "He came in more as a 200 and 400 [meter] runner and has moved to the 800-meter distance over the last two-and-a-half years. This year, he took the next step in terms of the training he did, and that really paid off for him in the end of the year."

Moore was the only Cougar competing at the meet, but Woolridge was pleased with how the year shook out for the boys and girls teams at large.

"I think things went really well for us. It wasn't the best season in terms of the number of athletes we advanced onto the State meet, but I think our athletes got out of the season what they had hoped to get out of it," Woolridge said. "It was just a really great group of kids to

work with."

The Mats had two runners at the State meet, but the races didn't go as planned for senior Christian Gonzales and freshman Cassy Haskell.

"State meet wasn't the greatest for us," admitted head coach Tristan Tool after Gonzales placed in seventh in the first preliminary heat of the 800-meter race and Haskell finished in 11th in her heat of the 1,600.

"[It was] tough to end the season like that," Tool said. "But they both had fantastic breakout seasons as a whole."

Their showings at the State meet don't put a damper on what promises to be bright futures for both runners.

"Cassie Haskell ended the season as the No. 3 ranked freshman in the US in the 1,600 meter," Tool said. "[It was] an impressive season for her."

Meanwhile, Gonzales will continue his running career next spring at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.

Submit stories to [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

(We prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide.)