

Magic Soccer '04 Boys Round Out Summer Season

Submitted by Greg Davis



Front row from left, Cooper Bohlig, Ryan Koepp, Riley Bonner, Drake DeBiasse, Nick Rogers, Grant Scanlan. Back row from left, Benjamin Lacayo, Levi Phillips, Paulo Obnial, Roman Hamed, Mason Archer, Jack Cusumano, Brennan Hamilton, Evan Persinger. Photo provided

The California Magic '04 Boys brought their Spring/Summer season to a successful conclusion with an appearance at the Creek Cup in Walnut Creek on Aug 20-21.

"Beginning with the Manteca FC Spring Invitational (April 23-24), the boys have increasingly demonstrated the skills we practice in training," said Coach Michael Jacobs. The team reached the semi-finals in both Manteca and the CUFA tournament in Lake Tahoe (June 18-19). They also played in the America Scores Beach Soccer Blast on San Francisco's Ocean Beach on June 26 and the Puma Seawolf tournament in Rohnert Park July 23.

"We have been working on our passing game and tactical awareness and the team is really coming together and playing with a lot of confidence," Jacobs added.

The boys opened the Fall League season with a 7-3 win in competing with the San Pablo United Jaguars. "I look forward to continued achievement of our goals as we continue Fall league and state cup qualifying matches," Jacobs said.

LMSC Boys U14 Win at SLO

Submitted by Juliandra Rittman



Back row from left, Johnny Brents, Ryan Nickens, Max Rittmann, Miles Bergman, Nick Govea, Danilo Mendoza, Jonathan Montoya-Castro, Sebastian Calderon, Cole Hink, Cole Curtis and coach Masood Ahmadi. Front row from left, Oliver Flynn, Nikolas Laredo, Tony Guzman, Jonas Dao, Brendan McCulloch, Jorah Delbanco, Greg Kornuth. Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club boys U14 Navy team finished on top at the San Luis Obispo Summer Classic in August, winning the Premier division.

In Memory of Coach Mazi - U13 Eclipse Team Wins San Ramon Soccerfest Tourney

Submitted by Karen Coane



Back row from left, Chris Morrison, Nicholas Eppinger, Cooper Lenahan, Michael Coane, Lucas Hendriks, Justin Simpson, coach Tarek Alameddine, and Logan Simpson. Front row from left, Sam Smith, Collin Krznic, Mason Fara, Cole Foster, Willy Hodder, Theo Schmitt, Cyrus Peyvan; not pictured: James McIntyre, Gideon Johnson, Nate Powers and Zachary Snyder. Photo provided

In memory of their beloved coach, Mazi Maghsoodnia, the East Bay Eclipse U13 lunar boys soccer team defeated Union City 3-1 for the championship at the San Ramon Soccerfest tournament on Sunday, Aug. 28.

Lafayette Teen Will Represent U.S. at Tap Olympics in Germany

Submitted by Jason Bezis



Fifteen-year-old Kaia Koehler of Lafayette was selected for the world tap dancing competition in Germany. Photo provided

Each year, thousands of dancers from around the globe compete at the International Dance Organization Tap World Championships in Riesa, Germany, with hope of

winning the ultimate prize: a world champion medal. The IDO World Championships are an Olympic-style event where only the best tap dancers are selected to represent their countries.

Kaia Koehler, a 15 year-old Miramonte High School student who lives with her mother in Lafayette, will be a part of the USA Dance Team as a Female Junior Soloist this December at the World Championships. She will attend the event with her tap teacher, Jonathan Mercer, and her mother. "I'm honored to be a part of this prestigious event, to meet inspirational tappers from all around the world, and to express my passion for tap dancing," Kaia says. "The competition will be very fierce, but I'm looking forward to the challenge." She will compete her tap solo "Sound and Color" against 80 other dancers in her category.

"This is an amazing opportunity for Kaia, who is an extremely hard working and caring dancer, to take her passion for tapping all the way to Germany," says her mother Darja. A GoFundMe account is accepting donations to cover trip expenses: www.gofundme.com/2ac5srrs (or search on "Dance Kaia" at GoFundMe.com).



Girls Water Polo

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The Campolindo team is returning most of its players this year. Photo Gint Federas

"With most of our players returning from last year, we expect to be among the top teams again this season," said head coach Kim Everist. "It should be a fun and exciting year."

The Cougars compete in four nonleague matches before beginning the Diablo Athletic League schedule with a rivalry showdown against Acalanes on Oct. 5 at home.

"We have a strong senior group who will lead the way in Becca Buck, Carlie Crumbaugh, Kari Jensen and Olivia Price, with an experienced team of juniors and sophomores by their side," Everist said.

With no shortage of talent – and experience – in the pool, the Cougars have all the elements needed to make another postseason push in the upcoming months.

"This team expects a lot from themselves," Everist said. "Just having fun and keeping it simple will be key to their success."

Acalanes boasts a roster that is even younger than the junior-led Mats or the runner-up Cougars. The Dons have three freshman on the varsity roster – the highest total since head coach Misha Buchel took over the program back in 2005.

"We graduated well over half of our goals and minutes played from last year's team," Buchel explained. "In the early part of the season we have a lot to figure out – which lineups to play and what roles players will have."

Acalanes has already played a pair of non-DAL matches, beating St. Vincent-St. Patrick at home 22-0 on Aug. 23 and losing to Drake 9-6 on the road on Aug. 31.

As the Dons gain experience through the six-match nonconference slate, Buchel will rely on sophomore Lexi Rowell and junior Bella Wentzel to help anchor the lineup.

"They are the two returners that had the biggest roles from last year," Buchel said. "And both really improved over the last nine months during their club seasons."

With the DAL seasons looming, Buchel knows that staying mentally strong will be of the utmost importance for his young Dons.

"The biggest challenge is going to be maintaining confidence individually and as a group," Buchel said. "We're going to make mistakes early in the season. The key is for us to use those for growth rather than have it shake our belief in ourselves."

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