

Magic coach nominated for national coaching award



Alfredo Rocha Photo provided

Submitted by Megan M. Shields

California Magic soccer coach Alfredo Rocha has been nominated for the 2019 Positive Coaching Alliance National Double-Goal Coach Award. PCA's Double-Goal Coach Award is given to youth and high school sports coaches from throughout the U.S. who embody the ideals of the Double-Goal Coach, striving to win, while also pursuing the more

important goal of teaching life lessons through sports. "We are all very fortunate to have Coach Alfredo at Magic and I'm very lucky to have him as my colleague," said Haris Obic, director of coaching. "His coaching philosophy is centered around appreciating the personal strengths of his players. This approach makes him a very effective coach who demonstrates and guides improvement by emphasizing human qualities first and foremost."

Coach Alfredo has been coaching at Magic for three years and in his tenure has exemplified Magic's mission of educating, inspiring and empowering youth in a positive way through the beautiful game of soccer. Courtney Johnson, executive director of operations said, "Coach Alfredo is one of those special individuals who creates amazing soccer players and is a positive influence for their entire life. He develops individuals in a way that they will

reach their full potential and become a force for good in the world."

Magic is a Lamorinda-based club committed to high achievement in all aspects of soccer while the whole child is considered during the course of development in Magic soccer training. To learn more about Magic, upcoming clinics and tryouts, visit www.calmagic-sc.com. This is the second PCA National Coach Award nomination for Magic.

Santa Maria third-grade boys basketball team wins



Photo Michelle Arrigotti

Players, from left: Nico Martinez, Lane Dalton, Micheal Fagundes, Jackson Gilmore, Caden Morrow, Luca Tarantino, Parker Bjornson, Julian Arrigotti, Jake Williams, Aidan Kuss (not pictured); coaches: Mark Arrigotti, Mike Gilmore and John Tarantino

Submitted by Mark Arrigotti

The Orinda Santa Maria third-grade boys basketball team won the CYO West Diablo American League Championship.

St. Perpetua third grade wins CYO Championship



Front row, from left: Ethan Ward, Beckett Clayton, Ian Brown, Jake O'Brien, Will Stuart; back row: Grady Branagh, Kyle Gleason-Dick, Daniel Shpolanski, Brennan Visnick and Travis Berry

Submitted by Rick Berry

The third-grade St. Perpetua boys basketball team won the National League West Diablo Championship.

Santa Maria sixth-grade boys basketball team champions



Top row, from left: Gavin San Gabriel, Ethan Lee, Gain Mcquire, Ryan Lee, Preston Rguem, Anderson Butner, coach Sultan Aseem; bottom row: Suliamon Aseem, Austin Bilello, James Pak

Submitted by John Bilello

Since third grade this Santa Maria 'American' CYO Team from Orinda has often struggled against their rival, St. Monica CYO, from Moraga, who has won the West Diablo CYO tournament every year. But in sixth grade Santa Maria CYO finally beat St. Monica in

sanctioned play to win the Championship game 49-27. Prior to this season, the Santa Maria teammates worked hard on their own to fine tune their basketball skills and then come back together as a team to be able to finally beat their rival in 2019! Even though it took a while, hard work and determination paid off for the Santa Maria sixth-grade American Team.

Playing Division I football

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"When done with football in the morning, I would have the rest of the day focusing on school and studying. It's a lot more work and time than high school but Miramonte really prepared me for balancing school and football."

As redshirt (non-playing) freshmen, the players were allowed to travel with the team to their school's bowl game, which for all was a very positive experience. California played in the Cheez-It Bowl in Phoenix, Syracuse played in the Camping World Bowl in Orlando, Wisconsin played Miami in the Pin Stripe Bowl in New York City and Boston College played Boise State in Dallas, though that game was canceled in the first quarter due to lightning.

On Christmas day, the California players went to the Salvation Army Center. "The whole week was a great experience," says Rowell. "Going through the entire game experience with the team, getting a lot of gear and handing out food on Christmas day was great." It was Henderson's first time in Arizona and he particularly appreciated "all the work we did helping to feed the people on Christmas morning."

Stehr also spent his Christmas with the team in Dallas and enjoyed it on many levels despite the game being canceled: "There were lots of team events and it was a real bonding experience and it was great when the coaches and families went to Mass

together."

Henderson, who anticipates majoring in economics or business, appreciates the environment at Cal: "It's a great community. Everybody loves everybody when you're an athlete or a student."

Rowell found the team to be really supportive: "I love the guys on the team. They were all very welcoming to me. There was not a lot of attitude or ego with the players."

Fischler was not fazed by the weather at Syracuse and, in fact, welcomed the change from the Bay Area: "It's been fun, actually. I like the different lifestyle and the opportunity to experience something new."

Stehr also took very well to the change in lifestyle at Boston College: "It's a whole different culture. It's one for all and all for one. The Catholic Jesuit mindset is instilled into our schooling. The teachers are invested in the students' lives. I love the city but the weather was a big change and I got a lot of winter gear."

Even after leaving Lamorinda, players still maintain their connections. "I talk with Stehr all the time," says Fischler, "and I still keep up with what is going on at Miramonte through my sister, Ava."

Rowell likes the fact that there are players and other students from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte: "It's good to have Lamorinda guys here and it helped with the transition to the campus."

Girls soccer roundup

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The Dons were led in scoring by senior Sasha Sadoff with 11 goals and 13 assists, while junior goalie Kate Carter allowed only 15 goals until a concussion interrupted her season with a game-and-a-half left.

Barbarino also mentioned sophomore centerbacks Sami Hansen and Aliye Wingate as important contributors to the team's success, along with junior Ivy Souza, a durable midfielder, and utility player Megan Go, a sophomore who played just about everywhere.

According to Barbarino, "My senior co-captains K.K. McDonagh and Malika Haji brought leadership on and off the field and kept the team together." Another pair of seniors, Emma Workman and Ava MacKay were inspirational. "Although they didn't always play, they provided the team with a positive attitude and supported the girls at all times."

Seniors Lara Dissman and Maddie Zuber also contributed goals and offense throughout the season.

Although their league record left them in the middle of the pack, Barbarino said, "We gave up a couple last minute goals resulting in ties, so our record could have easily been better."

The Dons tied Campolindo twice and split the season series with Miramonte 1-1.

With losing only two senior starters, the Dons boast a lot of young talent and look forward to competing for a title next year.



Angelina Basso

Photos Gint Federas



Maddie Zuber

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