

Breznikar twins talented players and leaders on the court



Chloe and Caden Breznikar Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

As twins growing up in Lamorinda, sports were a focal point for Caden and Chloe Breznikar. Their parents, John and Nancy, were high school athletes and passed their love of sports on to their children, with both eventually playing for their respective basketball teams at Miramonte. "My mom was very athletic and the captain of her high school field hockey team," Chloe said. "Our parents encouraged us to play as much as we could, and our dad would always have us in the backyard working on our shots." Though there were

many competitive games in the backyard, Caden and Chloe only played together on the baseball teams in the OBA until they were 12 years old. Though they did not play together after that, they were always there for each other critiquing each other's play. "When I would watch Chloe, I would tell her to be more aggressive," Caden said. "I would also suggest certain moves to the basket." "Caden helps me out more than I help him," Chloe conceded. "Still, I watch his games and we both suggest to each other what more we can do to help our teams. We have similar styles, but Caden is now more of a shooter

and I'm more of a post player though we've played with the same style in the past." Along with their skills on the court, they can also compare their leadership skills as co-captains on their teams. "It all came from their mother who lost her life to cancer in 2016," John said. "She was really the driving force for them." Caden has focused exclusively on basketball, but Chloe is also committed to the Oakland Strokes crew team. There are days when she will be rowing in the afternoon from 4 to 6 p.m. and then come home and practice with the team from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Chloe con-

cedes that time management is essential and "it is very busy." Not surprisingly, the twins' coaches have similar feelings about them. "Caden has become a tremendous leader," Chris Lavdiotis said. "He has embraced leadership and will hold his teammates accountable. He will bark at his teammates in the right way and hold himself accountable. He's a wonderful kid." "Chloe has been great as a leader," Vince Wirthman said. "She is here all the time and has been gutting it out with a bad knee and playing through it. She is having a very good year."

Lacrosse champions



Submitted by Tim Jones

Local eighth-grade boys from Lafayette and Orinda won the top regional lacrosse tournament: BlackJack Classic Adrenaline Lacrosse Tournament beginning of December in Las Vegas while playing for the Alcatraz Outlaws.

From left: Donavan Bantique, Derek Youn and Tucker Jones

Photo provided

Basketball champions



From left: coach Chris Dodge, G. Schlicht, G. Beers, C. De La Cruz, T. Jones, J. Eberts, L. McDonough, G. Dodge, I. Copen and sitting in front P. Beld. Missing was coach Brad Hillsabeck and player P. Hillsabeck.

Submitted by Tim Jones

Team won the highly competitive MVP Turkey Trot basketball tournament beginning of December. Congratulations to champions.

St. Perpetua Eighth Grade American

Ryan Nickens named outstanding defender



Photo provided

Submitted by Jon Nickens

Moraga resident, Ryan Nickens '22, helped lead The Athenian School soccer team to a NCS Division 2 Championship. The Nov. 13 hard fought 1-0 final versus Calistoga capped off a play-off of four consecutive shutouts. Nickens, the senior captain and three-year starter was also named Most Outstanding Defender in the league by the coaches for the 2021 season.

Lamorinda girls basketball

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Campolindo is not a big team and is going to be relying on movement. "We're a fast and quick team," Flitter said. "Some of the girls have surprised me at how well they can fill a gap. We want to get the ball out, fast break up the court and scoring quickly. We've also placed a big emphasis on rebounding and defense," Flitter said. "We held American scoreless for 10 minutes and have outrebounded both teams in our first two games. The girls showed who they can be which was very impressive."

There are a number of weapons that Flitter feels he is going to be able to call upon led by Maya Schwartz, Charlotte Arnsward, Camille Yabu, Catelyn Cereghino and Natalie Barkey. "Maya is a guard that is long, can also play the four and is a very accurate 3-point shooter, Charlotte just came back from an early season injury will bring the defensive pressure that we need. Camille is very fast player

on both ends of the court and Catelyn is also a force in the frontcourt."

Flitter has been very impressed in the leadership and commitment that Barkey has displayed, along with the 27 points she scored in the opening game. "Natalie has stood up and taken on the leadership role. She will scout our opponents and write up reports, sending them to the team and commenting on how we should guard them and what to look for."

Lining up next to Barkey in the backcourt has been freshman Ali Mccauley. "Ali can play both guard positions and has done really well. She is a talented young lady."

With so many young players, Flitter anticipates constant improvement from the team. "COVID hampered the amount of playing time and experience our players have had but we're going to make up for that with our athleticism. The girls have been practicing very hard every day and it's been fun. I've been pleasantly surprised by the output."

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