

Lamorinda Wrestling Teams finish at the DAL Tournament

By Jon Kingdon

The wrestling season for the Lamorinda teams concluded at the Diablo Athletic League tournament.

Though Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte finished 1-2-3 in league competition and were represented at the DAL tournament, each of the team's competitors were unable to make the next step to the state finals.

After concluding an undefeated league season, Acalanes head coach Dave Ridge was anticipating sending as many as seven of his wrestlers to the DAL tournament. Due to illness and injuries, James Trainer, Ed Gray, Jeremy Ridge, Antonio Correa and Togy Batkhuu were unable to wrestle. Acalanes was only able to send two wrestlers, Issac Douglas (162) and Addison Early (184).

Ridge spoke highly of both of his wrestlers: "Both had very good tournaments, going 3 and 2. Douglas lost his last match in the last few seconds and would have medaled had he won that match."

Particularly frustrating to Ridge was the injury suffered by his best wrestler, Jeremy Ridge: "I was confident that Jeremy was going to win. He was going to be seeded No. 1 and was ranked seventh in the state overall, had easily beaten the ultimate winner in his weight class earlier in the season." Ridge will be continuing his wrestling career next year at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ridge succinctly summed up the unfortunate turn of events: "It was just one of those things."

Campolindo had five wrestlers that qualified for the tournament: Noah Hamann (108), Adrian Bautista (122), Steven Williams (154), co-captain Craig Amador (182) and Nick Shaw (195).

Though none of the wrestlers were able to make it to the second day, head coach Sam Sotelo spoke highly of their efforts: "Though none of them qualified for the state tournament, they all battled hard and represented themselves and Campolindo very well."



Part of the Miramonte Wrestling squad show off their 2018 banner for Top GPA in NCS out of 175 schools. Back to Back Champs. Great season on and off the Mat. Provided by Jason Rosiak

Leading the team was Amador with three wins and Hamann with two.

Miramonte was represented by Eric Banisadr (138) and Owen Madaus (145). Head coach Jason Rosiak was pleased with the

showing by both of his wrestlers: "Banisadr had a good showing losing his last match in the final seconds 10-9. Madaus went 4-1 on his first day and made it to the top 12 before being eliminated."

St. Perpetua's 4th grade boys win Tournament of Champions

Submitted by Andrea Hilsabeck



Back row, from left: coaches Brad Hilsabeck, Tony Dudum, Ronell Jones and Rick Beers; front row: Eli Dudum, Gavin Beers, Adam Caceido, Gabriel Van Houten, Alessandro Curletto, Saaj Shah, Preston Hilsabeck, Illias Kaplanes-Jones, Mark Bellusa Photo provided

St. Perpetua's fourth-grade national boys basketball team won the Tournament of Champions March 11, winning by one point in the championship game. The Tournament

of Champions brings together the first and second place teams in the West Diablo, East Diablo, Mission Valley and SAC Diocese.

St. Perpetua 5th Grade American Team wins Diocese Basketball Championship

Submitted by Rhodora Del Rosario



Back row, from left: coach Brian Frechman, Addi Ames, Maddie Ingham, Clara O'Connor, Campbell Evans, Dulci Vail, coaches Mark Del Rosario and Matt Vail; front row: Megan Churchill, Natalie Frechman, Mylie Jacquet, Ella Del Rosario, and Leila Hamidi Photo provided

The fifth-grade American girls team from St. Perpetua finished their CYO season by winning the Diocese basketball championship on March 10. The Lady Panthers faced Santa Maria, the same team the Pan-

thers lost to at last year's fourth-grade championship game. The win was a complete team effort as each player exhibited grit, determination and focus.

American boys basketball team wins championship

Submitted by Steven J. Balassi



Front row, from left: Tyler Bergren, Liam Krackeler, Calvin Kotarba, Dylan DeVinney, and Patrick Floyd; back row: Tom Krackeler, Trevor Carrillo, Dylan Mansour, Aditya Kapur, Will Balassi, Jordan Brown and Steve Balassi Photo provided

The St. Perpetua (Lafayette) sixth-grade American boys basketball team won the Oakland Diocese CYO championship on

March 3. The Panthers finished the season 20-0.

St. Perpetua 6th grade girls National Team wins championship

Submitted by Stephen F. Shea



Players, front row, from left: Alexis Suer, Zoya Acuna, Kennedy Shea, Fiona Aguilar; back row: Maria Tzanova, Melina Nath, Tatum Haggerty, Victoria Alessandrini, Carolina Wackowski, and Josephine O'Shea Photo provided

The St. Perpetua sixth-grade girls basketball National Team won the championship in style. The girls had a tough hard-fought weekend of basketball. First they beat St. Monica's 22-18 in overtime. After, the girls faced an undefeated St. Catherine's

team. With 6 seconds left in the game, tied 18-18 the St. Perpetua girls played fantastic defense, Kennedy Shea saved the ball from going out of bounds and Victoria Alessandrini made a shot with 1 second left to give the girls a second consecutive league title.

Lafayette Team wins NextLevel flag football championship

Submitted by Charlie Vezzali



Front row, from left: Alessandro Curletto, Illias Kaplanes-Jones, Luca Vezzali, Cody Michlitsch, Rhett Hollyfield; middle row: Grant Ricker, Ben Pass, Reid Habas, Ryan Ventrelle, Brody Jones and Leo McDonough; back row: Charlie Vezzali (parent volunteer coach), Rocco Locicero (student head coach), Dan Ventrelle (parent volunteer coach) Photo Allison Curletto

The Lafayette fourth-grade flag football team went undefeated for the

second straight year to capture the title in their division.

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