

2007 LMYA Softball Season

Best Ever

Submitted by Mark Zemsch and Tom Leserman



LMYA Stanford sixth grade pitcher Rebecca Crisp throws her change up.



Second grade Sun Devils softball player Kenna Sherman waits for infield action.



Fifth grade ASU softball player Bailey Moran prepares to hit next pitch.



Third grade Cal infielder concentrates while in ready position.

Highlighted by generous coaching contributions from the Saint Mary's College coaches and players that led to significant individual improvements – and spirited team competition that went down to the wire – approximately 225 (2nd-8th grade) girls from Lafayette and Moraga enjoyed a banner softball season.

For the first time, 6th graders were added to the top level, with two Orinda OYA teams included in the scheduling to make a six team 6th-8th grade division. The result was a smashing success.

Stanford (9-1) rode an eight-game winning streak to the title. The offense was led by extraordinary run-producers Rebecca Crisp and Tela Zemsch – Crisp averaged 2.5 runs per game, and Zemsch scored at least one run in each of the 10 games. They were driven in repeatedly by the powerful bats of Emily Streeter and Siena Del Ponte. Stanford's pitching was led by Crisp, Rachel Kelley and Ashley Heim, while catcher Joelle Alley and Kayla Wiggins led an airtight defense.

UCLA (8-2) kept its championship hopes alive into the final game. The league's most powerful offense was led by the power hitting of Natalie Goepel, Maile Hoyt, Sarah Reynolds and Kalena Alva; Brenna Williams contributed with her glove and speed. Goepel also distinguished herself in the circle as LMYA's most dominating pitcher.

USC (5-4-1) enjoyed veteran leadership from long-time LMYA stalwarts Natalie De-

skin, Grace Lovell, Tatiana Gessling, and Jesse Kathan. The Trojans got great help from Lauren Fruci and LMYA newcomer Kat Mathis was one of the league's most dominating players.

Cal (4-5-1) finished with an inspired effort against powerful UCLA. A trio of 8th graders (Lily Zwang, Sarah Martin and Elaine Rehm) led the Bears. Cal also got great support from Jackie Welland, Brianna Manzone and ex-baseballer Samantha Flower.

The last games of the seven 4th-5th grade LMYA softball teams were completed on June 2. The game of the week was between the first place UCLA Bruins and the second place ASU Sun Devils. After giving up five runs in the first inning, the ASU Sun Devils pitching duo of Jenny Leserman and Allison Stevens held the Bruins scoreless for the remainder of the game, but the UCLA Bruins remained in first place with the 5-5 tie. USC and Arizona ended the season right behind the Sun Devils, with Cal, Oregon, and Stanford finishing next.

With second grade girls included in the LMYA softball program this year, the second and third grade teams showed amazing improvement in their defensive abilities during the season and were able to hit the "coach pitch." The enthusiasm and skill of the Saint Mary's College softball team, as well as the Acalanes and Campolindo softball teams exhibited during softball clinics inspired and motivated them to do their best.

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