

## Marlins and Seahorses Splash Off

Submitted by Ric Notini, President of Orinda Moraga Pool Association

The Moraga Valley Pool (MVP) Marlins swim team began their dual meet season last Saturday morning with an away meet against the Las Trampas Seahorses. With less than 80 swimmers just three years ago, MVP continues its rise in the Lamorinda community's competitive swimming league, featuring a club record 233 swimmers this year.

The team that swam on Saturday had a great range of age and experience, from Shurveen Najafi, 5, who swam his first meet on Saturday after graduating from the Mini Marlins program, to seasoned 18-year-old vet-

eran Stefan Miller (fresh from his Campo Senior All-Night), who has been swimming at MVP since he was 6-years-old. Adam Schaffer, 17, broke the 1978 Las Trampas Pool record in the 15-18 100 yard Individual Medley with a time of 59.22.

Over the next two months, the Marlins will compete in 15 swim meets against other Lamorinda clubs. In addition, MVP has earned the right to swim in the Orinda Park Pool's Relay meet for the first time in over a decade, having finished fifth in the OMPA Championship meet last year.



Paige Miller and Claire Manrique go head to head in the 10 and Under Girls 50 yard breaststroke event.



Shurveen Najafi Age 5, first swim meet

The Marlins are coached by Kevin Lai and Jon Cravotto, along with 20 assistant coaches. One of the unique features of summer swim team is the chance for brothers and sisters ranging in age from 3 to 18 to be part of and compete as one team, and cheer for each other.

But the MVP experience isn't limited to swimming laps in practice and achieving personal bests in meets. This year's MVP season seems more like a summer camp program. Planned activities include Pilates for Parents, a camping trip at UC Berkeley's Lair of the Bear campground near Yosemite, and many more social events throughout the summer.



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