



SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Joaquin Moraga Student Takes Home U.S. High Jump Medal

By Kevin D. Shallat



Hadley Swanson at high jump

Joaquin Moraga Middle School student Hadley Swanson, age 12, seems like your typical seventh grader – with one big exception. She also happens to be one of the best track and field athletes in the nation for her age group. When Hadley was 10 years old she signed up for CYO track and field. Just two years later she finished first in the 400 meter dash at the East Bay Middle Schools Track and Field Championships, qualifying her for the U.S. Championships and earning her a trip to the U.S. Track and Field Association Youth Outdoor Championships in Lisle, Ill.

At the Championships, Swanson competed in three events, finishing 31st in the 400 meter dash, and 15th in the long jump. But her most

impressive event, which helped earn a national ranking, was the high jump. Standing just five-feet-one inches tall and competing against some girls a full foot taller than her, Swanson finished eighth in her age group for this event, winning a medal in the process.

Amazingly, she has never had any formal training in the high jump; she is self taught.

Yet even with all of her success at the high jump, it is not her favorite event. She still prefers the idea of direct head-to-head competition with the 400 meter dash.

When asked, Swanson said that before and during an event she not only focuses on beating the competition, but reminds herself to have fun.

“It’s pointless if you

don’t have fun doing this,” she said.

As Swanson’s success continues, she remains grounded, yet her goals for the future are simple: “I want to break a minute (in the 400 meter dash), and make it to the Olympics.”



Saint Mary’s Athletics releases new logo

By Zack Farmer



Saint Mary’s Athletic Director Mark Orr (center) introduces the new logo to the alumni and staff in attendance

Saint Mary’s College, in collaboration with Osaki Creative, Inc., released the new athletic logo this recently as a part of Reunion Weekend. With over 140 people in attendance for the unveiling, Athletic Director Mark Orr introduced the new logo, which has been revamped to represent the true meaning of a Saint Mary’s Gael.

“Our initial research showed that the SMC community associated the Gaels with family, unity, brotherhood, and pride,” Orr said. “The implementation of Celtic knot work into the mark took these keywords and fused them with the rich tradition of our mascot’s heritage.” The new mark is affective immediately and has replaced all marks across

the campus.

A team of about 30 people decided on the final design. The team consisted of College administrators, faculty, alumni, students, and staff. According to this team, one of the first challenges was to define a “Gael.” After further research, the words family, unity, pride, and brotherhood were discovered to parallel the definition of the Celtic people and warriors.

“The SMC logo is a reflection of the proud history of Saint Mary’s College and Celtic art and culture,” said Kurt Osaki, lead designer of Osaki Creative. “The knot work design of the logo creates a monogram that reflects unity and the family unit of Saint Mary’s College. The



The new Saint Mary’s athletic logo promotes the Gaelic tradition of the College shield is a symbol of Gaelic pride and protection.”

The school colors will remain blue, red, and white.

Osaki Creative, Inc. is an Emeryville based company that has designed a number of professional teams logos, including the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the San Francisco 49ers.

Along with the logo, Saint Mary’s Athletics is working on creating a new three-dimensional Gael mascot. They hope to release the mascot by January.

Saint Mary’s has also signed a licensing agreement with Champ Sports to begin selling Gael merchandise on Aug. 15 – the first time in College history using an off-campus vendor.

Heads Up,
Lamorinda Players, Coaches, and Fans. We want your game scores, highlights, and photos. Please send your game reports, including player names and digital photos to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com You can contact reporters Kevin D. Shallat at kevin@lamorindaweekly.com and Zack Farmer at zack@lamorindaweekly.com

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Lafayette City Meet Correction, Addendum

By Jennifer Wake

In our July 25 issue, we incorrectly reported that the Sun Valley Swim Team placed third in the Lafayette City Swim Meet on July 14-15, when Las Trampas was the actual third place overall winner of the meet with a combined team score of 629 – just two points above Sun Valley’s 627.

Springbrook, which took first, had seven high point winners including: Shannon Pegnim (girls 15-18 with 33 points), Katie Berge (girls 13-14 with 33 points), Brett Usinger (boys 11-12 with 33 points), Brooke Aiello (girls 11-12 with 31 points), Nicholas Inserra (boys 9-10 with 33 points), Caroline Whelehan (girls 9-10 with 31 points), and Rachel Brickman (girls 6 and under with 31 points). Second place Rancho Colorado had high point winners in the boys 13-14 category (Chance Fowler with 31 points), and in the boys 6 and under category (Carter Lom with 31 points). Other high point winners of the day included Sun Valley Swim Team’s Sean McKenna (with 30 points) and Caroline Wash (with 31 points), as well as LMYA’s Nick Ferrif (with 33 points).

In addition to these stellar accomplishments, several swimmers broke long-standing records at the



Rancho Colorado’s “Big/Little Buddies” Chance Fowler (left) and Carter Lom (right) each won high point trophies at the recent Lafayette City Meet. Photo by Judi Cooper

City Meet that were not mentioned in our previous article, including: Nicholas Inserra (Springbrook), who broke the boys 9-10 freestyle and backstroke records, with times of 27.64 and 32.57 respectively – records which had stood for more than 26 years; the Springbrook boys 9-10 200 yard medley relay (Brendan Foster, Connor Reid, Brett

Usinger, and Jacob Welcomer), who won and broke a record that has stood since 1971 with a final time of 2:07.19, and the Springbrook girls 11-12 200 yard medley relay (Nora Vance, Samantha Anderson, Brooke Aiello, and Megan Dietrich) that came in with a record time of 2:03.89.



High point trophy winners at the Lafayette City Swim Meet. Photo by Judi Cooper

Lamorinda Teams Dominate Inaugural SMC Cup

By Zack Farmer

With five age divisions of play, four Lamorinda soccer teams walked away with championships at the inaugural SMC Cup. The Lamorinda FC 92 Boys, Lamorinda U12 Blue Team, Lamorinda U11 Gold Team, and the Lamorinda U9 Boys took home championships in their divisions.

The Lamorinda FC 92 Boys face the toughest challenge as they played against the largest field with eight teams.

Held at Saint Mary’s College, the Tournament was split into five age divisions ranging from U9 (under nine) to U13-15 (under 13-15). Due to an insufficient amount of boy’s teams competing in the Tournament (nine boys teams, 24 girls teams) both boys and girls teams competed against one another. The boy’s teams played up one age level.

Coordinator of the Tournament and Saint Mary’s assistant women’s soccer coach Lindsay

Jones said, “We’re going to look to do it every summer.” Jones helped reinstate the program after there was no tournament last summer.

Jones said there was no tournament last summer because of coaching changes at Saint Mary’s. Jones, as well as women’s soccer head coach Kelly Lindsay, is going into their second year as the helm of the program.

Many of the Saint Mary’s soccer players helped out by being referees. Most of the 35 teams competing in the tournament were from the Lamorinda

area. Teams from San Ramon and other East Bay cities participated as well.

The U9 San Ramon Stars were the only non-Lamorinda team to win their division and they did so against another Lamorinda team. They also played with the smallest pool of teams (four).

Jones hopes to expand the tournament next year and reach farther into the Bay Area. She was impressed with the turnout because of the late notice of the Tournament. “We’re going to try to make it bigger and better every year,” said Jones.

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