



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

A's Head into Playoffs Undefeated

By Frank Tse



Charlie Mollahan scores the go-ahead run in A's come-from-behind victory Photo Ron Garcia

After losing an early 10-0 lead, and trailing by a run in the top of the fifth, the Orinda Pinto A's could feel their dream of a 12-0 season slip through their mitts.

A's Manager Steve Cassriel called a quick team huddle to calm the nerves of his young players.

The Piedmont Cubs had scored four runs to take the lead in the fourth, and matched that effort with excellent defense, shutting down the top of the A's line-up 1-2-3 for the first time all season.

While Cassriel reminded the players to have fun, Coach Scott Mollahan pulled out a stratagem not found in any playbook as he lifted every player's spirits with a Starburst candy.

Whether inspired by Cassriel's words or by Mollahan's Starbursts, the A's limited the Cubs to one run in the last two innings, and knocked in four runs of their own to seal a thrilling 16-14 victory.

Asim Khan started the A's fifth inning rally with a double into the outfield. Next, speedy Derrick Garcia beat out an infield single to set the table for Charlie Mollahan's clutch 2 RBI double. After Mason Zimmerman's single, and a pop fly by Zacary Weiner, Paul Bakshi hit a double into the outfield to give

the A's back their lead.

Cassriel praised the improvement of the first-year players as a key to the A's success. "Every team in this league has improved its defense since the season began in March," said Cassriel. "Derrick Garcia, Tommy Brovelli, Zac Weiner, and Charlie Mollahan have significantly raised their batting average in the second half of the season despite the tougher defense."

But improving defense by the A's was also a key. Second baseman Ben Mollahan almost single-handed shut down the Cubs in the last inning by fielding two grounders for outs, and catching an infield fly. In the fourth inning, third baseman Stephen Tse knocked down a grounder and alertly chased down Cub Harry Kohr as he tried to return to second. Will Cassriel caught two liners for outs in the Pitcher's Assistant position, while Henry Connor anchored down first base duties with skilled efficiency.

After a week off, the A's and the nine other teams will begin the round-robin, double elimination play-offs, which may be decided once again by timely hitting, defense, and timely Starburst boosters.

Swim Meet Hailed Fastest in NCS History

By Garrett Ley

Schools from throughout Northern California participated in the North Coast Section (NCS) swimming championships on Friday and Saturday, May 23 and 24. The meet was hailed as one of the fastest in NCS history, with nearly every event more competitive than previous years.

"It was really tough to final this weekend, times that would have easily been top eight finishes hardly made it into the top sixteen," Miramonte sprinter Grant Harrison explains. "But that's what makes this meet so exciting."

The meet came down to the wire between Las Lomas and Campolindo, but the Knights edged out their DFAL counterpart by 20 points to be crowned NCS champions. Other Lamorinda teams had solid showings; Miramonte finished seventh with 195.5 points and the Acalanes Dons finished 14th with 121 points.

Men's

The Cougars dominated the men's side for the fourth year in a row, racking up 262 team points, 71 points better than second-place De La Salle. Campolindo had a solid showing in the relays, coming in second place in the 200-yard medley relay, the 200-yard freestyle relay, and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Individually, the Cougars were led by senior Dana Foster, who finished fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and sixth in the 100-yard freestyle. Shane Tutass improved .45 seconds from his preliminary time to place fourth in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 51.29, and also finished fifth in the 500-yard freestyle.

Other individuals from Campolindo included senior backstroke Nate Erickson, who clocked a 52.02 in the 100-yard backstroke in the preliminaries, but finished seventh in the finals. Junior Tommy Dowley was third in the 200-yard freestyle, earning his first Junior National time.

For Miramonte, it was Sean Haufler who stepped up, placing third in two individual events. He started his day with a time of 1:55.42 in the 200-yard IM, and



Women's Relay: (L to R) Alva, Olivia JR; Holt, Kelley SR; Cleak, Rachel SO; Luchini, Shelbi JR Photo Doug Kohen



Men's Relay: (L to R) Foster, Dana SR; Melton, Andrew JR; Ward, Roger SR; Dowley, Tommy JR Photo Doug Kohen

later clocked a 52.17 in the Men's 100-yard backstroke to finish behind Jordan Lager (51.64) of San Marin and Matt Boone (51.98) of Acalanes.

Miramonte captain Zak Dychtwald calls Haufler "the backbone of this team, both in times and rugged good looks."

Haufler's teammate, freshman phenom Nick Deaver was a couple body lengths behind Haufler in the 100-yard backstroke, placing eighth with a time of 53.84. That was after his seventh-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly. Deaver was also known as the pioneer of the new Blueseventy racing suit, which became popular for the first time at this year's meet. The new suit is made out of neoprene, making the swimmer feel as if he or she is floating higher in the water. "It just feels fast, as if I'm swimming right along the surface of the water" Deaver says.

Haufler and Deaver joined teammates Adam Schaffer and Grant Harrison in the final event of the day, the 400-yard freestyle relay. The race came down to the final leg, with Las Lomas's Greg Harper touching out Campo's Nate Erickson by a mere .07. After an extraordinary anchor leg from sophomore Grant Harrison, the Mats finished fourth, a mere .98 behind the lead.

Despite the disappointing defeat, Erickson was "proud of his team and happy to be part of such a great race."

Women's Though overshadowed by Las Lomas for much of the day, Campolindo and Miramonte swam well and finished fourth and twelfth respectively.

The Cougars had three top-five finishes in the relays, highlighted by a third-place finish by the 200-yard freestyle relay team, which consists of sophomore Rachel Cleak, junior Olivia Alva, senior Kelley Holt and junior Shelbi Luchini. The Cougars placed

fifth in two other relays—the 200-yard medley and the 400-yard freestyle.

Caroline Lukins' time of 56.96 in the 100-yard butterfly earned her sixth place in the event. Luchini improved more than four seconds in the 500-yard freestyle and placed seventh overall. Both girls have battled injuries throughout their high school careers, yet still continue to dominate their respective events.

Miramonte's top relay performance was a fifth-place finish by

recording a 58.29 in the 100-yard butterfly to finish tenth overall. Robbins was the only freshman to final in the very competitive 50-yard freestyle, finishing fourteenth.

"It was tough coming back and topping our DFAL performance from two weeks prior, but everyone swam really well and we were able to compete with some of the fastest swimmers in the nation," Bilotti said.

The Acalanes women's team accrued 29 points to place 20th. Their highlight was an eleventh-



Shane Tutass

Doug Kohen

their 200-yard freestyle relay team composed of Sierra Robbins, Meredith White, Christina Vidal and Kimberly Sanguinetti. The 200-yard medley relay team, consisting of seniors Katie Bilotti, Claire Ivry, Kendall Weikert and Lindsey Jackson motored to a ninth-place finish with a time of 1:50.92.

Individually, Bilotti had the highest team finish of any Matador,

place showing by their 200-yard freestyle relay team.

Las Lomas's Kasey Carlson continued her dominance of the 100-yard breaststroke from the DFAL meet two weeks earlier, becoming the first girl in North Coast history to go under a minute. This summer, she will compete at the US Olympic Trials in Omaha for a spot on the Olympic team.

Moraga Baseball Association

Submitted by Vince Caro

MBA Box Scores for May 13, 14, 17, 18, 2008

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division May 13, 2008

Cardinals 13, Cubs 12

Cub Highlights: Conor O'Brien 2-for-3, 1RS; Nick Morgan 2-for-3, 3RS, 2RBI; Nicky Kronenberg 3-for-3, 1RS; Tommy Raftis 3-for-3, 3RS.

Cardinal Highlights: Erik Wenning 4-for-4, HR, 4RS, 3RBI; Quinn Lyon 4 for 4, HR, 3B, 2B, 1B - (hit for the cycle), 3RS, 3RBIs; Erin Neustrom 3-for-3, 2RBI; Paddo Buckley 2-for-4, 2RS.

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division May 14, 2008

Marlins 14, Giants 11

Marlins Highlights: Lauren Kozicki 4-for-4, HR, 4RBI, 3RS; Luke Jeffrey 3-for-3, 2-3B, 1RS; Russell Alger 3-for-4, 2B, RS.

Giants Highlights: Connor Peterson 3-for-3, 2RBI, 3RS; Chad Sonnenschein 3-for-3, RBI, 2RS; Quinn Finnane 3-for-3, 1RS.

Moraga Baseball Association Pony Division May 17, 2008

Rodeo 12, Tigers 9

Tiger Highlights: John Eriksen 3-for-4, 2B, 3B, 2RS; Tyler Garrison HR, 1RBI.

Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division May 17, 2008

Orinda Blue Flames 7, Moraga Brooklyn Dodgers 3
Dodger Highlights: Zach Cole 5 IP, 8K's, 2-for-4, 1B, 2B, 1RBI, 1RS, 1SB; Nick Fadelli 2-for-3, 2-1B, 1

BB, 2RS, 2SB; Bryan Pfaff 2IP, 6K's, 1-for-3, 2B, 2RBIs

Moraga Baseball Association Mustang Division May 17, 2008

White Sox 5, Red Sox 2

White Sox Highlights: Jack Gordon 2-for-3, 2B, 2IP, 3K's; Nicky Fafoutis 2-for-3, 3B, 2IP, 3K's; Sam O'Donnell 1B, 2IP, 5K's.

Red Sox Highlights: Sam Larson 2B, 2IP, 3K's; Brendan Gordon 2B, 2IP, 3K's; Jason Rodriguez 1IP, 2K's.

Indians 12, Orioles 4

Indians Highlights: Oliver Ousterman 2-for-4, 2RBI, 2RS; Tommie Vega 1-for-2, 2RBI, 1RS; Alex Gannett 5-for-5, 3RBI, 3RS; Jake Rolfe 1-for-4, 2RBI, 2RS
Orioles highlights: Ryan Rossi 2-for-3, HR, 2RS, 2RBI; Eli Kirmayer 1RS; Andrew Holloway 1RS.

Mariners 8, A's 7

A's Highlights: Griffin Whiting 1-for-1, 2RS, 3IP, 7K's; Patrick Duryea 2-for-3, 2RS; Perry Walker 3-for-3, 2IP, 1K.

Mariner Highlights: Jackson Reneau 1-for-2, 2B, 1RS; Kevin Shaffer 2-for-3, 1RS, 1IP 3K's; Kyle Hinds 1-for-3, Game Winning Hit.

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division May 17, 2008

Padres 13, Cubs 10

Padres Highlights: William Fauro 3-for-4, 3RS; Harry Curtiss 3-for-4, 4RBI, 2RS; Bryson Lothamer 3-for-3, 1RS, 1RBI; Jake Chan 3-for-3, 1RS

Cubs Highlights: Ryan McNally 4-

for-4, 1RBI, 3RS; Jeremy Gunderson 2-for-3, 3RBI, 1RS; Justin Feldman 2-for-3, 1RS

Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division May 18, 2008

Moraga Mariners 12, Orinda Crushers 2

Mariners Highlights: Kevin Lyle 3-for-3, 2-2B, 3RS, 2RBI, SB; Matthew Gong 2-for-3, 2RS, 1RBI, 2SB; Caleb Whalen 3IP, 1ER, 3K; Matthew Tuan 1-for-3, BB, 1RS, SB, 2IP, 1H, 0ER, 3K's; Moses Havel 1-for-2, 1BB, 2RS, 2SB.

Piedmont Scots 21, Giants 4

Giants Highlights: Troy Westernoff 1-for-1, 1RS; Jason Hofmann 1-for-3, 1RBI; Eric Baldwin 1RBI; Matt Lemelin 1-for-2.

Orinda Rebels 12, Moraga Brooklyn Dodgers 11

Dodger Highlights: Austin Chau 1-for-2, 1B, 1RBI, Great Catch in RF; Manny Manzone 2-for-5, 2-2B, 2RS; Bryan Pfaff 1-for-1, 2B, 2RBI, 1SB; Tristan Caro, 2RBI hit, Excellent Defense - 5 Put-Outs.

Moraga Baseball Association Mustang Division May 18, 2008

Orioles 13, Yankees 8

Orioles Highlights: Andrew Armen 2-for-4, 2-1B, 1BB, 3RBIs; Ryan Geisreiter 3-for-4, 2-1B, 2B, 2RBIs; Ryan Rossi 2-for-5, 2-1B, 2BB; Wyatt McNeil 1-for-4, 1B, 3BB, 2IP, 4K's.

Yankees Highlights: Parker Duncan 3-for-4, 3-1B, 2RBIs, (Great defensive play with unassisted DP); Scott Zumacian 3-for-4, 3-1B, 2RBIs; Dylan Caro 2-for-3, 2-1B, 1RBI; Pat Ratchford 2-for-4, 1B, 2B, BB.

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