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## Moraga's Katie Batlin Brings Local Support to the SMC Lady Gaels

By Andrea A. Firth



Katie's family watching the Showtime Basketball game last Friday Photo Jordan Fong

The family and friends of Moraga's Katie Batlin, including proud parents Judy and Michael Batlin (front row, left and center) and sister Mindi McGrath (2nd row, center), sat courtside this weekend as they cheered for Katie and the rest of the SMC Women's Basketball team in a pair of exhibition games before the start of the regular season. "This is so perfect for Katie, and for us, to be so close to home," stated Judy.

With Saint Mary's McKeon Pavilion less than a half a mile away from their home in the Bluffs of Moraga, the Batlins will be able to continue their uninterrupted attendance streak at Katie's games--at least the home games. In addition to the large crowd of family and friends who regularly come to see Katie play, Judy spotted many other familiar faces from Lamorinda in the stands. Several Bluffs' neighbors, including Vice Mayor Dave Trotter, were also in attendance to witness Moraga's hometown girl and former Miramonte Matador as she launched her college basketball career at SMC.

"Katie loves being part of this team. They have built a strong relationship and established a strong bond very quickly," added Judy. This close bond is exemplified by the frenetic pace at which the Lady Gael's execute their game requiring them to know several steps in advance where each player will be. With two wins over the past weekend, SMC's Women's Basketball looks to be off to the start of a great season. The next home game for the Lady Gaels will be held on Friday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m., for a complete schedule got to [www.smcgaels.com](http://www.smcgaels.com).

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