



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Saint Mary's Honors Skills with Exhibition Win

By Mikaela Cowles



Maija Lahda (1)

Photo Doug Kohen

The Saint Mary's women's basketball team finished their second exhibition game with an 86-75 win over San Francisco State on Sunday, November 9. The Gaels gave the Gaels a better game than last Friday's victory over Showtime, 100-74.

The Gaels broke the game open with a lead they never lost

when Louella Tomlinson won the tip off, sending the ball straight to Jontelle Smith, who passed it to Katie Batlin for two points. Local favorite Batlin made her college debut this weekend, starting both games at point guard, averaging 7.5 points and 3 assists.

Saint Mary's started the game up-tempo with their well-known

Freak defense, sending them on a 13-2 run. In an attempt to slow the game down, the Gaels went to a zone early in the first half. The zone had little effect in the first as the Gaels out-shot their opponents 61.5 percent to 36.4 percent.

Hitting shots meant Saint Mary's could get into their full court press early. In the first half they forced 17 turnovers, converting them successfully into 20 of their first half points as San Francisco struggled against the pressure.

The Gaels went to the locker room at halftime with a 46-33 lead; however, they came out in the second half a little sluggish. Three minutes into the half, the Gaels cut Saint Mary's lead to six, as the Gaels struggled against the zone. It didn't take long for Saint Mary's to get back on track. Despite having a staggering 35 turnovers for the game, they posted an impressive 25 assists as a team.

Tomlinson, Smith and Maija Lahde totaled over half of the Gaels points. Tomlinson lead the team with a notable 23 points, seven rebounds and four blocks. Smith, known for her three-point shot earned nine of her points from behind the arc, giving Saint Mary's 15 points and four assists. Lahde, with a diverse array of contributions, added 11 points to the threesomes mix along with a game high of eight rebounds, four assists and one block.

Saint Mary's will once again start the regular season out of town as they compete in the 2008 World Classic tournament in Austin Texas, opening against Old Dominion on Saturday, November 15th at 2:00 PM PT.

Miramonte Edges Out Las Lomas



Conor Lowery (2)

Photo Doug Kohen

The Miramonte Matadors continued their three game winning streak by squeaking past the Las Lomas Knights last Friday, Nov. 7, in a close 33-31 game.

The Mats are currently in 2nd place in the DFAL with a 3-1 league record, while Las Lomas drops to 3rd at 2-2. Campolindo continues to hold the top spot at 4-0.

This Friday's final regular season match-ups are Miramonte (home) v Alhambra and Campolindo (home) v Acalanes. Alhambra was trounced by Campolindo 35-6 last Friday, and Acalanes has yet to win a league game. Both Campolindo and Miramonte look to be NCS play-off bound. The play-offs begin on Nov. 21.

Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL)
Football Standings as of 11/8/08
(Compiled by Alex Crook)

	League	Overall
Campolindo	4-0	8-1
Miramonte	3-1	7-2
Las Lomas	2-2	6-3
Alhambra	2-2	2-7
Dublin	1-3	2-7
Acalanes	0-4	2-7

Young Cheerleaders Steal the Show



Young cheerleaders pose at last Friday's game

Photo Doug Kohen

If you couldn't make it to the Miramonte High School varsity football game last Friday, you missed what may have been the cutest show on earth. No, not the players, good-looking guys though they may be; the cuteness was on the sidelines Friday evening.

About forty young cheerleaders, drawn largely from the Orinda elementary schools, had the opportunity to join the Miramonte Cheerleaders during the game and to perform a dance at half-time. The girls were participants in last week's Cheer Camp run by the cheerleaders.

The cheerleaders have offered camps in prior years, usually as fundraisers, but this year turned out to be more of a challenge than they anticipated. Varsity head cheerleaders Brenna Casey and Claire Rottici found

themselves without the benefit of their coach, who fell very ill in September. "The cheerleaders had to organize and teach the younger girls all by themselves," said Brenna's mother, Susan Casey.

Brenna said there were forty one little girls in the camp, taught by twenty Miramonte Varsity and JV cheerleaders. "Claire and I met many times to make a 'schedule' of how everything was going to work," Brenna explained. "It has been really hard without (our coach)...but there was no doubt that we were going to follow through with our Kids Camp. Because both Claire and I are Associated Student Body officers for Miramonte as well, it made it a lot easier to talk to the administration in order to work out the logistics. All of the parents of the cheerleaders on our

squad have been really helpful as well."

How much more exciting does it get than to be on the field, pom-poms in hand, cheering with the "pros?" It's the best, according to seven year old Sally: "Do you know what I'm going to be when I grow up? I'm going to be Miramonte Cheerleader!" she announced.

"This experience is a great thing for our squad," says Brenna, "it really makes us realize another aspect of what cheerleading is all about: increasing spirit for our school, but also serving as role models for young girls. It is such a wonderful community bonding event and the little girls look up to us so much. Unlike prior years, our goal for the week was not to fundraise, but to create a cute, community event for the younger population of our city."

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 Gaels 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.

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