

Locals Rally Against Competition at Stead Open

By Guy Dotan

For 26 years the Moraga Country Club (MCC) has hosted a tennis tournament and over that time the event has grown in prestige. The tournament began in 1983 with \$2000 in prize money. Three years later Stead Motors became the major sponsor and the prize money increased to \$25,000. With acknowledgement from major tennis magazines, the Stead Open has dramatically increased professional athletes' interest.

While the tournament hosts many professional athletes it is unique in the fact that local athletes are welcome as well. MCC's Mark Orwig, the tournament director, stated, "What makes this tournament special is that it gives the opportunity for the local players to compete alongside many different levels of experience. Collegiate players, players looking to go professional, and professional players all get to compete for the prize money while the locals have the chance of a lifetime to go up against some of the best in the country."

This year many local players competed at the Stead Open. Some of the local players and Diablo Foothills Athletic League (DFAL) graduates

included Tyler Browne (Las Lomas and Cal assistant coach), Nick Balou (Campolindo), John Karsant (Acalanes), Ellie Faulkner (Campolindo and University of San Diego) Chris Rasmussen (Miramonte and Stanford), Alan Shin (Dublin) Evan Rose (Campolindo and Cal), Tony Franco (Campolindo), Sean Peterson (Campolindo), among others.

The tournament came to an end on Sunday, August 9 and the results are as follows: men's singles (2) Brad Weston defeated (3) Chris Wettengel 6-3, 6-2; women's singles (9) Ellen Tsay defeated (9) Aerial Ellis 1-6, 7-6(4), 6-2; men's open doubles (5) Tyler Browne and Geoffrey Chizever defeated Gregory Hirshman and Richard Wire 6-4, 6-3; women's doubles (1) Kristen Schluckebir and Romana Tedjakusuma defeated (4) Suzanne Matzenauer and Alex Poorta 6-3, 6-4; mixed doubles (5) Eric Roberson and Yasmin Schnack defeated (4) Tyler Browne and Zsuzsanna Fodor 6-2, 7-6(3).

Some of the local players did exceedingly well. Ballou made it to the third round in singles. The Campolindo and Acalanes alumni doubles

team of Karsant and Franco made it to the second round. Browne made it to the fourth round in singles, won the doubles, and got second place in mixed. Browne said, "I played better than I thought I would. For me, singles is more about having fun. But doubles and mixed, I had high hopes. I know we could do well but you never know at events like this how tough the competition will be."

Browne has played in this tournament for six years and said, "This is a great tournament. Mark puts on a great event. It's nice to be the local kid and there is so much community support. It's great to play in front of people who are there for tennis."

For many of the local players winning is not what is important. Two competitors, Jake Peiros and Tim Quock, both graduates of Campolindo, entered the men's doubles and were matched-up against Franco and Karsant. The match was a blowout, Karsant and Franco won 6-0, 6-0. After the match, however, Peiros was not disgruntled about the loss. He said the Stead Open is a great opportunity to see, "...how we stack up against the more experienced players."



Alex Poorta



Tyler Browne



Brad Weston Photos Doug Kohen

United Dominate Tournament with Three Shutout Victories

Submitted by Julie S. Morgan



Photo provided


The Lamorinda U12 Girls 1A soccer team finished second in the 18th annual San Ramon Valley Cup Tournament the weekend of August 1. The team stormed into the tournament winning their first game with a shutout, 5-0, against the San Ramon Spirit. The United carried their momentum into the second match-up against the San

Ramon Courage, again winning with a shutout, 2-0. In the final day of the tournament Lamorinda continued to dominate the competition. In a 7-0 shutout victory the United put out the flames of the Diablo FC Firepower.

Lamorinda finally met their match against the only other undefeated team in the

tournament, the #2 Bay Oak Blasters; neither team could get the advantage and the game ended in a 1-1 tie.


15 total goals: Gina Crosetti (1), Emily Holbrook (4), Sophia Zoller (2), Kayla Hohenstein (1), Jane Buckley (1), AJ Morgan (1), Bailey Yuen (1).




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Only As Old As You Play

By Mikaela Cowles



Ann Bundy (2) and Carole Kay Lynn (4)

Photo Bob Johnson



Patty Trenkwalder

Photo Bob Johnson

H20 Soda Moms Water Polo member Jennie Johnson says, "Now in place of those years of meeting at the local coffee house early in the morning to carpool for our own pre-game ritual...an extra shot latte, a bran muffin and a last minute check of essentials—sunscreen, eye drops, and ibuprofen."

As most women get older, they leave physical contact sports like water polo behind; but a group of local Lamorinda women are not "most women." The Soda Moms team is made up of women of all ages, from those in their 20s to their 60s. Johnson says, "This is a diverse group of athletes in all stages of life." She has a point: one pregnant teammate shares the due date as the first grandchild of another player.

Even though some competitions do not allow them to play together because of their age differences, they practice as one team. The women range wildly in skill level, many of them join without previous experience. Their reasons for joining are as different as their ages, some members are interested in the competition while others are looking to learn a new game while getting a great workout. The team practices twice a

week led by head coach Andrew Morris at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School.

H20's practice has paid off. They won the silver medal at their most recent demonstration tournament August 1-3. Johnson says they were all "pleased with the result, especially since the gold medal team had former members of the USA Women's National Water Polo team [playing]".

Competitions include periodic local tournaments, a yearly three-day Masters Clinic in Las Vegas and more serious competitions such as the Masters Nationals and FINA (International Federation of Swimming) Masters World Championship.

Connie Miller, the oldest Soda Mom, said, "When I was younger, they didn't have team sports for women really, so this is the first team sport I've played. It is a lot of fun." Miller was a member of the team in 2006 when they won the gold at the FINA Championship in the 50+ age bracket.

H20 is sponsored by the NSGA (National Senior Games Association). Founded in 1985, the NSGA has become a non-profit member of the United States Olympic Committee. It is dedicated to motivating men and women to lead healthy and active lifestyles.

Johnson is one of the newest members of H20, joining in the fall of 2007. As an "empty nester," she was looking for a new challenge while her life transitioned. The team has become more than just a way to workout; Johnson says, "I now really enjoy the tournaments. Coach Andrew and my experienced teammates are patient teachers, and traveling to a tournament with these ladies is always a great social experience."

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