

# Lamorinda basketball teams spend winter break in tournament play

By Jon Kingdon

For the local girls basketball teams, winter break means tournament time. For the girls, it's the West Coast Jamboree, which entails 120 different schools from all over the state and some out-of-state schools as well. In the past 22 years, there have been over 25,000 players and around 2,500 different teams that have played in the Jamboree. From the proceeds of the tournament, three scholar-athletes will each be awarded \$2,500 scholarships based on their GPA and written essay.

Former Miramonte head coach and current Carondelet head coach Kelly Sopak, in his eighth year as co-director, was excited at the return of the tournament after last year's hiatus. "It's really special to be back and it feels great," Sopak said. "It's been an all-year project to get it done from registering the teams to bracketing and the on-sight management of each of the divisions."

After arranging the teams into 14 brackets (each named after gems and minerals),

changes due to the virus and weather issues forced the tournament heads to make some adjustments. "Originally, we were at 120 schools, but we had some cancellations due to COVID and only one of the Nevada teams was able to make it over the hill due to the weather," Sopak said. "Still, we were able to replace teams and move teams around the brackets."

The tournament was scheduled to utilize 10 area high schools for each bracket, but Northridge High School had an electrical explosion which forced the tournament to shift and double up on some of the schools.

Campolindo (Amber Bracket) assistant coach Mark Ayers, filling in for head coach Bill Flitter in his first Jamboree, acknowledge the effort needed to put on such a large affair. "The girls and I appreciate the work and effort that went into it, setting up the divisions so they're competitive for everybody."

Highlighting the play for Campolindo has been two freshmen starters, Ali McCauley and Reagan Schum. "It's unexpected to have two

freshmen starters," Ayers said. "Reagan has done very well, and Ali has been composed, strong and a great ball handler."

Campolindo defeated Sheldon 43-37, Liberty Ranch 47-44 and fell to McFarland in the championship game 57-51.

Miramonte (Jade Bracket) coach Vince Wirthman, coaching his first Jamboree, was glad to be back playing over the break. "All tournaments are fun, and you get to see teams you wouldn't normally play," Wirthman said. "If we were in one of the more elite brackets, it might mean a little more to the girls, but they are still very glad to be in the tournament."

After a slow start (1-6), the Lady Matadors have won their last six games.

The frontcourt players, Karena Eberts and Chloe Breznikar, have led the team. "They are the heart of the team," Wirthman said. "We're getting better for sure. We just need to get our guards going more consistently and hitting the open shots. Once we figure that out, we're going to be pretty good."

Miramonte defeated Irv-

ington 51-38, Marin Academy 59-28 and defeated Encinal in the championship game 72-58.

Acalanes (Ivory Bracket) head coach Margaret Gartner has coached in almost all the prior Jamborees before coming to Acalanes and acknowledged how much work is put in to bring in so many teams from such varied distances.

The Lady Dons, with no seniors and seven freshmen and sophomores that all play, has a record (10-2) that belies their youth. "There is just too much for them to slow down and think about, so they don't realize how big this tournament is," Gartner said. "My team is special, and they have bought into and believe in our system, even when things are not going right. We're a very unselfish team that believes in each other."

Acalanes defeated Terre Linda 78-37, Eureka 51-37, and defeated Carlsbad in the championship game 69-46.

The boys teams' tournaments were more spread out with Campolindo playing in San Diego, Miramonte in Marin and Acalanes hosting the Chris Huber Memorial Tournament.

Campolindo's winning streak ended at 25 losing to Oak Cliff Faith Family Academy, ranked 12th in the state of Texas, 69-64. Coming into the game, Campolindo had played six games and Oak Cliff had played 18 games.

Shaking off the loss, Campolindo went on to defeat San Ysidro (San Diego) 70-58, Mira Costa (Manhattan Beach) 71-49 and St. Mary's (Phoenix) 54-49.

Miramonte entered tournament play with a 6-1 record. They proceeded to defeat San Martin (Novato) 79-37, Serra (San Mateo) 50-48, Folsom 61-48 and defeated King (Riverside) 72-64 in the championship game

Acalanes had a limited number of games early in the season due to COVID considerations. After the slow start, the Dons are still coming together. Acalanes defeated El Cerrito 74-59 before coming up short against Branson (Ross) 45-29 and Redwood 51-48.

League play begins this week.

# SHOP ORINDA

**Zamboni's**  
PIZZA COMPANY

1 Camino Sobrante  
(925) 254-2800

We're right across the street from Orinda Safeway!

**Thin Crust & Deep Dish Pizza**

Delicious pizza, calzones and salads!  
Slices at Lunch (11a - 4p)

Call for takeout or delivery!

<b>We're open everyday!</b>	M-Th	11a - 9:00p
	Fri - Sat	11a - 9:30p
	Sundays	11a - 8:30p

FREE local delivery! (\$15 min)

**Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices**

22 Bryant Way - Next to Casa Orinda

Mon - Sat 5 am - 12 am;  
Sun 6 am - 11 pm

**Morrisons**

Love You Can See Since 1923

35 Moraga Way - 925.253.9227 - www.morrisonsjewelry.com

**Park Place**  
WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.

A Registered Investment Advisor

- Retirement & Income Planning
- Estate Planning
- Charitable Planning
- Educational Funding

401K Rollover Specialists

18 Orinda Way, Orinda • 925-254-7766

Registered Principals with and Securities offered through Securities America, Inc. Member FINRA, SIPC. Park Place Wealth Advisors Inc. and Securities America are separate entities

**MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING**

HIRE A LOCAL NAME YOU CAN TRUST

925-247-0092

MarkBellinghamPainting.com

Interior & Exterior Painting Deck & Fence Restoration  
Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinet Painting Dry Rot Repair  
Light Carpentry Drywall Repair

For a Quick Preliminary Estimate  
Email Photos of Project to:  
Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com

See our Reviews on NextDoor, Houzz & YELP

Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured

**Winter's a Great Time to Curl Up With a Good Book**

Serving Lamorinda since 1976

Books, Gifts & Music

276 Village Square, Orinda

925 - 254 - 7606

Open Mon. - Sat., 10:00 - 5:00

**The UPS Store**

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00  
Sat 9-5, Sun closed

Our location: 21 Orinda Way Ste C Orinda, CA 94563

- Shipping
- Copying, Finishing
- Printing Services
- Notary Services
- Postal Services
- Business Services

store2643@theupsstore.com  
www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/2643

To advertise on Shop Orinda call 925.377.0977



Our advertisers make our paper possible to print and deliver free to your home. Please thank them and let them know you saw their ad.

Your publishers, Andy and Wendy Scheck



Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com