

# Lamorinda soccer player on Best of the West team



Kai Thomas on right

Photo Luc Narido

Submitted by Arleen Thomas

Soccer player Kai Thomas, 17, was selected for the MLS NEXT Best of the West team. In an

all-star game in Indio, Calif. his team defeated the Best of the East team scoring 5-4 at the nationwide showcase featuring over 400 MLS NEXT soccer teams. Thomas played as striker on the team.

# Robbie Mascheroni named to 3rd team all-state football team by MaxPreps

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"My parents (Rob and Karen) and Coach Macy and the staff have been motivating me every step of the way. They never let me slack off and kept me in line and allowed me to find a love for the game that I was then able to generate by myself so I could do it and enjoy doing it."

Kevin Macy has had a number of players that have been named all-state such as Griffin Piatt, Tyler Petite, Sterling Strother and Brett Stephens. However, the naming of all-state players has evolved which has made being named all-state more difficult.

"There used to be multiple all-state teams differentiating small schools but they no longer break it down in that way which really reduces the opportunities to be named selected," Macy said. "There is also much more exposure for the players, so for Robbie to make it now is really impressive."

From his freshman year, Dashiell Weaver was

Mascheroni's quarterback through his senior year, a connection that began years earlier. "We grew up playing basketball and flag football, building a friendship and chemistry that carried over on to the field," Mascheroni said. "The highlight for my high school career was playing football on Friday nights with my best friends that I've had through school. It was a blast playing with the people that I've grown up with."

Though clearly a superior talent, Mascheroni in the end was just one of the guys, according to Macy. "The kids in our program are very close and even though Robbie was a star, he never acted like a star. He was humble without any ego in practice but on game days, he would just take off," Macy said. "I've never seen a player that can catch a ball somewhat flatfooted and explode to full speed in a couple of steps which was quite a sight."

Mascheroni will be attending UC Davis next year for three reasons: family, acad-

emics, and athletics. "My mom grew up in Woodland, just outside of Davis and my grandfather still lives there and my aunt and uncle live in Davis and I'm very close with all of them," Mascheroni said. "I'm excited to bring my work ethic to Davis and be able to focus on becoming a better athlete and a better student, taking that extra step away from home. I believe I can be an impact player for them as an outside receiver, using my vertical speed to get downfield."

Mascheroni will have at least one familiar face on the Davis football team in Grant Harper, a former QB at Campolindo who graduated two years earlier. "Grant and I talked after my commitment and he was excited about my coming to Davis," Mascheroni said. "When I saw Grant after a game at Davis this fall, prior to my commitment, he was trying to recruit me to come to Davis. I would say it worked and he will be a great friend to have when I start college."

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