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3rd Grade Lady Panthers Take First in League

Submitted by Art Thoms, III



(L-R) in the front row are (standing) Grace Carlson, Kailey Meyer, Vanessa Vaisnor, Lexi Fraser, Olivia Reinecke, Ashley Thoms, Zoe Del Rosario, Olivia Heyman, and (kneeling) Cate Combi. Back row: Art Thoms III, Art Thoms, Jr., Rob Combi Photo Molly Meyer

On January 31, this St. Perpetua (St. P) 3rd grade girls' basketball team completed its season by clinching the CYO West Diablo League Champion title. With players from St. Perpetua School, Burton Valley, Happy Valley and Springhill, these Panthers comprised one of four St. P teams in their 10-team league.

They won their first playoff game against another St. P team, a 17-16 thriller left undecided until the final seconds. Then they beat St. Mary's (Walnut Creek), 29-10, in the championship game.

Former Oakland Raider, Art Thoms, Jr., coached the team with his son, Art Thoms III, and Rob Combi.

Said the younger Thoms: "It was a special season. We had a great group of girls and parents. It was like a big happy family and the girls had a lot of fun."

The team followed up their championship game by attending the Warrior-Spurs game and playing at halftime.

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