

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Breanna Alford had 21 points in the NCS title game. Sabrina Ionescu had 13 points in the game. Megan Reid had 10 points. Photos Gint Federas

Miramonte Wins NCS

The Miramonte girls' basketball team won the NCS title in convincing fashion and have advanced to the CIF State Tournament in the Open Division. The Matadors defeated Encinal 94-42 on March 8 at Saint Mary's College for the NCS championship. With the win, the

Mats earned their first NCS title since 2008. At 28-1, the Mats have dominated their competition. They defeated each opponent in the NCS competition by at least 50 points, including a 97-21 victory over Analy in the semifinals. Given Miramonte's prominence, the team qualified for the CIF

Open Division, a division composed of the top teams in the state. The Mats will travel to play St. Mary's of Stockton on March 14 at Delta College. Miramonte faced St. Mary's in the first round of the tournament last year and lost a 62-63 heartbreaker. Read the full story on page C1.

Quote of the Week:

"Lots of countries drink tea, but very few actually eat the tea leaves." Read Burmese Cuisine Comes to Orinda - page B9

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After Two Tours in Afghanistan, Local Soldier Comes Home

By Cathy Tyson



Photo courtesy Diablo Valley Flag Brigade

Residents of usually quiet Serrano Court had a patriotic afternoon when U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Leigh Wolf returned from his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. He had been assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 6 as an executive officer. Native son Wolf was raised in Lafayette, attending Happy Valley Elementary School, Stanley Middle School, and Acalanes and Las Lomas high schools, graduating in 2004. Prior to his service he attended San Francisco State University. He enlisted in the Marine Corp Reserve in the spring of 2008 and was later accepted at Officer Candidate School, where he graduated in April of 2010.

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Man of History

Diane Claytor meets a Lafayette resident who keeps California history alive - page B1.



Sports C1-C4

OBA Season Opens

Clare Varellas reports on playing ball and making memories - page C2.



Camps D1-D6

Summer Camp Guide

26 full-day camps to keep your kids off the sofa this summer!



Our Homes E1-E16

Dealing with Drought

Part one of Cynthia Brian's series on gardening during a drought - page E12.



LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte Wins NCS

Mats, Cougars advance to State Tournament

By Conrad Bassett



Mariah Seals had 11 points in the win.

Photos Gint Federas

Two weeks ago, Miramonte girls' basketball coach Kelly Sopak was expecting to play for the North Coast Section Division III championship at St. Mary's College against Bishop O'Dowd. It was a fair assumption given the teams have faced off the past two years.

However, O'Dowd was excluded from playing in the tournament for violation of an NCS rules and instead, Miramonte played Encinal (Alameda) for the title.

Encinal defeated Campolindo in the semifinals 72-52 to reach the title

game. Campo reached the semifinals by holding off Petaluma 54-49 behind freshman Brooke Panfili's 20 points.

In the NCS championship on March 8, the Mats cruised to a 94-42 victory.

The Mats steamrolled both Pinole Valley and Analy (Sebastopol) on their way to the championship game, which was close for only the first minute. Senior Megan Reid scored the first two baskets on layups and the Mats never looked back. Reid scored eight first period points pacing the Mats to a 33-10 lead. Sophomore

Sabrina Ionescu dropped in 11 in the first.

The Mats pushed the lead to 56-16 with 2:14 to go in the second quarter and went on to lead after three quarters 87 to 35, which set in place the running clock the rest of the way. Senior Breanna Alford led all scorers with 21 points. "We all worked together as a team," she said of their victory. Eleven different players scored for Miramonte.

Both Miramonte and Campolindo teams will be continuing their seasons, having qualified for the California Interscholastic Federation's state tournament.

Miramonte received the No. 6 seed in the Open Division and were rewarded with a trip to San Joaquin Delta College the night of March 14 where they will face St. Mary's of Stockton at 7 p.m. The Mats lost to St. Mary's last year. This year, The Mat's only loss came from Salesian, a team that St. Mary's defeated by 16 points.

Even so, the Mats are optimistic. Sopak said, "We are excited! This is the second year in a row we have qualified for the CIF open division."

The Cougars received the No. 7 seed in the Division III bracket and are playing tonight, March 12, at home at 7 p.m. against Soquel from Santa Cruz County.

"We are very excited to have earned a chance to play in the NorCal play-offs. I know that Soquel was 18-8 and went to the CCS finals," said head coach Art Thoms. "We are looking forward to the challenge."

The Cougars have been preparing for the post season since the start of the year and hope to make a run starting tonight. "The experience of playing a very difficult schedule during the season will pay dividends as we try to extend the season."



Uriah Howard added 10 points.



Teammates celebrate winning the NCS title.

Goal Keeper Striker Clinic



OPEN TO ALL PLAYERS

Ages: 10-18

Dates:

April	May	TIME
6th	4th	ages 10-13 9-10:30 am
13th*	11th	ages 14-18 10:30-12 am
20th	18th	* ages 10-13 11-12:30
27th		* ages 14-18 12:30-2

Location: Wilder Sports Park field #3

(all participants are to bring cleats, shinguards and water. GK's are to bring GK gloves and may also consider bringing pants and long sleeve shirts or jerseys).

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