

Oakland Strokes Advance to National Championships

Submitted by Cheryl Richards



Women's Varsity Lightweight 8+: Gray Strandberg, Liz Hofinga (Miramonte), Jillian Lundstrom (Miramonte), Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Julia Giovanni (Campolindo), Madelynn Prendergast, Maddie Boxer, Limor Dubrovsky (Acalanes), Rileigh Long Photo Laura Cvitanovic

Oakland Strokes rowed to victories at the U.S. Rowing Southwest Youth Championships held on Lake Natoma in Gold River, Calif., on May 1-3. This year the regatta drew 571 crews hailing from 35 clubs in the southwest district.

The boys' varsity 8+ won the championship, having found the right combination to take down their powerful regional and national rivals Marin Rowing Association. With the win, the squad earned a berth at the 2015 U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships to be held June 12-14 in Florida.

The boys' JV 8+ went undefeated this season on its way to a championship. The last time the Strokes won championships in both divisions was in 1999.

Oakland Strokes entered two boats in the boys' varsity 4+ event, and took first and second in their separate heats, but finished third and fourth in the final, edged out by Marin.

The girls' varsity lightweight 8+ boat took first in its heat and second in the final, finishing only 1.411 seconds behind Newport. The second place finish was enough to earn a berth to the nationals.



Men's Varsity 8+: Back row, from left: coach Brian DeRegt, Daniel Hogan (Lafayette resident), Rhys Daniel, Alex Lilichenko (Miramonte), Michael Cuellar, Kenyon Watson (Miramonte), Cameron Chater, Tucker Johnson, Max McDonald, Connor Olson, coach Alan Kush
Men's JV 8+: Front row, from left: Luke Lawler, Allen Hosler, Henri Illien, Brandon Fluegge (Miramonte), Isabella Onken, Cole Ortiz (Campolindo), Sam Thatcher, Jackson Witherspoon, Brendan Purtil (Bentley) Photo Barbara Wright

Magic U15 Boys make CYSA State Cup Semifinals

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Jason Vilchez, Alejandro Fabian, Joseph Grato, Oliver Feigin, Nicolas Brenes, Emmanuel Anaya, Shukoor Haji, Sam Pinto, Yohannes Kolanji, Ben Hodder, Daniel Wahl; front row: Aidan Jenkins, Alex Topping, Mason Larrick, Zachary Flagg, Tai Fox, Luca Arghast, Sohayl Sayfurahman, Cole Kelez, David Lacayo, Photo provided

The California Magic U15 boys advanced to the semifinals of the CYSA Premier bracket of the State Cup in their first tournament of the season on April 25. They beat the No. 4 team in Northern California, Santa Clara Sporting White, 2-1 and shut out their last opponent the Sacramento Pumas to advance.

They played very well in their loss in the semifinals to No. 3 Santa Clara Sporting Green. Coaches Jasko Begovic and Kamani Hill say

the boys showed great character in moving on to the semifinals and are off to a great start so early in the year.

Begovic said, "Only 2-3 weeks into the Spring season, our boys are showing a tremendous level of dedication, commitment and cohesiveness. They have created a strong culture as a team and we are very proud of them and their accomplishments so early in the season."

Aquabears Viking Club Swimmers Excel at NCS Championship

Submitted by Julie Roberts



From right: Marie-Claire Schillinger (Miramonte), NCS Champion in the 100 Breaststroke with fellow Viking Aquabear breaststrokers Aileen Lee and Kaya Philapil Photo provided

The 2015 North Coast Section Swimming and Diving Championship was held on May 14-16 at Concord Community Pool. Over 800 swimmers and divers representing 70 public and private high schools competed at the meet. Aquabears Viking Club, located in Pleasant Hill, qualified 16 swimmers representing 12 local high schools.

Olympic trials qualifier and Harvard-bound Acalanes senior Brittany Usinger won two individual events, the 200 Freestyle (1:47.51) and the 100 Butterfly (52.43). The 100 Butterfly swim set a new NCS record, previously held by Celina Li of Foothill High School from 2012.

Marie-Claire Schillinger, a senior from Miramonte headed to Rice University in the fall, won the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:01.12. She also finaled in the 200 Individual Medley (2:06.47) and placed seventh. On Sun-

day, at the Aquabears post-NCS meet held at Diablo Valley College, Schillinger qualified for the 2016 Olympic trials in both the 100 and 200 meter Breaststroke.

Other fast swims included Campolindo Junior Alexa Hanley who placed 18th in the 100 Breast (1:05.70) and 25th in the 100 Butterfly (58.52). Campolindo Junior Jane Wood also swam the 100 Fly and placed 21st (57.98). Miramonte freshman Nicole LaCour placed 28th in the 500 Free (5:28.54) and Las Lomas senior Michael Lutzker placed 17th in the 500 Free (4:50.94) and 24th in the 200 Free (1:48.24).

With the high school season over, these swimmers now shift their attention to the summer-long course season. For information on the Viking Club team, contact coaches Joe Natina or Chris Horner at aquabearsvc@gmail.com or visit www.swimviking.com.

Sixth-Graders Net Bid to Volleyball Nationals

Submitted by Baldwin and Jeanie Lee



Brianna Lee, Olivia Knutson, and Laura Studebaker (back row, second-fourth from the left) pose with their teammates. Photo Baldwin Lee

Moraga sixth-graders Brianna Lee, Olivia Knutson, and Laura Studebaker helped guide their NorCal Volleyball Club team to second place at the Northern California Regional Championships that took

place in Reno on May 9-10. Their finish earned them a spot in the top national division at the USA Volleyball Junior Olympics, which will take place on June 27-30 in New Orleans.

11U Moraga Mavericks: TPR Team Appreciation Tournament Champions

Submitted by Kat Panos



From left, bottom row: Max Rittman, Michael Coane, Adam Harper, Xavier Esquer, Nate Powers and Cade Bennett; top row: Coach Chris Rago, Jack Beaty, Shan Brinton, Jack Williams, Luca Rago, Connor Fritch and coach Don Cooper Photo provided

Moraga Baseball Association's own 11U Mavericks team took first place in the TPR Team Appreciation tournament at Mistlin Sport Park in Ripon, Calif. After dominating their first three games of the tournament, the Mavericks landed in Sunday's championship game versus East Bay Expos from Fremont. It took a come-from-behind effort to best the Expos by a final of 13-11 to take top honors.

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