

# Cardoni named Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach at Campolindo

Submitted by Raymond Meadows

Doug Cardoni, who was named head varsity girls basketball coach at Campolindo High School in April, played college basketball for Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina and Erskine College, in Due West, South Carolina. After college, while working on Wall Street for two decades, Cardoni played and coached in a variety of high-level adult basketball leagues in New York City. Since moving to Lafayette in 2015, Cardoni has coached youth bas-

ketball teams in recreational leagues, high school programs and coached and played in the US Masters National Championships in Coral Springs, Florida (3-time 40-and-over Champions).

Cardoni was co-head coach of the Miramonte JV girls' team for three years, as well as being a varsity assistant at Miramonte during that time. For the past three years, he has been an assistant varsity coach at Carondelet High School, where he helped lead the team to the 2022 NorCal Open Division championship game.

When asked about taking

over the Campolindo G. Basketball program, he stated, "Campolindo is a high-level academic school as well as one that supports its sports programs wholeheartedly, and I'm excited to be able to work with such impressive student-athletes and a school with such a strong academic and athletic history. I'd like to thank Kelly Sopak and all of my co-coaches along the way who have helped build my coaching base and also give a special mention to Clay Kallam for his advice on girls' basketball throughout the years. I really just can't wait to get to work."

# Team Lamorinda represents at 2023 Special Olympics NorCal Summer Games



Photo Lupi Gutierrez Beagle

From left: Kevin Bao, Andrew Beagle, Aimee Gee, Coach Juliet Gee, Justin Lo

Submitted by Lupi Gutierrez Beagle

Team Lamorinda, representing Contra Costa County, had a successful run at the Annual Special Olympics of Northern California Summer Games June 24-26 in Santa Clara. Over 30 Northern California counties were represented by almost 1,000 athletes and coaches coming together in the spirit of inclusion and competition.

In May, Special Olympics NorCal Track and Field Regionals were held in Pleasanton. The entire Lamorinda team consisting of 13 athletes, qualified for the Summer Games by winning gold in at least one of their events. However only four spots were allotted.

The 2023 squad also known as Lamorinda Avengers includes Miramonte High School Class of 2018's Aimee Gee, 22, of Orinda and Moraga's Kevin Bao, also 22. Andrew Beagle, the youngest at 14 is an incoming freshman at Miramonte and Oakland resident Justin Lo, 18, represented the team.

Gee, who qualified by winning gold in the long jump and turbo javelin at Regionals, once again placed first in the javelin and received silver in the shot put. She was disqualified in the running long jump which was contested, but denied.

In Pleasanton, Bao won

gold in the running long jump and silver in the 200 meter to qualify. He returned home from Santa Clara with a bronze in the 100 and placed fifth in the 200.

Beagle went three for three in the Regionals with gold medals in the 100 meter, running long jump and the turbo javelin. He returns home from his first Summer Games with a silver and two golds respectively.

Lo who also made his debut at the 2023 Summer Games placed first in the running long jump. He followed up with second in the turbo javelin and third in the 200 meter. Lo was very proud to walk around with a gold, a silver and a bronze around his neck.

The captain of this crew, coach Juliet Gee has been coaching Special Olympics for 20 years and has been to five Summer Games with the team she founded in 2017. The Avengers qualified for their first Summer Games in 2018 with a total of six athletes attending. All six won gold medals including one in the pentathlon. As for the 2023 team, Gee states, "We have a remarkable group of athletes. They all worked very hard to earn a spot in the Summer Games. They all exude the spirit of Olympians in competing while also cheering on fellow competitors."

The 2023 Summer Games Opening Ceremony was held Friday, June 23 at Stevens Stadium on the campus of Santa

# Lamorindans on NCAA Championship Teams

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They're all great kids that are really about winning and that comes with, not just contributing on the field, but being great teammates and students."

It's a tradition that shows no signs of stopping, according to Lathrop. "My daughter just attended a clinic which Olympian swimmer, Natalie Coughlin (Carondelet) put on for the local swim teams. It's just a really cool thing that just doesn't exist everywhere. The connection with the current athletes that are competing for the Olympics like Drew Holland

(Campolindo) and Maggie Stefens (Monte Vista) that come back and give back to the sports that they love is special. It affects this community where the kids get to see the idols in their sport and have been role models for them. So many of the local graduates have been inspired by others and when they're back in the community showing their gratitude for the opportunities they've been given to play in high school and ultimately move on top college programs and have the chance to compete for a national championship, that gets passed on to younger athletes."

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