

# LocalSports

## Pioneer women undefeated in 2009 league play

The lady Mustangs proved themselves this year—they were undefeated in league play—quite a difference from last year when they didn't win a league game.

This year's varsity team was 19-4 overall and 14-0 in league play. The JV followed suit winning all of its league games and losing only six games during the season.

Their play took them up a notch from the Blossom Valley Athletic League's West Valley division to the Santa Teresa. "We've been approved to move up to Santa Teresa division, and hopefully within a couple of years we'll be back in the Mount Hamilton division," said head coach Bryan LaCaille.

He cited two things that worked for the girls this year over last year. First the girls played like a team with each filling a role allowing them to play excellent defense, really taking advantage of the other team's mistakes, LaCaille said. In fact, he noted that throughout the season, opponents' points were dropping down. Another factor was senior Mercedes Pardo, who did not play as a junior.

In her final league game, Pardo scored a record 35 points, 27 of them in the first half. Second top scorer was Haley Schorr who scored 14 points, three of them three-pointers. Schorr also won the community spirit award.

Besides honoring the team's seniors, Pardo, Schorr,



The Lady Mustang varsity players got together with their coaches for a team photo. Included in the pictures are, front row from the left, Marie Barlann, JoAnn Yong, Chelsea Smith, Stefanie Gindi, Jessy Marshall and Theresa Adame; middle row Haley Schorr, Mandy Swearingen, Laura Munoz, Tiffany Lee, Colleen Bush, Ashley Pardo and Mercedes Pardo; and back row, coaches Rob Zaccheo, Mike Burrell and Bryan LaCaille. Photo courtesy of Jim Bush

Stefanie Gindi, Tiffany Lee and Laura Munoz, at last Thursday's night's game against Lincoln, the girls were invited to be on Cal Hi Sports, a local television show featuring local high school teams that are doing well.

Joining the seniors on varsity were outstanding juniors Marie Barlaan and Ashley Pardo (who is not related to Mercedes) as well as sophomore Colleen Bush and freshman Jessy Marshall.

LaCaille and JV coach Mike Burrell work together with both teams, said LaCaille. Coach Rob Zaccheo helps them out.



Front row: Stephanie Magellan, Meghan Wheelock, Sierra Painter\*, Erica Nakano\*, Regan Heslop\*, Lauren Craft\*, Fiona Sequeira, Lauren Plesse, Maddie Cavanna\*. Second Row: Assistant Coach Chris Stack, Michelle Stack, Reese Gonzalez, Cecelia Hinz\*, Erin McCoy\*, Hanna Gratny\*, Shaelan Murison, Ashley Lawrence\* and Head Coach Jim Lawrence\*. (\*Denotes Almaden resident).

## Sporting girls place second at Norcal State Cup

The Sporting U11 girls' soccer team placed second in the top division at the Norcal State Cup tournament. The final game was held at the Mustang Soccer Complex in Danville on Feb. 21. The team took second place losing only one game out of six during the tournament to the Danville Explosion in the final game with a score of 3-2.

Qualifying for the tournament began in January with the Sporting playing three qualifying games for seeding and assignment to one of three levels. A total of 16 teams throughout northern California qualified

to play for the championship. This was the third year in a row that the Sporting and Mustang teams advanced to the finals in the top tier.

The Sporting girls' coach, Jim Lawrence, was elated with the team's success throughout the tournament. "Our team has just completed an amazing accomplishment by playing in the top division of the Norcal State Cup finals three years in a row with the best of the best in northern California," he said. "These girls have consistently proven themselves to be champions and I am so proud of them."

Both teams have played each other so many times that they know each other's names. At the end of the game, the teams exchanged gift bags and ran through a line of both teams' parents congratulating all of the girls.



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