

# LocalSports



Eric Johnson won a Kachina wood carved eagle handmade by a local Hopi Indian tribe especially for the Copper Bowl tournament. Photo courtesy Johnson family

## Eric Johnson wins Arizona Copper Bowl

"I wanted to redeem myself," said Johnson, 16, a Class of 2011 blue-chip tennis recruit. "I really wanted to win it." Johnson speaks of the loss in 2009 but this year he came back strong as the No. 2 seed in this year's Boys 16s draw, achieved his goal with a 6-1 6-1 victory over unseeded Garrett Patton of Boise, Idaho in the Arizona Copper Bowl. Johnson's world ranking has moved from 400 to 190 in the last 3 months of 2009 as he sets his site on a Grand Slam junior event this year. He's home for four weeks and then off to Hawaii for another tournament.



Santa Clara Sporting U12 Green team (front row) Stephanie Magellan, Madi Cavanna\*, Erica Nakano\*, Regan Heslop\*, Lauren Plesse, Fiona Sequeira, Erin McCoy\*, CC Hinz\*, (back row) Assistant Coach Chris Stack, Reece Gonzalez, Jasmine Contreras, Shaelan Murison, Christina Sola\*, Michelle Stack, Hanna Gratny\*, Lauren Craft\*, Ashley Lawrence\*, and Head Coach Jim Lawrence\* took 1st place at the 2010 Ajax Winter Invitational. \*Almaden resident. Photo by J. Sequeira

## Sporting girls take 1st place at 2010 Ajax Winter Invitational

Congratulations to the Santa Clara Sporting U12 Green team for placing first at the Ajax Winter Invitational last weekend in Modesto. The team encountered some very physical play during the weekend, but managed a 2-1 win at their first game against the Cal Cougars. Their second win came against the hosting team, the Modesto Ajax Premier with a physical win of 5-0. Sunday's semi-final game was against the Modesto Ajax Elite. "It was a tough physical game, said Head Coach Jim Lawrence, but our girls pulled out the stops and managed a 3-1 win." The finals matched up Sporting against the very determined and physical Sonoma County Alliance (SCA). Midway through the first half, Sporting found the net and took the 1-0 lead into the half. The intensity was high in the second half and SCA pushed hard for an equalizer, but the Sporting back line and mid-field did not allow any shots on goal. With 10 minutes left in the game, Sporting shot the back-breaking goal and cruised to a 2-0 victory to win the Winter Invitational and take home the cup. This weekend, the Sporting Green will be in Southern California at Cal State Northridge playing in the the Copa Real Nike Invitational. Visit <http://sporting97green.com> for more information.

**DRUG-FREE CHILDREN: ADD/ADHD ARE ATTENTION, BEHAVIOR OR PROCESSING PROBLEMS PREVENTING YOUR CHILD FROM LEADING A NORMAL LIFE?**

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Almaden Mercury Green team members include (front row) Braden Eberle, Alex Domine, Preston Knickerbocker, Jordan Korbus, (middle row) Vincent Tanzi, Joey Kettle, Michael Garcia, Anthony Paoli, Brett Craft, Collin Richardson, (back row) Assistant Coach David Eberle, Team Manager Jon Korbus, and Assistant coach Art Garcia. Not pictured: Head Coaches Adam Whaley and Nick Howlston. Photo by Delyna Tanzi

## Almaden U9 Boys repeat as District II Fall '09 soccer champs

Congratulations to the Almaden Mercury Green boys age 9 and under soccer team for an incredible winning season. The team practiced and played hard all season, and it paid off. They followed up on their Spring '09 championship win and finished first place again in the District II 'A' Bracket of the California Youth Soccer Association Fall Competitive/Delgado League. They were undefeated with 8 wins and 2 ties.