



SAN MARINO HIGH SCHOOL TITAN SHIELD

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Students Experience Yosemite Tradition



Members of one of three Winter Survival groups look out from Dewey Point during the annual SMHS trip to Yosemite National Park. Approximately 120 upperclassmen participated in the six-day trip from February 9-14.

Dennis Su//TITAN SHIELD

By Brandon Shiau

Associate Editor of Copy

Several SMHS seniors and juniors participated in the annual trip to Yosemite National Park, hosted by Yosemite Institute, from February 9 to February 14.

Roughly 120 Titans attended, along with a few students from other schools and ten SMHS chaperones. The program is only open to juniors, seniors, and SMHS faculty.

For the first, second, fifth, and sixth day, all the students stayed together at Curry Village, a lodging camp.

On the first day, after arriving at the camp and dining, the students viewed a night movie about the "Spirit of Yosemite."

The agenda for the second day involved hikes in assigned groups, as well as a night presentation about astronomy. The hikes were to such destinations as Yosemite Falls and the spider

cave, a completely dark cavern through which students navigated with each others' assistance.

In general, all groups hiked to the same places but at different times.

The assigned groups had one or two Yosemite Institute instructors each and diverged on the third day into one of three categories: those bound for Crane Flat, Merced Grove, or Winter Survival.

It had snowed heavily the week before, so snow was present in all areas and allowed for snow-shoeing during hikes.

Crane Flat was the primary destination that most students visited. The two Crane Flat "rotations" took an hour-long bus ride to that destination and stayed for two days. In addition to cross-country skiing, both rotations visited one of the giant sequoia groves. Rotation one also went snow-shoeing, and while in

(Continued on page 3)

Girls' Soccer Ousted in First Round After Wild Card Win

By Kevin Lu
Staff Writer

Despite a delayed arrival and a rushed warm-up, the San Marino Girls' Varsity Soccer team defeated the Magnolia Sentinels 2-1 on Wednesday, February 13. The Titans then faced off against the Santa Ynez Valley Pirates on Saturday, losing by a narrow margin of 2-1 and ending their CIF run.

Coming into the first CIF game from league play, Head Coach Jaime Acuna commented, "We started off really strong [in league]. We found the way we wanted to play. We got an identity

to the team. [However,] we didn't finish as well as we could have. We could have had a better ending, but I hope that will only help us in the playoffs."

Both teams started out with a fair exchange of possessions. San Marino took one shot while Magnolia countered with two in the first five minutes; both teams missed their attempts. In the 10-minute, Senior Captain Halfback Rien Addis found Junior Striker Kelley McCloskey racing past her defender at the front of the pitch, but Kelley was called for an offside. The Lady Titans went on the offensive in the 17-minute with a drive by Senior Captain

Striker Lindsay Wofford. San Marino followed up with a pass from Kelley to Lindsay in the box, but it was intercepted by the Magnolia goalkeeper. In the 23-minute, San Marino broke the Magnolia defense with a goal by Kelley, putting the Lady Titans ahead, 1-0. In the next minute, San Marino launched a corner kick to Freshman Left Winger Sasha Netchaev in the box, but she kicked the ball wide right of the goal. The Lady Titans continued to pummel the Magnolia defense until the 29-minute, when the Sentinel offense yielded a shot attempt stopped by Freshman Goalkeeper Carlee Beckler. A steal by Lindsay turned into a corner kick on Magnolia's side of the field. Senior Captain Defender Meagan Brazil's header missed the goal. Following a San Marino shot attempt, the Sentinels responded in the 34-minute with a surprise drive to the middle and an ensuing goal that pulled the two teams into a tie. The half closed with the score deadlocked at 1-1.

In the second half, Magnolia stepped onto the field with a more offensive mindset, keeping the ball on the Lady Titans' side

(Continued on page 16)

Water Polo Comes Up Short in CIF



Junior Margaret Lazzarini searches for an opening during the Lady Titans' 6-7 loss in the Wild Card round to St. Joseph.

Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

By Raymond Nhan

Assistant Sports Editor

The San Marino Girls' Water Polo team fell in a competitive matchup in the CIF Division III Wild Card round to the St. Joseph (Lakewood) Lady Jesters, 6-7, last Tuesday, February 12, at Long Beach Community College.

At the beginning of the game, the Lady Titans found themselves at an early disadvantage after St. Joseph scored a five-meter penalty shot, putting the Lady Jesters ahead, 0-1. But San Marino quickly evened the score as Junior Laura Adams scored on a penalty shot of her own. In addition, on the following San Marino possession, Laura made a behind-the-back

goal, which stunned the Jester's goalie and helped the Lady Titans gain the lead, 2-1. Recognizing that Laura was a threat to score, St. Joseph began to increase its defensive pressure on her. For the remainder of the first quarter, both squads' defenses prevented any further scoring.

Going into the second quarter, the Lady Titans stepped up their defensive pressure, forcing St. Joseph into a number of turnovers, including a shot clock violation. However, St. Joseph was able to find the back of the net midway through the second quarter to tie the score at 2-2. Furthermore, the Lady Jesters were able to score

(Continued on page 14)



Senior Captain Striker Lindsay Wofford fends off Santa Ynez players as she fights to reach the ball first in Round 1 of CIF playoffs.

Jon Wong//TITAN SHIELD

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Students Help with Primaries



Seniors **John DeWitt** and **Jessica Yau** look over the list of registered voters at their station in the Neher Auditorium.

Jon Wong/TITAN SHIELD

By Emily Chang

News Editor

Several students volunteered to help with the 2008 Presidential Primary elections in Pasadena, San Gabriel, and San Marino on Tuesday, February 5. The students worked from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and had a total of two hours of break in between.

Most of the volunteers were from Mr. Peter Paccone's Government and Economics classes, but other students could volunteer as long as they were at least 16 years old, a 2.5 GPA or higher, and parent and teacher consent. Volunteers received \$105 for their participation.

The Student Pollworker Program contacted Art Teacher Mrs. Deborah Hart and notified her of the community service opportunity for the students. Mrs. Hart and Mr. Paccone then told students about the event through morning bulletins and by word-of-mouth.

Senior Diane Chu explained that she signed up to help with the primary elections because she is

"interested in politics to some degree."

Other students who volunteered included Seniors John DeWitt, Michael Hsieh, Hokan Lo, Corinne Meyerson, Kevin Tovar, Brandon Whitehead, and Jessica Yau, Junior Kevin Lau, and Sophomore Stephanie Chang.

The students showed registered voters how to vote and made sure voters filled out everything on the ballot correctly so their vote counted.

Diane felt the entire experience was "empowering to help people. Some people get mad when they aren't allowed to vote because they really believe in democracy." Some of the reasons why people could not vote included not registering, registering incorrectly, or not knowing that they had to register to vote.

"It was surprising that so many people showed up to vote," concluded Diane. "I think it's really great how [the school has] the opportunity to expose us to the government at work."

Omegas Create a 'Retro Revolution'

By Peony Khoo

Managing Editor

This year's "Retro Revolution"-themed Omegas Dance will be held tomorrow, February 23, from 8 to 11 p.m. under the tent outside the wrestling room.

"We thought 'Retro Revolution' would be really fun, [and] we thought this theme would stand out [from past years' themes]," explained Omegas Dance Co-Chair Senior Sarene El-Abour.

According to Sarene, the theme allows Omegas to use "a lot of colors, tie-dye, and beads everywhere [along with] flowers [...] and band posters [to decorate the dance]"

Attendees who dress according to the theme "will probably dress either hippie or mod with bands over their heads and tie-dye stuff," added Sarene.

Omegas revealed the theme during break on Friday, February 1. In addition, members posted flyers around the school to further publicize the dance.

To prepare for the dance, Omegas members have been attending workshops at Omegas Dance Co-Chair Senior Amelia

Neverman's residence since February 7. At the workshops, members helped create the decorations for the dance. Members will also help set up the dance from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow.

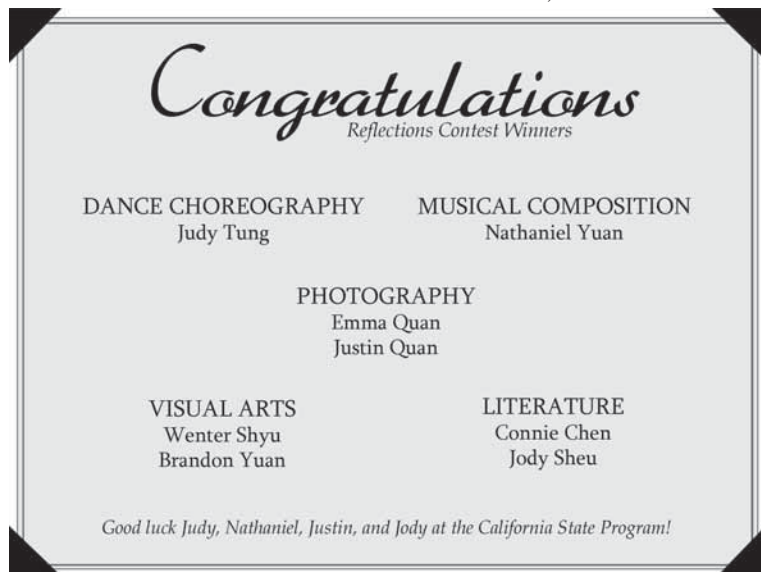
Omegas will offer snacks such as baked goods and chips, as well as Coca-Cola in old-fashioned glass bottles. In addition, DJ Jackie, a regular DJ for school dances, will be providing music.

Tickets went on sale two weeks ago and were sold at lunch in the Breezeway. Tickets may also be purchased at the door (for \$10) at no additional price.

"Ticket sales have been slow, but generally people don't buy tickets until the last minute," stated Sarene. "Hopefully we'll get at least 200 people there."

Profits from the dance will be saved for next year's Omegas Club. The money funding this year's dance came from last year's profits and the annual Omegas sweatshirt fundraiser.

"People should go [to] see what [Omegas] has to offer as a club. Cabinet this year is working really hard to make this dance special and stand out," concluded Sarene.



Forensics Makes History at Berkeley

By Connie Chen

Features Editor

A few members of the SMHS Forensics team traveled to UC Berkeley from February 15 to 18 for the annual California Invitational Competition.

The team placed ninth overall, but Forensics Coach Mr. Oliver Valcorza believes that the highlight of the competition was when Juniors Raymond and Steven Truong placed first for their Duo Interpretation, marking the first time that SM has ever won an event outright at Berkeley.

Raymond commented, "I never thought we would win at first, but when we did, I was really really happy."

Bringing a total of 25 students—including 18 speech members, 6 debate members, 13 novices, and 12 varsity members—Mr. Valcorza believes that his students "did amazingly." With over 200 schools from 25 states participating in the event, the UC

Berkeley Competition is one of the largest national invitationals of the year, second only to National Championships. Mr. Valcorza decided to bring the students who he believed were qualified to go, including the students who would be competitive, hardworking, and fun at the competition.

"In my opinion," Mr. Valcorza stated, "this is one of the best showings for SM. [The students] did what they had to do for a successful competition."

Overall, Mr. Valcorza believes that "the team really pulled together." Juniors Jody Sheu and James Wu made quarterfinals for Expository Speaking while Sophomore Oscar Wang also made quarterfinals for Extemporaneous Speaking. Senior Christine Blauvelt managed to place second in Expository Speaking and made quarterfinals in Original Oratory.

During the competition, the students stayed at the Hotel Durant, since "it was a nice and convenient place to stay,"

commented Mr. Valcorza. For the trip, the school paid for the buses while the rest of the money for the competition and lodging came from student donations.

"The trip was really fun," noted Raymond. "It was cool just getting to know everyone, especially the novices. For a lot of them, it was

their first tournament.

"The process is never-ending," explained Mr. Valcorza about Forensic's busy schedule. "Weekend after weekend, there are competitions then practices."

Now, his debate students are preparing for National Qualifiers next weekend.



Juniors **Steven** and **Raymond Truong** display their first-place awards during the awards ceremony at UC Berkeley.

Courtesy of Lilliana Widjaja

CLUB BRIEFS

Key Club

On Saturday, February 16, Key Club Secretary Junior Judy Tung was elected as the new Division 10 Lieutenant Governor at the Division 10 Conclave.

"I've been in Key Club since my freshman year, and it [has] really impacted my life, [so] I wanted to take it to the next level," remarked Judy.

Key Club is also hosting a book drive until next Friday, February 29. Students may donate books in their English classes, and some teachers offer extra credit.

The books collected will be donated to Read & Lead, which will then distribute the books to underprivileged children at local school districts.

Key Club Divisions 10 and 35 West are also hosting "Into the Blue," a dance to raise money for Tide's "Loads of Hope" program, at the Arcadia Community Center tonight from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Tickets are available for \$15 pre-sale or \$20 at the door.

—**Peony Khoo**//*Managing Editor*

PAWS

PAWS hosted its Home Projects event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. last Saturday, February 16, at PAWS Vice President Junior Emily Chang's residence.

At the event, members made cat toys, cat beds, and dog treats for the Pasadena Humane Society. In total, the 17 members made 5 cat beds, approximately 50 cat toys, and 5 batches of dog treats.

"I was happy with the turn out and enthusiasm of the members who attended," remarked PAWS Publicity Commissioner Senior Caitlyn Lee.

PAWS will next host a beach clean up at the Santa Monica Beach on Saturday, March 15.

—**Peony Khoo**//*Managing Editor*

Tyler's Team

On Friday, February 8, Tyler's Team held its annual banquet from 6 to 10:30 p.m. at Café Santorini in Old Town Pasadena.

The banquet is Tyler's Team's main fundraising event and all the money raised will be donated to leukemia research to help find a cure for the cancer.

Club members sold tickets for \$75 each to family and friends. In the end, approximately 116 people attended the banquet.

"I thought that the banquet was a success because a lot of people showed up. It was also really fun because people like doctors and other friends who knew Tyler talked there," commented Freshman Representative Sean Brazil.

—**Alison Chang**//*Spectrum Editor*

Titans Brave Yosemite Trip



Senior **David Ramirez** admires the Yosemite wilderness while on a hike.
Emma Quan//TITAN SHIELD

(Continued from page 1)

Yosemite valley, hiked to a few destinations, such as El Capitan, a geologic feature.

One group of students went to Merced Grove, where students did nearly the same activities.

Three Winter Survival groups spent two complete days in the wilderness around Badger Pass with only the gear they could carry in backpacks or on sleds. As sleeping bags, tents, food, toiletries, and warm clothing brought the average weight that each person needed to bring to nearly 40 pounds, students were only able to pack absolute necessities. The groups set up camp, cooked, hiked, and navigated independently.

Senior Vicki Lau of Winter Survival Group “P” commented, “I thought that the trip was good

in that we’ll never be able to have an experience like it ever again.”

On the fifth day, the groups again converged for a night presentation about the tradition involved in the Yosemite trip.

SMHS has been sending a group of students to Yosemite every winter since former principal Mr. Jack Rankin set up the program in 1973. Dozens of teachers have taken part in the Yosemite trip.

The Titans went on another day hike on the last day before departing for SMHS.

Assistant Principal Mr. Mike Mooney, who was a chaperone this year, concluded that Yosemite is an “incredibly beautiful, peaceful place” and encourages students with the opportunity to attend next year to find out more about the trip.

Parent Portal Commences

By **Emily Chang**
News Editor

Parents are now able to access and view their child’s grades online via Parent Portal, a component of the PowerSchool program installed at SMHS one and a half years ago. As of February 18, Parents can log into Parent Portal using their assigned password, which was mailed out by the school.

According to Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Guidance Mrs. Mary Johnson, SMHS wanted to start Parent Portal when the school first installed PowerSchool but the faculty and staff “just didn’t have enough experience with the whole system. The teachers had to relearn how to enter grades and take attendance. So, once they learned that really well then it would be more feasible for us to say ‘Okay now we’re going to open Parent Portal.’”

Huntington Middle School (HMS) has been using Parent Portal since last year and Physics

teacher Mr. Scott Barton, who has a child who was in eighth grade at HMS last year, remarked, “I like it. It gives me an opportunity to see what my kids are doing on an assignment-to-assignment basis.”

At SMHS, teachers are required to update their class information a minimum of every two weeks. Mrs. Johnson explained that SMHS Principal Mr. Loren Kleinrock has “a lot of faith in the teachers. He thought it would be reasonable if updates were every other week.” This way, if a teacher had a very busy week, they would have the second week to get assignments graded and into the computer.

Mrs. Johnson commented that this system “would be fair for everyone. Everyone’s pretty understanding that [updates] can’t be instantaneous.”

One positive aspect of Parent Portal, according to Mr. Barton, is that parents can intervene and help their child if his or her grades drop. Parents could also call teachers to find out if something is affecting their child’s grades. Parents can


“get in and help the student before it gets to be too big of a problem,” clarified Mr. Barton.

Consequently, he believes a negative side does exist—if parents “get obsessed with it.” From his own experience, Mr. Barton found himself logging on everyday, especially towards the end of the semester, even though nothing ever changed.

Overall, Mrs. Johnson feels that Parent Portal is a “great communication tool. [Parent Portal] really helps with clearing up misunderstanding about where someone stands in a class and what homework is missing.”

Currently, the San Marino Unified School District is working on developing more components of PowerSchool such as “storage searches” which allows information to be grouped and opened at the same time.

“I think for now we’ve developed all the components that we need,” noted Mrs. Johnson but, “I do think [PowerSchool] could yield more.”



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

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24	25	26	27	28	29	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

TITAN CALENDAR

25	AP Exam Sign-ups thru 3/7	6	Career Connections thru 3/7
26	Final Cap & Gown Orders	7	Student of the Month Lunch
	B-Man’s Fundraiser		Choir Concert
	PTA Founder’s Day	9	Daylight Savings Begins
27	AMC Test	11	CAHSEE Test
	Late Start for non-test takers	12	CAHSEE Test
1	SAT I Test		9th Grade PE Test
2	Accreditation Week thru 2/5		Late Start for 11th & 12th Graders
3	Junior Counseling Meetings thru 3/14	13	Orchestra Spring Concert

SM ‘Idols’ Prepare for Annual Founder’s Day

By **Brandon Shiau**
Associate Editor of Copy

The San Marino Unified School District (SMUSD) will hold a “San Marino Idol”-themed Founder’s Day celebration next Tuesday, February 26, at 7 p.m. in the Webb Theatre. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m., and the program will end by 8 p.m.

Tickets for the event will be available at the door for \$5 per person or \$10 per family. They may also be obtained by mailing a check to PTA Council Treasurer Mrs. Page Haralambos.

Coordinated this year by PTA Council Historian Mrs. Elizabeth Saldebar and PTA Council Second Vice President Mrs. Jill Westbrook-Roberts, Founder’s Day commemorates the efforts of volunteers at all school sites (San

Marino High School, Huntington Middle School, Carver Elementary School, and Valentine Elementary School).

Mrs. Saldebar stated that select volunteers who “have gone above and beyond” will receive awards during the program.

Such awards include the Honorary Service Award, Continuing Service Award, Golden Oak Award, and Very Special Person Award. The Golden Oak Award is the highest-level accolade of the district.

Parents, teachers, and other district staff members collectively suggest potential recipients. A nomination committee then interviews spouses, friends, and other people who interact with the candidate and narrows down the pool of nominees.

The SM Idol theme originates

from the Fox Television show *American Idol*. The program will include students and staff singing onstage like American Idol contestants.

The host of the event will be “Gary Woodcrest” (SMUSD Superintendent Mr. Gary Woods), and the judges will be several district school administrators mimicking American Idol judges: “Simon” Kleinrock (SMHS Principal Loren Kleinrock), “Paula” Hollingsworth (Carver Elementary School Principal Elizabeth Hollingsworth), “Randy Yo Dawg” Schreiber (Valentine Elementary School Principal Tray Schreiber).

Mrs. Saldebar stated that “[Founders Day is] just going to be a fabulous celebration. It’s a great opportunity to celebrate each other and celebrate the volunteers.”

TITAN SHIELD

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TITAN SHIELD

FEBRUARY 22, 2008

James Chang:

I Love You

Daddy!

-Emily

Go to the
Omegas
Dance!

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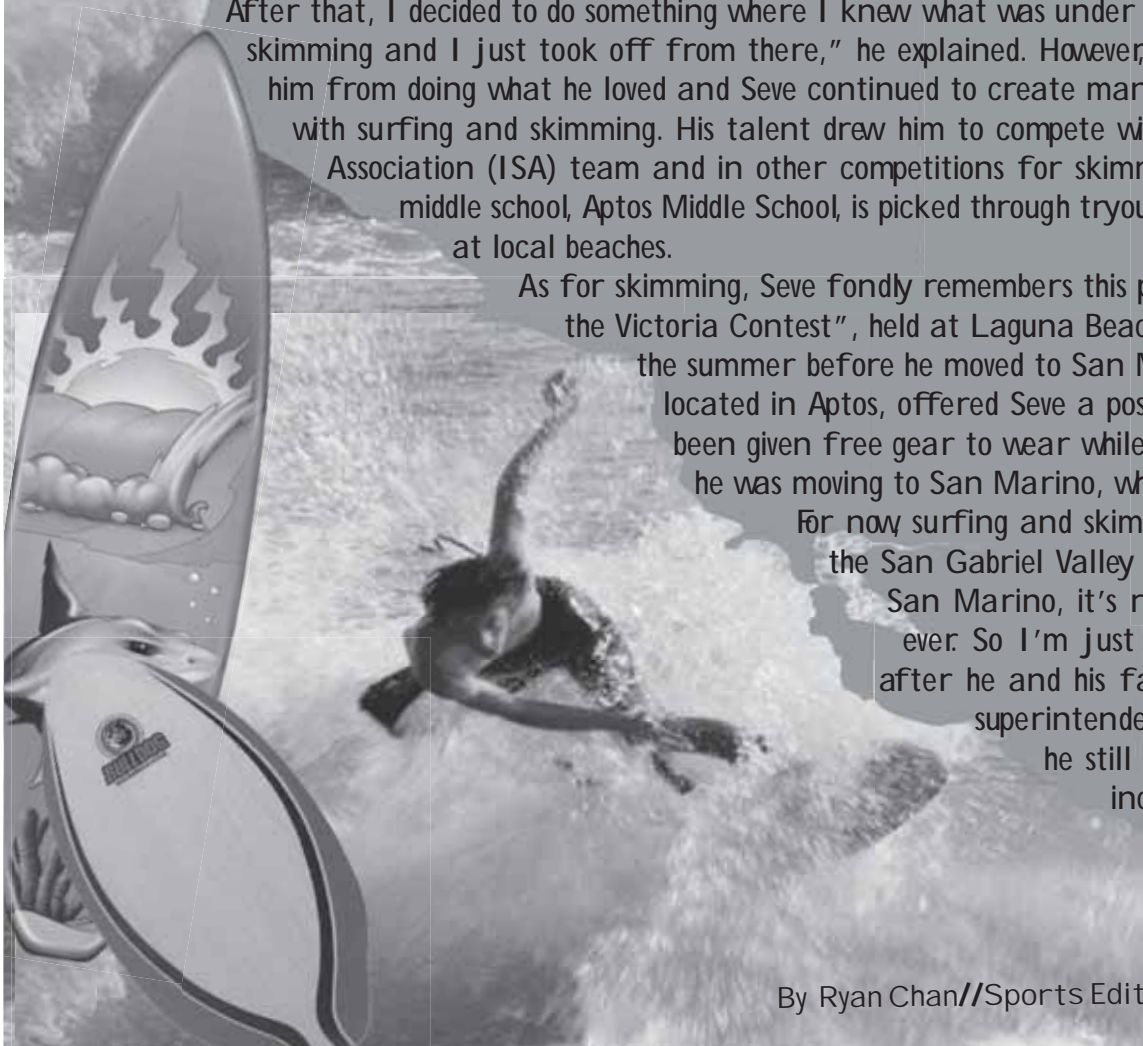

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Surfing It Up in California



With many sandy beaches bordering its coast, California is what many may call the epitome of fun. For Freshman Seve Woods, the rough waves at the beaches of California have started calling to him after he spent numerous weekends surfing and skimming in his hometown of Aptos, California. What started out as something “all my friends did” has become a monthly activity that most students at SMHS only fantasize about.

In Aptos, located in Santa Cruz, Seve spent many days at the beach, which helped spark an interest first in surfing, then skimming. “I started surfing in fourth grade. I started on a short board, but after sixth grade, there was a shark sighting. I happened to be there so I actually saw the shark. After that, I decided to do something where I knew what was under my feet. So I just started skimming and I just took off from there,” he explained. However, that incident did not stop him from doing what he loved and Seve continued to create many unforgettable memories with surfing and skimming. His talent drew him to compete with the International Surf Association (ISA) team and in other competitions for skimming. The ISA team in Seve’s middle school, Aptos Middle School, is picked through tryouts and competes against other schools at local beaches.

As for skimming, Seve fondly remembers this past summer when he was “skimming with the pros at the Victoria Contest”, held at Laguna Beach. Seve noted that all his practice in skimming culminated the summer before he moved to San Marino. A representative from SCAB Skate and Surf Shop, located in Aptos, offered Seve a possible sponsorship. Had Seve accepted the offer, he would have been given free gear to wear while skimming. Unfortunately, he was forced to tell SCAB that he was moving to San Marino, which eliminated any chance of sponsorship.

For now, surfing and skimming are no longer a religious routine for Seve as living in the San Gabriel Valley area creates difficulty getting to a beach daily. “Being in San Marino, it’s really hard to practice surfing and skimming and I hardly ever. So I’m just going to try free surfing and skimming,” Seve reflected, after he and his family moved here for his father’s new job as the district’s superintendent. While Seve does not surf and skim as much as before, he still notes improvement in his skills that he would like to make, including creating a new style while skimming, since he visits the beach whenever he has time. Ultimately, Seve’s goal is to continue to surf and skim and just have fun.

As a lover of both sports, Seve encourages other people to learn surfing and skimming. “Just keep at it and try your best,” Seve concluded.

By Ryan Chan//Sports Editor



SMHS Academic Decathlon Takes First

By Andrea Chiu
Assistant News Editor

For those who watched the well-known movie “High School Musical”, they clearly know about Gabriella Montez and her Scholastics Decathlon Team at East High. Many students then wondered why SMHS did not have a Decathlon Team. Ever since the end of the 2007 school year, Science teacher and golf coach Mr. Wyeth Collo began to form the first Academic Decathlon Team

at SMHS. With the encouragement of many students, he asked for approval from the San Marino School Board and began the team. Recruiting members proved not to be a problem for Mr. Collo. Members quickly joined as announcements were made and were categorized by GPA in three different groups. The first group included those with a 3.75 GPA to a 4.0 GPA. The next group was a 3.0 GPA to a 3.74 GPA while the last group was a 3.0 GPA and below. The seven members of the Decathlon Team include Senior Michael Hsieh, Juniors Chloe

Chang, Gloria Lee, Raymond Nhan, Josephine Wei, and Sophomores Samantha Lai and Joyce Li. Although the team began preparing in June, the materials did not arrive until August, which shortened its time for studying for its events. To prepare for the competition, all members had to study seven subjects: economics, mathematics, art, science, social science, and language and literature. They also had to present a speech, write an essay, and answer questions in an interview. For the 2007-2008 Academic Decathlon Competition, the SMHS Decathlon Team won thirty-

three medals along with numerous awards including the Rookie Team of the Year award, Super Quiz Division III award, and first place award. The team competed in Division III and will advance to Division II next year. “These kids can now understand what they are capable of doing and are able to focus when they really need to. There’s a realization that they can do a lot more in and out of school,” concluded Mr. Collo.



ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

February

By **Connie Chen**
Features Editor

Getting first for this and first for that. For some people, getting first in almost everything comes naturally; they barely need to try to get anywhere. However, for February Rotary Student Senior Hubert Wong, this is just half the case. Combining his innate talents with a hard work ethic, Hubert goes beyond just adequate and manages to excel in his two main hobbies, music and science.

Unlike many other others, Hubert's love for music, especially clarinet, did not stem from his parents forcing him to attend music lessons. In fact, Hubert himself asked his parents to allow him to have clarinet lessons just because he was passionate about music. "Sometimes," Hubert explained, "the only way for me to relieve stress is just to practice my clarinet." With about 10 hours a week devoted to practicing both at home and at rehearsals, Hubert has managed to rise within five years from a fledgling musician to the first chair clarinetist in both the SMHS Wind Ensemble and the SMHS Orchestra.

Still, his achievements did not stop there. "I wanted to expand my exposure to music," stated Hubert, "so I wanted to try activities outside of school." Now, Hubert is also the first chair clarinetist in two audition-only groups: the Pasadena Young Musician's Orchestra (PYMO) and the All Southern California Honor Wind Ensemble. Also, just two years ago, Hubert started competing in the Southwestern Youth Music Festival (SYMF) and managed to

take first prize in the competition both years.

Although Hubert will always be passionate about clarinet because he "loves the feeling of creating music," he does not plan on pursuing a career as a professional musician; he wants the freedom to pursue his other interests, even though music will always be a part of Hubert's life.

In fact, even though students on campus know him as a gifted musician, Hubert is also enthusiastic about many other things, such as science. Because science is his favorite subject, Hubert joined the Science Olympiad team at Huntington Middle School in seventh grade. Since then, six years have passed, and Hubert is now co-captain of the SMHS Science Team.

As with music, Hubert wanted to expand his horizons outside of school, so he spent last summer working at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in La Cañada Flintridge as a research intern working on electrochemical technologies. Through researching alongside professional scientists, Hubert wished to help them in finding a new energy source by working with fuel cells. Because he "loved the very relaxed environment where amazing things happened," Hubert plans on returning this summer and continuing with research.

Still, before that time can come, Hubert

Dear Titans,
I would like to personally thank SMHS for granting me this honor. I never thought out of all the amazing students at SMHS that I would be chosen; but I guess anything is possible. If there is anything I have learned from my time here at SMHS, it's that nothing is impossible—only improbable—therefore still possible. I'd like to thank all those who have persistently encouraged me to follow my passions and aspire towards great things, no matter how unachievable my aspirations may have seemed. Thank you to all my teachers from whom I have gained insight, just to name a few—Mr. Irie's gangsta wisdom on how being right or wrong doesn't matter, but that being "a good Titan" does, Dr. A's persistent exclamation that my SAT scores or college acceptances do not define me but rather my character and positive influence on others, and even the random yet interesting stories Mr. Cameron shares. To my friends, you guys have embellished my high school career with countless memories: learning to cook delicious steak and ribs, ordering food at a real Chinese restaurant IN Chinese, playing Sardines, making an epic snow tunnel at Yosemite, and so much more. I never could have survived high school without you all. To my fellow Titans: I encourage you to transform your dreams into realities. Pursue your goals, no matter how unattainable they may seem. SMHS provides an environment that will support you 100% of the way, whether it's through the amazing faculty and staff, your circle of friends, or the people around you. Utilize the resources around you and take every opportunity to challenge the idea of impossibility. Don't doubt yourself. You're a Titan. A Titan never steps down in the presence of obstacles but prevails and transmutes the impossible into the possible. That's why I'm proud to be a Titan.

simply wishes to finish off the last few months of his high school career spending some quality time with his best friends before he has to shift his focus to college.

Sincerely,

Hubert Wong

Dancing with the Sparks

By **Jocelyn Liang**
Assistant Features Editor

Every little girl has a dream to become a star. Not all little girls grow up following their dreams. However, there are some who strive for their goal throughout their whole lives. Sophomore Shannon Dang established her goal in life at the age of three and has seldom wavered from her path to becoming a dancer.

Shannon developed a love for dancing after her mother signed her up for Hawaiian and Asian dance classes. What first started as merely "follow[ing] everyone else" turned into something that Shannon ended up "lov[ing]" commented Shannon.

As a child, Shannon participated in many dance teams where she further developed her love for dance. Accompanying an Alhambra dance team, Shannon once went to a world championship dance competition where she and her teammates

opened the competition. However, the competitions and showcases proved to take too much time from Shannon's school work, so she was forced to quit after entering high school. Now, she only participates in SMHS's Dance Company which takes a time commitment of about 10 hours a week. If she had continued to dance outside of school, she would need to spend over 20 hours a week on dance.

Although Shannon is still dancing, she remembers that the most significant moments of her dancing career were while she was in the Sparks Troop in 8th grade. The Sparks Troop is a hip-hop dance team that performs during the halftime of Sparks

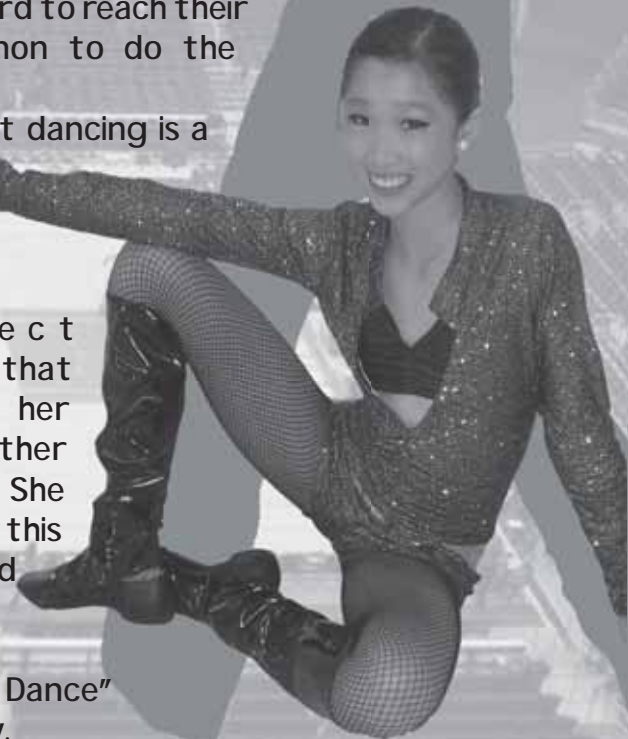
basketball games. She claimed that she "love[d] the energy and thought that it was really rewarding to be on that team."

However, her experience was cut short

because of an age limit.

Shannon often finds motivation to keep improving from her younger brother, Jordan Dang. Jordan also dances for different teams, and they often "compete to see who's better" explained Shannon. However, her brother is not the only one who inspires her. Shannon says that she "just wants to show that [she] has passion in dance," and she "has always loved dance, so it inspires [me] to do well." Observing others who work hard to reach their goals inspires Shannon to do the same.

Shannon finds that dancing is a great way to "let out all your emotions." Her favorite aspect of dance is the fact that she can let out all her emotions after either a good or bad day. She plans to continue this interest of hers, and hopes to one day appear on the show "So You Think You Can Dance" hosted by Cat Deeley.





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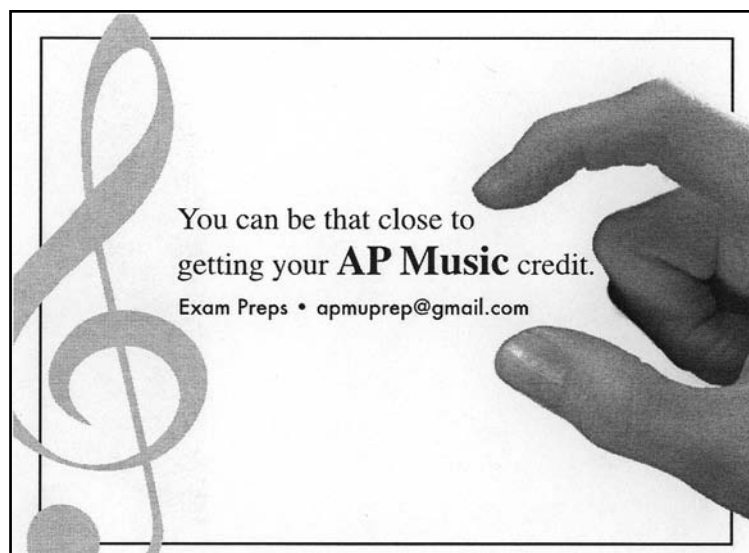
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A COMMENTARY ON CELL PHONE TECHNOLOGY

Remember when cell phones were simply devices that allowed two people to talk to each other? Back when mobile phones were first invented, there were no cameras, no internet browsers, and no text messaging services for users. Now you look at your cell phone and think, “Gee, what do I need my computer for? I’ve got an iPhone.” And Apple’s not the first company to do this. It’s been happening for a while; the cell phone has evolved from a simple electronic brick to a mini super-computer that very well could be making you lunch in the future.

As technology advances, it’s understandable that cell phones have to keep up with its thunderous pace, but judging from some of the problems I’ve heard about one of the latest additions, the iPhone, cell phones with more and more functions allow opportunities for more and more problems to take root. For example, people complain that the iPhone only has one service provider, AT&T. If there is customer dissatisfaction with AT&T’s performance, nothing can be done. Also, Apple prohibits the use of most third-party programs and applications. Users can surf the web only through AJAX or Safari and listen to music only through iTunes. To top it all off, upon initial release, about one in ten iPhones were defective. Throw in the possibility of a malicious website shutting down your device, and customers may have a very expensive paperweight on their hands.

I’m not saying that iPhones are bad; technology has come a long way to pump out such a powerful hand-held device. But I have enough problems maintaining security on my desktop, and I don’t want to have to protect my phone from viruses and trojans and worms and all that nonsense too. I’m not a staunch supporter of multi-functional cell phones; I can’t imagine surfing the internet and reading text on such a small screen. A phone should exist only for calling other people. That way, prices for mobile phones stay low and fewer problems arise.

A couple days ago, I stumbled across an article that announced the debut of Google’s Android software on mobile phones. The article quoted Ian Drew of ARM, a UK processor designing company, as saying that their new product will include “maps, browser, camera applications, multimedia, e-mail, and calendar – basically everything you’d expect on a mobile phone.” A couple years ago, that was everything you’d expect on a computer.

So, as we gradually move towards the technology age where smaller is better, cell phones may find their niche in the global market. Consumers everywhere are already reveling in the golden age of cell phones, and maybe one day, these mobile machines will replace computers, MP3 players, and cameras. But for the time being, effectively packing so many features into such a small bundle seems like an impossible task. As a human being who’s not yet ready to depend entirely on microscopic super-gadgets, I’m fine with just using my cell phone to call people.

- Kevin Lu//Staff Writer

Morals Outweigh Money in Dolphin Hunt

By Katie Wu
Opinion Editor

Twenty-some years ago, the Japanese fishing village of Taiji was a mere cultural misnomer, easily passed over by tourists and businessmen in the rush to industrialize. But since then, it has morphed from a quaint, archaic whaling town into an international hot spot for animal rights activism and flaming controversy, pinned down on the map for its primary trade of commercial dolphin drive hunting. Residents of the village have obstinately disregarded complaints against what they believe is a deep-rooted tradition, beseeching the rest of the planet to leave well enough alone. However, despite the value of tradition in the hunt, the inhumane aspects of the process – not to mention a generous helping of mercury poisoning – are reason enough to put a plug in the yearly slaughter.

The annual Japanese dolphin hunt is a 400-year-old tradition, stemming from early harpooning and group pursuits. Commercial slaughter continues to be a major source of revenue in Taiji, as the town remains the only one in the country to allow drive hunting on a large scale. The yearly quota for drive hunting victims in the village alone is set at 3,015 – 14% of the national limit.

However, despite the alarming statistics surrounding the hunt, it is the method of slaughter that has

alarmed so many outraged foreigners – and

not without justification.

According to David McNeill of *Japan Focus*, drive hunting in Taiji is famed for its brutality. “A small fleet of boats surround a pod of migrating dolphins, lower metal poles into the sea, and bang them to frighten the animals,” McNeill writes. “Once the [...] dolphins are herded into the narrow cove, the fishermen attack them with knives, turning the sea red before dragging them to a harbor-side warehouse for slaughter.” Visiting journalists have further reported hearing the dying screams of their rubbery friends echoing across the cove. It is because of these hunts, which occur several times a week, that bottlenose and striped dolphins have endured an on-and-off relationship with the endangered species list in the last few decades.

But all dramatizations aside, cruelty is certainly not the only factor called into question. The process of slaughter may be horrifying enough for some, but

it is the consumption of dolphin meat itself that is the deciding factor of the issue. Dolphin meat contains high levels of mercury, methylmercury, cadmium, DDT, and organic contaminants. So high are the levels, in fact, that they exceed even those that poisoned over 2,000 in the Minamata mercury pollution incident of 1956. According to *Dolphin Care UK*, the Japanese

government has so far provided no warning to consumers that consumption is hazardous to their health; even in the case of pregnant women and children, to whom a large dosage could be fatal, no precautions have been taken. The only change instated thus far is a significant drop in the prices of dolphin products – a trivial step on the road to providing adequate health care for citizens. Most horrifying, perhaps, is the contamination of the lunches ladled out to schoolchildren. When surveyed in a January 2008 *Associated Press* article, investigators discovered that the meat served contained mercury concentration ranging from somewhere around 5 parts per million (ppm) to an incomprehensible 100 ppm, with the latter ranking at 250 times the legal limit (0.4 ppm).

In light of protecting its citizens, Taiji should seriously reconsider the moral and medical consequences of its reliance on the drive hunt. As for sources of replacement, the coast is hardly devoid of options. With over 2,000 fishing ports along its winding coast, Japan certainly does not have a shortage of seafood to worry about – in fact, the island’s fisheries alone account for over 15% of the global catch (*CIA World Factbook, Japan*). Already, 55% of its food is imported; the country is no stranger to foreign commerce. Though some may protest

dolphins’ presence as “competition” for fish, this is no excuse for their slaughter. If Taiji ends its yearly dolphin hunts, the effects will not stretch much further than upsetting a few of the town’s more stubborn traditionalists.

Rounding up a few thousand dolphins a year to feed a town whose population barely exceeds 3,000 seems like a negligible loss to some – but the fact of the matter is, if this trend is goes on, campaigns to reinstate the yearly hunt will spread. Allowing drive hunting to spread will unleash not only a torrent of slaughter, but the high probability of severe mercury poisoning to all who eat the meat on a regular basis. In the end, the cultural thrill of the hunt just isn’t worth the risk.

Artificial Sweeteners Pose Health Risks

By Alexa Wei
Assistant Ads Editor

With the increasing pressure to eat more healthfully, “sugar” has practically become a swear word. However, despite encouragement to switch to “healthy” alternatives to sugar, insufficient testing exists to prove that some FDA-certified artificial sweeteners do not pose adverse side effects. If America is to promote a healthier lifestyle, artificial sweeteners should be properly studied for potential long-term side-effects before being released to the public.

One example of a dangerous, FDA-approved sweetener is Aspartame, also known as NutraSweet. Dr. Janet Starr Hull, author of the book *Sweet Poison*, suffered from Aspartame poisoning in 1991. Her doctors told her that she had Grave’s Disease. Misdiagnosing Aspartame poisoning is not uncommon and Dr. Hull suspected that the blame actually lay with her Aspartame-laden diet. Because of its horrible effects, Aspartame should be completely recalled before it can do more harm.

However, Aspartame is not the only dangerous artificial sweetener still on the market. Splenda, the number-one-selling sweetener in America, is composed of a chlorocarbon called sucralose. On his website, James Bowen,

M.D., a “physician, biochemist, and survivor of aspartame poisoning,” states that chlorocarbons have been found to cause organ, reproductive, and genetic damage. It is doubtful that potential weight loss is worth such horrendous symptoms. Chlorocarbons, due to their toxic effects, should not be considered edible substances, no matter what the FDA has ruled.

Artificial sweeteners have become so prevalent in our society that it has become uncommon to *not* find an alternative saturated with chemical content in place of sugar or high fructose corn syrup. But what is truly terrifying is how many products considered to be “healthy” due to their lack of sugar could be found poisonous within a few years.

One possible reason for the popularity of sugar substitutes is the increased interest in weight loss. Everywhere one turns, there are magazines boasting new ways to lose weight, commercials advertising

diet programs and pills, and pressure from the media to be unhealthily thin.

The public’s obsession with being emaciated is not only unrealistic, but dangerous as well. While sweeteners are widely believed to help people shed unwanted pounds, *Consumer’s Research Magazine* purports that “there is no clear-cut evidence that sugar substitutes are useful in weight reduction. On the contrary, there is some evidence that these substances may stimulate appetite.”

So, rather than losing surplus pounds and making a healthier lifestyle choice for themselves by consuming artificial sweeteners, people can potentially poison themselves and cause themselves to eat more.

While some artificial sweeteners are hazardous (due to insufficient testing of sugar substitutes and the focus of current studies on the most popular ones, it is not yet clear whether all sweeteners or only certain brands pose health risks), there is no evidence to suggest that natural sugar substitutes, such as Stevia, Xylitol, and raw sugar, are also dangerous.

It is truly mind-boggling that with all the safe, natural sugar substitutes on the market, people would still endanger themselves by consuming artificial sweeteners. Perhaps if natural sweeteners received the same amount of publicity as their chemical counterparts, they would become more popular and accessible. Natural sugar substitutes should completely replace the dangerous chemicals currently used in sugar-free products such as sodas or candies because they do not pose health risks.

All potentially dangerous sweeteners should be immediately retracted from the open market for further testing. Also, the FDA should propose stricter guidelines for the testing of food additives before they reach the American public. When it all boils down, sugar seems to be a healthier choice than sweeteners, whose potentially negative effects are enough to leave more than a bad taste in most people’s mouths.

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Goblins and Fairies and Nymphs-Oh My!

—Maddy Wojdak//Spectrum Editor

At first glance, *The Spiderwick Chronicles* might just seem like another kid movie with fairies and goblins. In essence, it is. But the way this movie is put together takes it to a level that these types of movies rarely achieve.



Based on the book series of the same name, *The Spiderwick Chronicles* tells the story of the Grace family. When Helen Grace (Mary Louise-Parker, *Weeds*) leaves her husband and moves her three children from New York to a house in the middle of the woods, they all adopt different roles. Mallory (Sarah Bolger, *In America*) becomes the pseudo-mom, Jared (Freddie Highmore, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*)

becomes the rebel son favoring his father, and Simon (also played by Highmore) makes like the Swiss and stays neutral. One day when Jared is sulking, he comes across a book with “Do Not Read” on it. Jared, of course, reads it and learns all about an unseen magic world. Shortly after, a war for the book breaks out between the ogre Mulgarath (Nick Nolte, *Over the Hedge*) and the Grace family. Joined by a cast of brownies, fairies, and hobgoblins, the Grace family learns how to work as a family to save the universe from ending up under Mulgarath’s rule.

Overall, the movie was well done. The acting was great, especially when it came to Highmore. When watching, one forgets that the twins were the actually the same person. Both roles were as believable as the movie could allow (Really, how believable are talking pigs and invisible goblins?).

But the best parts of the movie are the creatures. Personally, I was always interested in the magical creatures (I even bought a copy of *Magical Creatures and Where to Find Them* by Newt Scamander). So when watching a movie that explores this topic in such depth, I feel like I’m nine again.

But before you grab your little sister and take her to see this, remember: it’s not your typical fantasy movie. It borders on PG-13, and even I jumped a few times. So if little Susie is prone to nightmares, you might want to go for that Hannah Montana movie instead.

Interview with Freddie Highmore

Spectrum was lucky enough to get the chance to interview the star of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, Freddie Highmore.



Was it challenging playing two different roles in an American accent?

First of all, [playing] twins was quite challenging and a good opportunity. It’s always nice to do different things for every film, you don’t want to be playing the same characters all the time, and twins was certainly different. It might have been double the work in some respects, but it was double as fun. And the accent, I worked on that with the dialect coach and I tried to talk in it as much as possible really, even off the set. It’s important when you are doing a scene to be able to concentrate on the emotions and not worry about your intrusive R’s and whether your vowel sounds are too wide or not.

What will you remember most about this movie?

The Montreal weather wasn’t so good. Even worse than London at some points. We’ll all remember the cold, wintery nights we spent huddled up. I think also the people that you’ve worked with, you always remember them, especially on a film that went on this long, about four months associating. You become close with everyone. [We all get] along and it becomes like a big family.

If you came across a book that said “Do Not Read,” would you read it?

Yeah, I think so. Just by having the note there, it makes you wonder what’s inside. But if the note wasn’t there, you’d probably just throw it to the side and not think anything of it again. You’d never expect the sort of things that happen to them. You wouldn’t expect there to be goblins and trolls and stuff.

What attracted you to this film? Had you read the books before?

I hadn’t read the books beforehand, but I obviously read them as a sort of preparation for the roles. I think the twin thing really attracted me to it and the opportunity to do something different. I do think that’s important, just to carry on doing different genres perhaps. Different characters would be great.

To which twin do you relate more?

I’m not so sure. I don’t think I’m too much...I guess I’d be somewhere in the middle. You know, with Jared he’s a bit smashing holes in walls, and I don’t think I’d be doing that. But he has got a jive about him, to stand up for what he believes and go and be brave enough to help his family. Everyone would hope to have that inside them.

And Now For Something Completely Different...

A Story By Shaina Lu//Associate Editor of Copy

Sarah had a unicorn keychain. It had fuzzy white skin and a little pink horn. It hung delicately from a zipper on her backpack.

She liked it a lot.

“Unicorns are stupid,” said Andy. Andrew Talbott was an obnoxious, bratty boy. He was built like a boar, muscle-y in all the wrong places. His face tended to get red when he was excited, and now it was turning a bit pink from the exertion of force he used in his statement.

Andy liked sports.

Sarah liked Andy. And unicorns, but she liked Andy more.

She moved to hide her unicorn keychain. “Yes,” she agreed. She felt like a traitor. In truth, her room at home was filled with unicorn paraphernalia. Unicorn

posters plastered the dull, white walls, and books about fantasy and romance lined her bookshelves.

Sarah did believe that unicorns were real. And most definitely, not stupid.

“Unicorns are stupid,” Andy bleated, “Only silly sissies believe in them.”

Sarah blushed. “Yes,” she agreed again. When Andy was not looking, she flung her keychain into the bushes. She instantly felt sick.

“Let’s go watch football,” said Andy.

Sarah grabbed her backpack strap and was slinging it over her shoulder when she heard rustling in the bushes.

“What was that?” Andy demanded. His face had turned very red.

Sarah had no clue.

The rustling grew louder and a pearly white hoof emerged from the bushes.

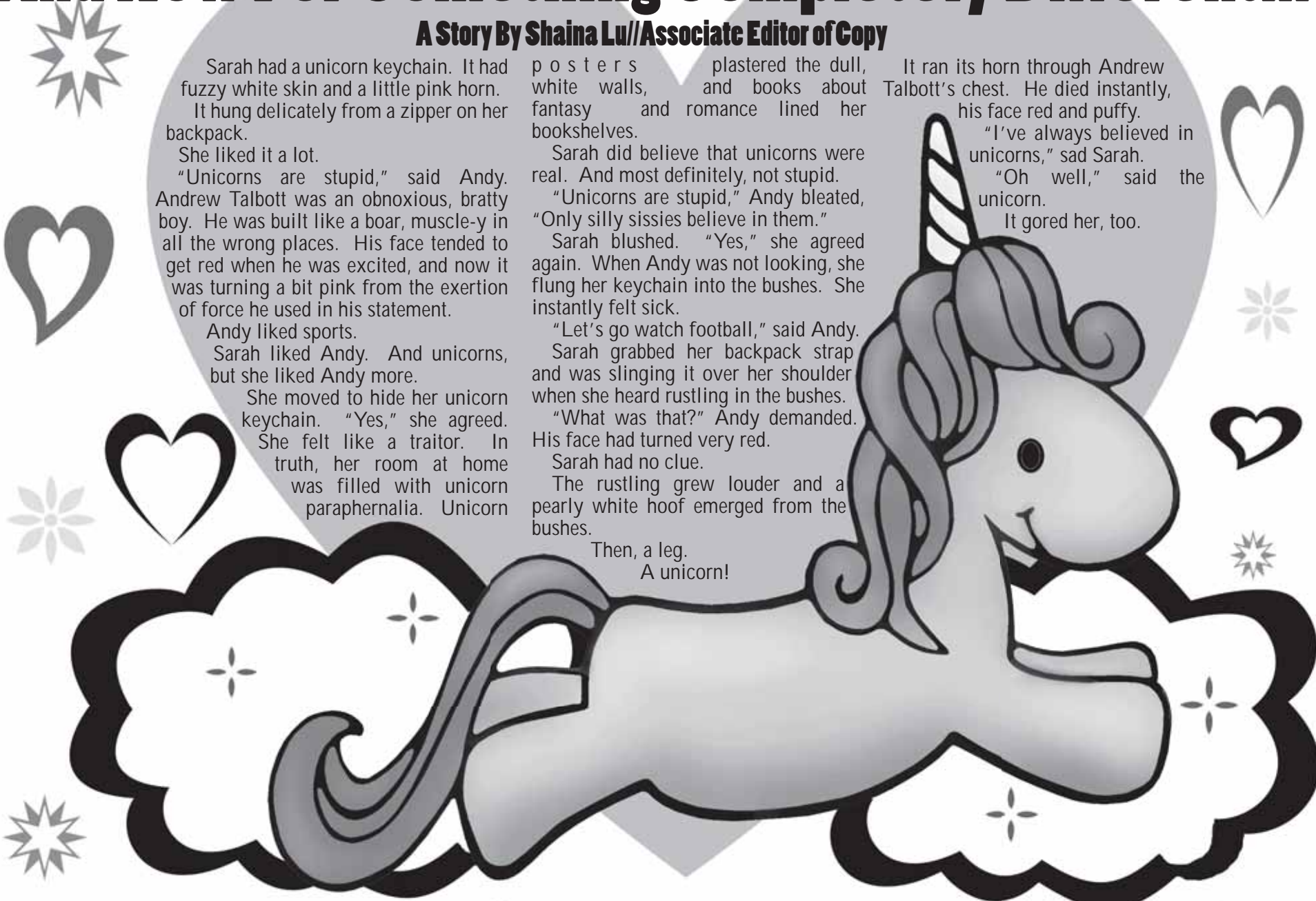
Then, a leg.
A unicorn!

It ran its horn through Andrew Talbott’s chest. He died instantly, his face red and puffy.

“I’ve always believed in unicorns,” sad Sarah.

“Oh well,” said the unicorn.

It gored her, too.



Late Surge Falls Short for Water Polo

(Continued from Page 1)

one more goal with 18 seconds left in the half to give them the lead after two quarters, 2-3.

Both teams’ offenses went stagnant for the first few minutes of the second half, but the Lady Jesters managed to net two goals within a minute midway through the third quarter to bring the score to 2-5. Laura then responded with a score of her own as the Lady Titans inched closer, with the score going to 3-5.

Following Laura’s goal, the St. Joseph found it could score off a fast break opportunity as one of the players swam ahead of the Lady Titan defense. Head Coach Mark Barr noted that the Jesters were able to exploit the Lady Titans’ inexperience and lack of depth on fast break opportunities.

About a minute after the Jesters’ goal, Junior Vivian Hong scored a goal of her own to bring the deficit back down to two goals. After a save by Senior Captain Goalie Eirene-Gin Nakamura, the third quarter ended with the Lady Jesters leading, 4-6.

Entering the fourth quarter, the Lady Titans picked up their intensity, as they gave a last effort to keep their season alive. Vivian committed a turnover 30 seconds into the quarter, but she was able to steal the ball back and put in

her second goal of the game. Even with the score, San Marino’s transition defense faltered, as the Lady Jesters were able to strike on another counterattack.

With the score, St. Joseph pushed its lead back to two, with the score standing at 5-7 with four minutes remaining.

But shortly after the Lady Jesters’ score, Vivian punched in her third goal of the game to bring the score back within one score at 6-7.

In the last several minutes of the game, the Lady Titans could not muster up a goal to tie the game while their defense began to falter.

“Their defense was really strong at the point during the game and our defense kind of fell apart towards the end of the game,” Vivan stated.

Late in the contest, San Marino had a number of opportunities, but its shots were either denied by the Lady Jesters’ goalie or went wide. After a last-ditch effort by the Lady Titans, their season ended in a 6-7 loss.

Remarking upon the game, Coach Barr added that both goalies played a “really critical” role in the game, as Eirene made 12 saves and the St. Joseph goalie denied 16 shots.

Despite a lack of experience among the team, Vivian explained

that they benefitted from dealing with pressure against league opponents Monrovia and South Pasadena.

The Lady Titans ended their season with an overall record of 13-15 and a Rio Hondo League record of 4-4.

Next year, San Marino will have a number of returning athletes, but they will lose Eirene and Seniors Eugenia Chan and Yuri Ogita.

Vivian emphasized the importance all three players had this past season.

“They played an important part in our team. [...]” Vivian reflected.

In reference to Eirene, she noted that “Eirene is a really good goalie and I think its going to be really tough to replace her to the point we have a really good defense [again] .”

Vivian also praised Yuri, saying that “she is really aggressive and she was a really important player when it [came] to defense as well. I think its going to be really hard next year to find a player as good as she is and as quick as she is.

Referring to Eugenia, Vivan noted, “She’s a really smart person and I think she has supported us a lot and hopefully we can have that support next year.”

Yuri concluded that “overall, the team should do pretty well next year.”



Senior Captain Goalie **Eirene-Gin Nakamura** elevates from her position to block an incoming shot during the Lady Titan’s loss on Tuesday, February 12.
Connie Chow//TITAN SHIELD

Titan Wrestler Ben Harwich Places at CIF



Courtesy of James Barger

By Daniel Woong
Staff Writer

Of the three San Marino Titan Wrestlers who qualified for CIF at League Finals, only Sophomore Ben Harwich in the 189-lb. weight class will continue to the next level of competition.

While Titan wrestling finished off the season with a 1-4 record, individual wrestlers competed in Rio Hondo League Finals at home on Saturday, February 9. In past tournaments, individual wrestlers have had great success, some placing in the top three. For a final push, Head Coach Mike Suehiro trained the wrestlers especially hard for league finals. Along with La Cañada and Monrovia, San Marino wrestlers met and practiced at Arroyo High School in El Monte.

“We’ve been practicing extra tough for the past [few] weeks,” said Sophomore Daniel Krimmel. “[Coach Suehiro] taught us a lot of new moves for the tournament.”

The Titans placed first in two weight classes, while also placing second and fourth in three other weight classes. The first place finishers were Senior Captain James Barger in the 130-lb. weight class and Ben Harwich. Daniel, weighing 119 lbs., placed second. Additionally, Juniors Ben Kwan and Dillon Gaitan, competing at 125 lbs., and 152 lbs., respectively, and Sophomore Hunter Rasmussen, in the 135-lb. weight class, placed fourth, which

qualified them as substitutes for the CIF individual tournament.

In past years, Titans have consistently done well at league finals.

Last year, Sophomore Kevin Means, SMHS Alumnus Arthur Harwich, and James placed first in their respective weight classes. In addition, James was awarded the Most Valuable Player award for the lower weight classes.

Injuries hindered Kevin and James, stopping them from wrestling in this year’s CIF Preliminaries tournament.

With James off of the CIF roster, San Marino had only two wrestlers competing at CIF Preliminaries, which was held at Pacifica High School in Oxnard on February 15 and 16.

Last year, both Daniel and Ben Harwich placed in the top three at league finals, which allowed them to attend to the CIF tournament. Although they went 0-2 at CIF as freshmen, they gained valuable experience for this year’s playoff tournament.

At CIF Prelims, Ben Harwich went one step further than Daniel, claiming third place in his division. Ben Harwich lost his second match to the fourth seed and had to battle his way back through the consolation bracket. On his way to third place, he pinned the first seed and beat the third and fourth seeds before taking third with a 6-1 record at CIF. However, Daniel’s season ended in Prelims, as he lost two matches. By placing

at CIF, Sophomore Ben Harwich will proceed to CIF Masters tournament, a feat no wrestler from San Marino has accomplished in at least 20 years.

It will take place at Carter High School in Rialto, California today and tomorrow.

In preparation for Masters, Ben Harwich explained that he has spent the past week training with two coaches and has continued conditioning. He also worked with Julian Zuniga, a Schurr High School wrestler who placed fifth in state at 215 lbs. last year, and Jose Ruano, a two-time all American at 174 lbs. at the collegiate level. Reflecting on the road he has taken to Masters, Ben Harwich attributed his accomplishments to two factors.

He noted that, “Over the summer, I did a lot of weights that allowed me to go from 171 to 189 [lbs.]. Also, [I think] a year of experience really helped.”

He also mentioned that encouragement from James helped him get through the season. Though James will be leaving this year, Ben Harwich concluded that his captain has left behind a competent team.

“[I benefited] a lot from James’ leadership. Every time we practiced he was always on me and pushing me to get better. [Even though James will be leaving], he left behind a lot of experienced wrestlers who should do well next year. Though he won’t be with us, we’ll be just as strong.”

CIF Wrestling Schedule

2/22-2/23 CIF Masters @ Carter High School in Rialto, California

2/29-3/1 CIF State @ Rabobank Arena in Bakersfield, California

2007-2008 Winter Sports In Review

This issue, the Sports Section reflects on an eventful season, including a CIF first round finish for Girls' Soccer and Wild Card appearances for Girls' Basketball and Water Polo.

Boys' Basketball

Entering the 07-08 season, the San Marino Boys' Varsity Basketball team looked poised to rise from the basement of the Rio Hondo League and roll into CIF. However, the season began rough for the Titans. Beginning with its trip to Burbank and the El Rancho tournament, San Marino struggled to win games. By the conclusion of the tournament, the Titans sat at 2-7 overall and their preseason hopes of making CIF were diminishing. In the following eight games, the Titans pulled together five wins at the St. Anthony's Holiday Tournament, bringing their record to a respectable 7-15 to conclude their preseason. Although they won their first home league game against Temple City, San Marino struggled to maintain its intensity throughout the remainder of the season, dropping its final matches of the season and consequently falling short of its hopes.

Boys' Soccer

The Boys' Varsity Soccer team finished its season with a 1-3 loss to the Monrovia Wildcats on February 7. This game was crucial for the

Titans, whose late season surge towards the playoffs depended on a win over the Wildcats. However, Senior Captain Striker Cristian Raether's lone goal was not enough to secure a win. The Titans' 1-2 loss against Blair set the tone for a difficult first round of league play, which left them 1-3-1 in league. San Marino did improve in the second round, finishing with two more wins, but also three more losses. In the end, the Titans' record stood at 3-6-1 in conference and 7-13-1 overall. For San Marino, the season was full of league matches decided by only one goal. Sophomore Right Winger John Choi concluded that this season was the "most unlucky season I have ever played."

Girls' Basketball

Despite featuring five freshmen with little varsity experience, the Girls' Varsity Basketball team managed to play to a 12-15 record overall, good enough to qualify for the CIF Division IIAA playoffs. Unfortunately, the Lady Titans suffered a 41-49 loss in the Wild Card round to the Oak Park Lady Eagles. However, Head Coach Rich Kitagawa still felt, "We played

[to] about 95% of our potential, which was really good for us." In fact, San Marino began its season above .500, going 9-7 in preseason overall. Unfortunately, San Marino faltered in Rio Hondo league play, going 3-7 in its final month of the season. After three straight league losses though, the Lady Titans edged out Temple City, 38-35, to secure their twelfth win of the season and an at-large CIF playoff berth. "We really had a good season. We feel like we've exceeded our goals," concluded Coach Kitagawa.

Girls' Soccer

The Lady Titan Varsity Soccer team finished its season in Santa Ynez this past Saturday with a 0-2 defeat in the first round of the CIF playoffs. The Lady Titans ended their regular season with a league record of 6-3-1, earning them third place in Rio Hondo League. The Lady Titans ended their season on a three-game losing streak, dropping from second to third in the league standings. In the Wild Card round of the CIF playoffs, San Marino pulled out a win in penalty kicks after four ten-minute overtimes.

WINTER SPORTS REVIEW	LEAGUE	OVR.	CIF
BOYS' BASKETBALL	1-9	8-19	N/A
BOYS' SOCCER	3-6-1	7-13-1	N/A
GIRLS' BASKETBALL	3-7	12-15	Wild Card
GIRLS' SOCCER	6-3-1	13-6-3	1st RND
GIRLS' WATER POLO	4-4	13-5	Wild Card
WRESTLING	N/A	N/A	N/A

Girls' Water Polo

The San Marino Girls' Water Polo team's season ended after a loss in the Wild Card round of the CIF Division III Playoffs against the St. Joseph (Lakewood) Jesters. With the loss, the Lady Titans ended their season with an overall record of 13-5 and a Rio Hondo League record of 4-4.

Looking back at the past season, Head Coach Mark Barr commented, "considering everything that happened this season, the team has performed well." Coach Barr additionally noted that the Lady Titans have only been competing together for a month due to numerous injuries and illnesses. Returning for the Lady Titans next year will be Juniors Margaret Lazzarini, Vivien Hong, Brandi Seaman, and Laura Adams. Moreover, Coach Barr stated that Laura is

"arguably the best Set in the [Rio Hondo] league." Commenting on the future of San Marino Girl's Water Polo, Senior Yuri Ogita commented that the returning players are "really strong."

Wrestling

Due to a lack of players, Titan Wrestling has had a rocky season this year, finishing with a record of 1-4. A number of wrestlers have repeatedly placed at tournaments; notably, Sophomore wrestlers Kevin Means and Daniel Krimmel placed first at the San Marino Tournament. In addition, Senior Captain James Barger and Daniel placed first while Sophomore Ben Harwich placed second, qualifying them to wrestle at the CIF tournament at Pacifica High School in Oxnard. Several returning wrestlers will commit to perfecting old moves and learning new ones at the Iowa Wrestling Summer Camp.

Photos by Emma Quan and Jonathan Wong

Gasol Brings Title Hope for Lakers

When I first heard that Pau Gasol was traded to the Los Angeles Lakers, I spent the rest of my day in celebration. 2002 Rookie of the Year Pau Gasol for the low price of Kwame "Butterfingers" Brown rookie turnover machine Javaris Crittenton, and a few draft picks! What does this mean for my beloved Lakers? The better Los Angeles team just stole a seven-footer who can knock down jumpers in the clutch, drive to the hole, and block a shot or two. Though just about anyone over 6'8" would be an improvement over Brown, getting Gasol was above and beyond the wildest expectations of Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak. Dallas Head Coach Avery Johnson summed it up best, saying, "Merry Christmas, L.A." Gasol, for those of you who don't know, was once an All-Star back when his stock was at its peak. In international play, he won the tournament MVP award and a Gold Medal as part of the Spanish National Team at the 2006 International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Championships. He also led the Memphis

Grizzlies to its only three playoff appearances before the team imploded last season. Los Angeles needed this help. In consecutive years, the Lakers have lost to the Phoenix Suns in the first round of the playoffs. Back then, Los Angeles barely had an inside presence, with Brown as the only remotely useful big man in the middle attempting to stop the daring drives of Steve Nash and company. Now, with the emergence of Andrew Bynum and the acquisition of Gasol, the Lakers have a far more effective counter to the Suns' trademark run-and-gun. As a plus, Bynum against Shaq and Gasol versus Amaré Stoudemire are going to be some of the most exciting duels of the decade. In terms of matchups with other teams, the Lakers can now play well against any type of lineup. Not only has Bynum already had success playing against quick, small-ball teams like the Golden State Warriors, but also against traditional halfcourt clubs like the Rockets. Bynum's offensive arsenal largely depends on feeds from the Lakers' backcourt, which

championship-proven Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher have no problem doing. With Gasol, the Lakers have now made up for the deficiencies in Bynum's passing abilities and range. While observers have placed Gasol as the second- or third-scoring option, he can now occasionally afford to become the fourth scorer in the lineup instead of being the top dog as he was in Memphis. Having less offensive pressure on his shoulders should certainly help his development on both sides of the ball, as he won't be drawing double or triple-teams every night. Gasol should also be more motivated to compete, now that he's playing for a championship contender instead of the bottom-feeding Grizzlies that finished dead last in the league this past season. This trade also has a trickle-down effect on Lamar Odom, a guy who plays at his best when he's not pressured to score. Gasol's offensive production will allow Odom to focus on ball movement and defense, benefiting the Lakers on another level. L.A. now has an impressive array

of offensive weapons to make even the best of teams shudder. With dead-eye shooters in Derek Fisher and Sasha Vujacic, and skilled players in the lineup like Trevor Ariza, Jordan Farmar, and Luke Walton, Gasol should have no trouble racking up assists. The Lakers' bench as a whole has been at the top of the league this season in scoring, so double-teaming anyone is a risky proposition at best. Don't forget that in the thick of it all, Kobe, the best player of this era, will still be leading the team on and off the floor. The Lakers now have abilities on par with the Spurs or Jazz, the two teams that played in the conference finals last season. At this time, Bynum is still injured, but the Lakers still managed to go 7-2 before the All-Star break with Gasol's help.

setting an NBA record for number of wins on a continuous road trip. When Los Angeles is healthy and ready to roll in the playoffs, the trio of Kobe, Bynum, and Gasol will definitely be a force to be reckoned with. —Dennis Su//Managing Editor

Lady Titan Basketball Exits CIF Play

By Allison Zia
Sports Editor

The San Marino Girls’ Varsity Basketball team suffered a 41-49 loss in the CIF Division IIAA Wild Card round to the Oak Park Lady Eagles on Thursday, February 14, eliminating the Lady Titans from further CIF play.

Head Coach Rich Kitagawa commented, “In the first half, our defense was really poor. We just didn’t perform the way we have been and that really hurt us. We gave them too many easy baskets.”

San Marino started the game poorly, allowing the Lady Eagles to go on an 8-0 run at the beginning of the first quarter. However, Junior Point Guard Lauren Oshiro sparked the offense with a quick jumper and followed up with a three pointer with 35 seconds left in the period to cut the Lady Titan deficit to three.

From there, however, San Marino could not close any further. At the end of the opening quarter, San Marino faced a 5-8 deficit.

Coach Kitagawa noted, “As a team, we didn’t have good defense. However, [Senior Captain Shooting Guard] Nicole [Chan]

is a leader. She started to get out there for some of her teammates and push them.”

Nicole opened up the second quarter by knocking down a three-pointer from the right wing. Immediately afterward, Lady Eagle Senior Guard Erin Somers quickly returned the favor, which was then followed by a basket in the paint by Oak Park Sophomore Center Lauren Varney. The two teams traded baskets until Freshman Center Kelsey Buckner fouled Lady Eagle Senior Forward Jen Stevens, who converted on a three-point play. At the end of the period, San Marino trailed 13-23.

At halftime, Coach Kitagawa reminded the girls how hard they had worked to get to playoffs.

“We didn’t want to just waste it [by] coming here and playing bad. I told [Nicole] that if we played hard on defense like we have all season, that we had a chance. She had a few things to say to her team and I think that made a big difference in what we did [in] the second half. [...] Unfortunately, we [were] down [by] too many points in the first half.”

Coming out of the break, San Marino seemed poised to close the gap. After turning the momentum

in their favor, the Lady Titans quickly streaked out to a 12-4 run, with three baskets by Nicole and a deuce from Lauren.

Heading into the final period, the Lady Titans remained behind, 28-36.

In the final eight minutes of the game, the Lady Titans tried to make one last push.

Unfortunately, San Marino could not make the necessary adjustments to close the gap, and the Lady Eagles maintained a comfortable cushion for the remainder of the game. As time wound down, the Lady Titans forced the Eagles to the free throw line, where they shot 10 for 22 in the quarter.

The Lady Titans could not catch up, and the Lady Eagles came away with a 41-49 victory.

“We’re disappointed that we lost but we had a really nice year,” added Coach Kitagawa.

As for next season’s prospects, “we need to find another go-to person that we had in Nicole. I think we can find her replacement in Lauren and [Freshman Shooting Guard] Remi [Kohn]. It’ll be just like a continuation of this season,” concluded Junior Power Forward Tiffany Liu.



Senior Small Forward **Maggie Ho** searches the court for a fellow Lady Titan to pass to during the Girls’ Basketball team’s loss to the Oak Park Eagles.
Ethan Sy//TITAN SHIELD

Missed Scoring Chances Hurt Girls’ Soccer



Freshman Center Halfback **Savannah De Sousa** prepares to fire an instep drive at Magnolia’s goal during the Lady Titans loss on Saturday.

Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

(Continued from Page 1)

of the field until the six-minute mark, when a crosskick from Sophomore Right Midfielder Elizabeth Beardsley to Freshman Center Midfielder Savannah De Sousa resulted in a shot attempt that was picked off by the Sentinel goalkeeper. Kelley had another pass intercepted in the box. At the 12-minute mark, Senior Left Midfielder Sara McKnight received a yellow card for colliding with a Magnolia player, resulting in a penalty kick that was dangerously close to the Titan goal. Though Carlee blocked the kick, Magnolia began

an offensive that culminated at the 22-minute mark, when they received a corner kick. Two more corner kicks followed in the next seven minutes, though all three missed wide of the goal. At the 30-minute mark, Rien cleared the ball ahead to Kelley, who again was called for an offsides after passing her defender. Both teams ended the half scoreless and went into overtime with San Marino controlling the offensive momentum.

The first overtime was dominated by Magnolia’s three shot attempts as opposed to San Marino’s zero. At the eight-minute mark, San Marino Goalkeeper

Carlee Beckler dived for the ball but missed, leaving the goal wide open for a Magnolia shot. However, Magnolia blew its chance at victory with a shot that sailed over the top of the goal, ending the first sequence with the score still tied at 1-1.

In the second overtime, San Marino picked up the pace, forcing Magnolia onto the defensive. Though the Titans had two good looks at the goal, they failed to convert under the Sentinels’ pressure. At the eight-minute mark, Carlee made another critical save off a Magnolia penalty kick. The two teams went into a third overtime neck-and-neck.

In the third overtime, both teams took more shots with three attempts for each team. Shot attempts by Hannah, Kelley, and Sasha all fell into the hands of the Magnolia goalkeeper. Magnolia threatened with two consecutive shot attempts at the six-minute mark, but both sailed wide of the net. Despite the offensive efforts by both sides, the game remained tied at the end of the third overtime.

The fourth overtime revealed signs of fatigue as a Magnolia injury occurred at the five-minute mark. After one shot attempt in the beginning, this injury brought Magnolia’s offense to a halt. San Marino took advantage of this opportunity by pummeling the goalkeeper with drives led by Kelley and Hannah.

However, the offensive attempts failed to convert, bringing the game to a stop and leading into penalty kicks for both teams.

San Marino took the first penalty kick, and the two teams alternated

after that. Lindsay, Freshman Sweeper Annie Wenzlau, Kelley, and Savannah all made successful shots.

While Carlee Beckler missed her first two block attempts, a critical error by Magnolia’s third kicker missed wide of the goal, and the following kick was stopped by a dive from Carlee, ending the game with a Titan victory of 2-1.

“We played with a lot of heart and determination. [The girls] did not give up at all. Their drive led them to play the whole game,” Coach Acuna remarked.

Santa Ynez Valley hosted San Marino in the Titans’ 2-1 loss on Saturday. The Pirates dropped a goal on the Titans in the first

half, cutting through the Titans disorganized defense. In the second half, Santa Ynez caught San Marino off guard and scored again on a counterattack.

Before the game came to a close, Lindsay was awarded a free kick just outside the box and fired the ball past the goalkeeper’s fingers into the top left hand corner of the net. However, the game ended with a final score of 2-1 before the Titans could score again.

“I think that we weren’t able to adjust to the way they were playing until the second half. That didn’t leave us enough time to score another goal and get back into the game,” Rien concluded.



Sophomore Halfback **Catherine Barth** concentrates on the ball as she gets ready to launch a long pass towards the San Marino strikers during the Lady Titans’ defeat to the Santa Ynez Pirates.
Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD