



Panther Sports Illustrated

Nativity School, Menlo Park December 2009



Basketball season off to a great start with tourney play!

Varsity boys grab 2nd place, Varsity girls get 3rd in fast-paced Ray Herold tourney; JV girls, Cub boys play strong

The Varsity racked up Nativity's highest placement in years in the Ray Herold Tournament Sunday. The boys varsity needed three wins on Saturday to make it to the Championship game on Sunday and they pulled it off boom, bam, bing. They beat St Gregs 35-18, then met St Veronica's, which had won the North/South PPSL the past two years, and beat them 28-22 in one of our finest games ever, reports Coach Danny Montejano, who came straight from quadruple shifts at the tree lot. "We then faced St Pius, and beat them 31-17. We came up a bit short on Sunday against a well coached OLA team and finished 2nd overall, but the boys played their hearts out. Nathan Thomas received the "All tournament" award, with Marcus Guegler getting an honorable mention." The guys clearly established themselves as the south division school to beat.

After a strong 15-5 victory over St. Matt's on Saturday, the Varsity girls overcame a heartbreaking sudden-death overtime loss to St. Robert's in the semi-finals to rebound with a vengeance in the Sunday battle for 3rd. In that game, they came from behind to best last year's league champion St. Veronica's 13-11 at the buzzer. St. Veronica's jumped out early 6-0, but the girls switched to their gorilla defense led by Olivia Del Rosso, Maddie Morgan, and Sarah Alvarado disrupting St. V's offense and getting the ball in the hands of Panther shooters.

Freethrow shooting and rebounding was key in all three of the girls' three games, with Alexis Navat, Izzy Comin, Hana Kazarian, and Sierra Sheeper really playing the position, hustle, and height cards to tip the possession needle in our favor. In the Sunday finale, two strong breakaway lay-ups by Blair Hamilton and a ten-footer by Olivia set the table, and a clutch shot by Sierra as the seconds ticked below 20 sealed the deal. Sierra was named to the all-tourney team.

The JV girls had a really good showing in a Menlo Park local tournament last Saturday. They won the opener against La Entrada team 1. It was great outside shooting from Sophia Roses and Andrea Garcia that allowed the girls



The Varsity girls celebrate their come-from-behind win.

to win 21 to 7. The second game was against Hillview and Nativity played down another player so there was only one sub. The girls got into a hole early and were behind 11 to 1. They fought back and with great defense by Bonnie Foster and rebounding by Daeja Rogers were able to fight back to within 6 only to run out of time losing 23 to 17. The last game was against La Entrada team 2. The girls were tired but ready to play. This was their best game with Megan Anderson, Jordan Gentry, and Sabba Jalalian all making big contributions. Both the offense and defense played great allowing the girls to win 20 to 11.

The Cub boys of grade 5 battled hard in St. Charles' annual tournament and, according to their coaches, were a rebounding machine grabbing 29 rebounds in a physical game against St. Veronicas. Great ball handling by Josh Morgan while Troy Siegler, David Clarke and Manuel Porrás grabbed 21 rebounds between them. At the end we came up a little short on the scoreboard but the future looks bright for the boys in blue!

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from
the entire staff of Panther
Sports Illustrated.*



*Remember: There is nothing
more fun over Christmas break
than practicing lay-ups,*

*dribbling, and doing a lap or two around the
block while holding a basketball above your head.*



The 2010 season kicks off the weekend of January 8-9-10. We will post the precise schedule the first week of January, but there are some things to keep in mind. The Varsity will play IHM at home on Friday evening January 8, but most of the school will open their season away at St. Raymond's, where the Varsity also will play that weekend. So, clear your Friday night schedule January 8 so we can really pack "our house" with fans and get our 2010 Panther on!