



Panther Sports ***Illustrated***

Nativity School, Menlo Park January 27, 2009

Panthers on both side of squeakers; Varsity boys 4 - 0

The JV boys notched their first victory of the season Sunday afternoon at St. Pius. Defense dominated the low scoring contest, with lots of fouls on both sides. The Panthers eventually ground out the victory and pulled away to win 16 to 10. A full court press, let by guards Joel Chacon, Willie Rivera, and Arrin Skelley helped to rattle the Shamrocks in the second half. Adrian Torres hit several shots from the perimeter. Coaches Steve and Rob say this is just the beginning, guys, good work.

The JV girls, meanwhile, may have played their best basketball ever this weekend, pulling out all the stops against the defending league champs St. Veronica. With only 6 players, Nativity struggled a little on offense and was down 14 to 6 at the half; but the girls amped up their defense and fought back to tie the game by the middle of the third quarter. The lead changed hands several times with Bonnie Foster and Alexia Farias setting some devastating picks. Jordan Gentry lead the team in scoring. The game was tied and with 55 seconds to go, Nativity had the ball but was unable to score. St. Veronica made a great shot to take the lead 22-20 and time ran out. Great hustle, girls.

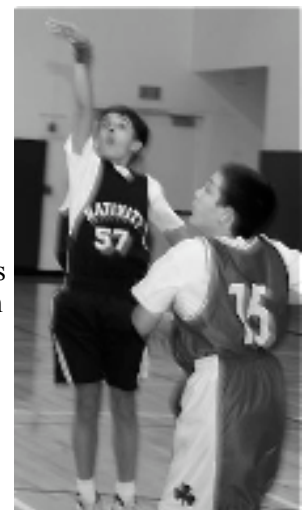
The Varsity boys faced a very hungry St Pius team. Playing with just five guys, the team showed a lot of mental toughness by finding a way to pull away in the 4th. Marcus Guegler nailed 2 back-to-back 3-pointers that really sparked the team. In addition, Remy Arnold nailed 2 clutch shots in the 2nd half to help seal it for the Varsity team. The team showed allot of hustle and heart by playing man-man the entire 2nd half and really disrupting and slowing St Pius down. The Shark 8 boys played a tough St Pius team, and came up a bit short, but it was not for a lack of effort. Josh Gabriel made quality passes, clutch rebounds and good cuts to the basket. He had a # of really good drives to the (cont'd page 2)



Cub boys pull off sudden death victory...Iceman Morgan seals deal at line

Like real Cubs shaking off their winter hibernation, the Cub boys let the score go to 8-1 before their inner Grizzlies took over v. St. Pius Saturday in what has to be the game of the week. A beastly defense led by Troy Siegler, who had 12 rebounds, helped inspire a strong offensive push, with Julian Garcia's great passing enabling the Cubs to tie the game at the end of regulation, 14 -14!! Nativity then showed its claws in double overtime by shutting down the St. Pius offense.

Josh Morgan at the end of sudden death overtime sliced through the St. Pius defense, went high up in the air and was fouled. To win, Josh had to sink both free throws, which he did with the last shot hanging on the rim for a full second! The Cubs remain undefeated!



Troy shows good form

hoop for potential scores. Gabe McNern lit things up towards the end by draining Three 3 point shots. Bhavik Patel was scrappy and relentless in keeping their guards frustrated. The Varsity girls had a bye this week, but hope fans will support them against a very tough OLA this Friday night at home.

The Cub girls improved their record with consistent passing and working the ball to the low post with Alissa McNerney leading the team with 9 shots, 6 points, and 8 rebounds! Maggie O'keefe made some amazing assists with passes inside and two fast breaks. Raveena Massis sunk the team's first three pointer and Isabella Billet pounded the boards with rebounds at high post.

The Lion 5 boys played a hard-nosed St. Pius team Friday night, pouncing on St. Pius early thanks to some incredible shooting by Mitchell Faure who drained a long three and was high scorer with 7 points. St. Pius in the second half went hunting and took the lead going into the fourth quarter. Nativity then clawed within two points of the lead with 12 seconds left, but couldn't get the last shot to go down. St. Pius got the win 14-12.

Ricky Torres had the shot of the game with a no look turn around hook that hit nothing but net. The 5th grade girls Lions really came together on Saturday under the leadership of Michelle Pineda. Her dribbling skills penetrated St. Pius' offense feeding the ball inside to Alex Young and Rebecca Barner. Brooke Badgett played excellent defense against St. Pius pushing wings and guards consistently to the outside. Gabrielle Irwin forced steals and won a number of tie-ups.

The 6th grade girls played a nailbiter v. St. Pius and it went down to the wire. After two starters fouled out, Coach Brian and Coach Chris shuffled the girls thru different positions, and almost came out with a victory. Our girls fought hard all the way to the end, but St Pius broke the tie with 30 seconds left. There was positive play from every player and the girls are on track to finish strong. The Lion 6 boys had an exciting game that was neck and neck down the stretch. With 10 secs left in the game, down by 2-points, the Lions broke through the full-court press by St. Pius. Pull-up David Clarke, sped up the sideline and got the ball to Adrian Villa who was waiting at the 3-point line. Adrian's shot just barely missed falling in; David provided a huge lift to a depleted Lions team--he was the high scorer for the Lions. Chente was the rebounding king for the day, owning the boards.

The Eagles dropped one to St. Pius on Sunday. Jacob

Homestand this weekend! Come cheer on the Panthers during our home weekend and enjoy a hot dog lunch/dinner!

Note, several boys' teams play TWO games this week, so read the schedule carefully. Last week's schedule said the Varsity girls play St. Pius Feb. 29, which would be fine if there actually were a Feb. 29 this year (should have said Feb. 28)

Boys

Training Blue (2 games), SAT. 9 am, v. OLA @ home; SUNDAY, 12:30 @ home, v. IHM black; TrainingReg. SAT, 10 am v. Notre Dame, @home
Lion 5 (2 games) THURS. 5 pm @ St. Greg's; SAT. 1 pm, v. OLA @home
Cubs SAT 2 pm, v. ND @ home
Lions 6 (2 games) SAT 4 pm v. Mt. Carmel @home, and SUN 3:30 v. St. Matts Gold
Eagles SAT 5 pm v. St. Matts @home
JV SAT 7 pm v. ND @ home
Sharks 8 FRIDAY 5 pm v. St. Gregs
Varsity FRIDAY 7 pm v. ND @ home

Girls

Training SAT 9 am v. Notre Dame @home
Lions 5 SAT 11 am v. St. Matts @home
Cubs SAT Noon v. ND @home
Eagles SAT 3 pm v. ND @home
JV SAT 6 pm v. ND @home
Varsity FRI 6 pm v. OLA@home



was the high scorer and the Eagles played some good defense. Cameron had a nice block on one of the big players for St. Pius. 4th Grade girls played a nice clean aggressive basketball game with an early start on Saturday. Madeleine Fesas really hustled and appeared to help on every play - especially on defense. Ally Anagnostou played smart and stayed between her opponent and the goal. Tyler Coy played aggressively and really came alive in the 4th quarter. Great job Girls! Daniel Lyle on Injured reserve reporting on the Burgess results: "What a exciting game! No lead larger than 4 points, back and forth till the end! Oak Knoll got the last bucket to win the game by 2, and Jack Loftus and Thomas Umhoffer with great shots to keep us close. We get better each week, and thank all our parents for their support so far this year! Go Panthers!"