



# ***Panther Sports*** ***Illustrated***

*Nativity School, Menlo Park February 10, 2009*

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## **Cub boys streak to the finish!**

### **Shark 8 boys win a tough game with grit and class**

The powerhouse Cub boys remain undefeated as we head into Week 7, after another strong showing at St. Charles on Saturday. The Cubs won 25-16 with Nick Robles owning the paint and contributing seven points. The Cubs' Lion brothers also are in first place in their division, winning Saturday 11-5 with good defense, passing and some incredible steals. Gabe Trucios lead the charge with some big defensive stops and four takeaways, two coming in the fourth quarter when the game was in the balance. Ricky Torres smothered the boards with 14 rebounds while Matthew Cruz was clutch at the free throw line. Great work guys, great work coaches.

The Cub girls split a pair of games this weekend, picking up a nice win on Sunday against Notre Dame, with Dorothy Aldridge playing a skillful low post, Maggie O'keefe making two steals and Kyra Sheeper working the ball at point against a tough ND defense. The Cubs played well on Saturday, too, but that game unfortunately tilted two points in the wrong direction at the buzzer.

The Shark 8 boys pulled out a dramatic victory with only 4 players for the last 3 minutes of the game on Saturday at St. Charles. After losing two guys in the third and fourth quarter, the team not only won, but pulled away and ended up winning by 5 points. The team was led by Gabe Robles, who scored a season high 21 points, and had 12 rebounds. Justin Herrera's had a great game on both sides of the court. He played aggressive defense while being the playmaker on offense with a number of drive and dish plays that were beautiful to watch.

The Varsity boys suffered their 1st loss of the season in another see-saw battle with rival St Charles, that once again, came down to the very end. The team played with a lot of heart, but came up a bit short. Led by Nathan Thomas, who had another dominating performance on both sides of the ball with 17 points and 14 rebounds. The Varsity girls had a bye but have spent their week off watching college ball and hob-nobbing with celebrities.

The Lion boys took the court against St. Charles on Super Bowl Sunday. Chente continued his quest for the rebounding crown nabbing rebound after rebound. Pull-up Josh Morgan and Miles were "dishing" the ball to open players all game as well as applying pressure defense that resulted in a few steals. Adrian and Kiato also had a few steals between them. Rick gave up his body as dove for a loose ball that was going out of bounds. Although the Lions were unable to mount a comeback against St. Charles on Sunday, they played one their best games of the season. Boys Eagles had a

What are the odds of this: Both the JV girls and the Eagle girls played fantastic, aggressive games against St. Charles on Saturday, but both teams lost by one heart-breaking point in overtime. These teams are in super-tough divisions and have played every game tight and aggressively. Keep it up, girls.

The 7th grade boys JV fell to St Charles 38-22 in a game that was slightly less exciting than the concurrently-timed Super Bowl. A tough Panther defense seemed to force a lot of turnovers and 3 second calls, but the hot shooting hands belonged to the host Tigers, who were able to score from the perimeter. Joel Chacon added some flair by hitting a 40 foot 3 pointer at the buzzer in the first half,

and then duplicating the feat at the end of the game. Jack Curley drew fouls and capitalized by going 5 for 6 from the line. The Panthers look to regroup with a bye before a homestretch vs. a couple of evenly matched opponents.

The 4th grade girls training team took a lot of good shots but could not remove the lid on the basket for good until the second half. Madeleine Fesas did a nice job of stealing the ball and Alexa Rivera again had a great game of hustle. Ally Anagnostou played forward and pulled down a lot of rebounds for the Panthers, but Coach Don reports: "St Charles is a formidable opponent so we will continue to practice and look forward to our next meeting."

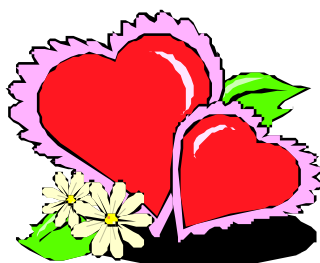
For the training white team boys, Andre Abad had great rebounding and some awesome steals and shooting attempts. Dylan VanHorn went to the free throw line twice and gave good effort but he also had great shooting. Overall, each and every one of them had great shooting, rebounding and great steals against St. Charles. Our Blue team had 2 games this weekend -our game against St. Charles on Saturday where Matthew Mehl had great shooting and some nice rebounds. Emilio Barbosa had 5 rebounds for the game as did David Flores. Ramon Barragan made an nice shot from the 3-point line. Jackson Polverari gave us strong play. The Blue squad's Sunday game against OLA went very well, our boys played hard and each of them had great rebounding, steals and awesome shooting! Sam Jalalian had many rebounds and two freethrows. Salvador Ruiz rebounded and showed great dribbling after he made some steals. Kyle Prushmeier had great shooting and great steals that ended in some awesome layups.

The report from third grade, courtesy of Jack Loftus: This past Saturday the Nativity 3rd grade boys played a great game. They played against the Encinal Thunder at Burgess Gym in Menlo Park. We are improving every game. Everyone on the Nativity team had a great time and played hard.

Most teams have a bye this weekend, but the 7th Grade girls play Sunday the 14th at the Burlingame Sports Complex against St. Matt's at 12:30. Sigh. All we can offer by way of condolences is some Valentines Hearts and a heartfelt 'GOOD LUCK JV GIRLS.'

*Happy Valentines*

*Day to all!!*



**Um, about the refs . . .**

**We've heard the reports and complaints, Panther fans, but here's the thing: We might as well go outside and yell at the clouds to stop raining as yell at the referees during a basketball game and think that is going to help our teams. It won't. It doesn't. What it does is increase the blood pressure in the gym, risk a technical foul that can hurt our kids' opportunity to win, and risk an ejection that can hurt our school's reputation.**

**Remember, booing, insulting, or heckling a referee can draw an ejection, and the referee has the right to eject a fan, as does the athletic director or sports commissioner of the home school if a fan is contributing to a negative environment in the gym. If you are ejected, you will be barred from the next game as well. Parents, we beg you, if you are watching a game and you feel you simply cannot contain yourself, get up, go outside, get some air, try to relax. Be a good "team" member and calm each other down. Refs are human. For every call you hate, there is an opposing fan who just said "Finally that call went our way."**