



Panther Sports ***Illustrated***

Nativity School, Menlo Park February 3, 2009

V-boys, Cub girls and boys still undefeated as we roll into Week 6!

The Panthers had many key wins this weekend: First, the **JV girls** played a great game on Saturday against Notre Dame. The girls lead the whole game and never looked back. Great play by Saba Jalalian and Katrina Botto made it difficult for Notre Dame to score. Alexia Farias sunk a number of good shots. It was the team's overall great play that helped them win 23 to 12. And chalk one up in the win column for the **Eagle 6 girls** in a nail-biter! Tied at halftime thanks to 2 nice baskets by Maggie Claude, Nativity stayed consistent in the second half with timely rebounds and eventually got fouled enough to get to the freethrow line, where Michelle Spence hit a clutch, go-ahead freethrow late in the fourth to put us up 15-14. Several offensive rebounds by Gianna Lyle in the last minute prevented Notre Dame from any chance to try for a shot, giving the Eagles their first win.

The **Shark 8 boys** brought their A game on Friday and delivered an impressive win for the team and the fans. Lead offensively by the play-making of Bhavik Patel and Justin Herrera who seemed to find the right open guy every time. Gabe Robles continued to get good position down low and was dominating offensively every time he touched the ball. Ronald Trabanino was like a ball magnet pulling down rebound after rebound. The team really came together and controlled the ball, passed well, and played shutdown defense. The **Lion 6 boys** got their first win of the season against Mt. Carmel. Chente Guerva had an excellent game, nabbing a season high 17 rebounds. Miles and Adrian stepped up their defense with a number of steals. Kiato, coming off of injured reserves, hit a nice jumper that brought the crowd to a roar. Rick also had a nice game, finding holes in the defense and getting to the basket. On Sunday against St. Matt's, the guys didn't quite get the outcome they wanted, but pull-up Mitchell Faure hit a nice jumper from the corner.

The **boys 7th JV** put up a tough fight and some big numbers, but eventually fell to an undefeated first place Notre Dame team, 47-33. The Panthers had a balanced scoring attack, with five players scoring. Nativity played a tough defense in the paint, especially in the first half, and trailed only by 4 points at the break. Joel Chacon hit a few of his trademark jumpers from the point. Jack Curley led the scoring and drew two charging calls in the key. Arrin and Gregory Skelley provided harassing defense against the larger opponents, and Miles Gentry pulled in some key boards. The Eagle boys lost by just one point to St. Matt's in an emotional game on Saturday. The **Eagle boys** were tenacious on defense. Justin and Cameron stuck to St. Matt's like glue, getting a number of steals and hustling from start to finish. Patrick, Ryan, and Collin had nice blocks. Ryan "Ice-ee" Honig stepped up to hit two big free throws in the 4th quarter. Chase's 3-point shot sent the crowd into an uproar. Jacob was the high scorer.

The **Varsity boys** are still undefeated after a hard-fought game with Notre Dame and its very aggressive man-to-



Michelle Spence hits a clutch game-winner from the line to give the happy Eagles their victory

man defense. Remy Arnold played a tenacious and scrappy game. Jake Guy, who was still getting over a bad cold, played tough defense and denied any penetration. This team gets better each week. The **Varsity girls** had their hands full against OLA Friday night, thanks to OLA's superstar guard. After a terrible first quarter, the Panther girls pulled themselves back together, with Olivia Del Rosso hitting three three-pointers and Izzy Comin grabbing some good boards. They actually played a tie game from the second quarter on, but OLA was up 43 to 32 at the buzzer. Earlier in the week, the girls dominated a non-league game against Redeemer Lutheran School 26-16, and Hana Kazarian had 10 points.

The **Cub 5 boys** AND the **Cub 5 girls** are both leading their divisions with undefeated records. **5th Grade Cub girls** narrowly defeated Notre Dame in the last few minutes of the game with Kyra Sheeper and Raveena Massis leading the team at point. Zoe Bell forced numerous Notre Dame turnovers with intense defense. Maggie O'Keefe had two break-aways in the fast paced game. The **Cub boys** played a well-coached and talented Notre Dame team, winning 23-15. The Cubs saw a third quarter lead erased by Notre Dame's pressure half-court defense and fast break. But the team responded to the challenge, shutting down Notre Dame in the 4th quarter. David Clarke led the team with 10 points, while defensively the Cubs relied on Nick Robles who pulled down rebounds in crunch time. Matthias Guegler contributed key rebounds and strong defense, despite a leg injury.

The **5th Grade boys Lions** had a full slate of games, going 2-1 despite some absences due to illness and injury and some stiff competition. On Thursday the visiting Lions outscored St. Greg's Maroon 14-6 on Mitchell Faure's outside touch and tenacious defense. Saturday's game against OLA was close to the end, but the Lions were undone by the visiting team's pressure defense, losing 22-15. Matthew Cruz shot 2 for 3 from the line and ended up with a season high 5 points. Finally, the Lions bounced back for an inspired win on Sunday beating St. Greg's Gold 20-2 despite playing with only four players (due to injury) for over half the game. Mitchell again led all scores with 8 and Ricky Torres commanded the boards with 13 rebounds while Gabe Trucios contributed strong defense. Manuel Porras keyed the offense with a solid effort at point guard. The **Lion 5 girls** faced off twice with St. Matt's resulting in two narrow losses. Brooke Badget returned to play at forward resulting in three assist passes to Rebecca Barner at low post. Alex Young had a steal along with two from Gabby Irwin. Michelle Pineda and Alyssa Nevarez did an awesome job moving the ball up court.

From the **Training team blue boys**, two good games: Against OLA on Sat. the boys showed awesome teamwork and played hard. We had Emilio Barbosa with 3 awesome rebounds as well as David Flores with several rebounds and four points. Game two was on Sunday against IHM on the big court; our boys played tough, hustled and kept their cool and showed great sportsmanship despite an unfortunate ejection of the opposing team's player. Kyle Prushmeier had some nifty steals that ended in some great layups and Matthew Mehl, Salvador Ruiz and Sam Jalalian played hard. Ramon Barragan and David Flores had great shots and great rebounding. Job well done and good work, coaches.

Our **White training team**, meanwhile, played against Notre Dame where Nicholas Cronin had some great shots as well as Jackson Polverari and Julian Verbo showed great teamwork and played tough defense. Thomas Tameilau, Joseph Claude and Dylan VanHorn had some excellent rebounding-way to go boys! The entire team of **4th Grade girls** played team basketball against the Notre Dame Vikings and improved greatly in the rebounding category. Shivani Patel had a particularly strong game of rebounding, while Krista Semenero was recognized again for her willingness to hustle. Not to be outdone, Kelcey Dobson showed the Vikings how good she is at stealing the ball. Awesome job to **all the girls**.

And finally, a late-breaking wrap-up from **3rd Grader** Dylan Fallon: "This week we played Encinal school. The team did a great job at covering our opponent but unfortunately we lost. Coach Cherry was away but a big thanks to Coach Lyle and Coach Loftus."

RULE CHECK: There often is confusion about the 3-second rule. The 3-second count ends whenever a shot goes up, and it does not begin again until the team shooting at that basket actually takes possession of the ball. Put-backs don't trigger the count. Secondly, especially with the younger kids, the refs prefer to warn the kids rather than call the violation, because they would otherwise have to call it every trip down the court. Please don't yell THREE SECONDS, which just raises the overall gym blood pressure.

Most teams play at St. Charles this week but ..READ CAREFULLY, SOME TEAMS PLAY TWO GAMES

Boys

Training white 9 am SAT @ St. Charles
Training royal blue, 11 am SAT @ St. Charles;
ALSO 4pm SUN @ Nativity v. OLA
Lion 5 12:30 SUN @ St. Charles
Cub 5 1:30 pm SUN @ St. Charles
Lion 6 2:30 pm SUN @ St. Charles
Eagles BYE
JV 4:30 pm SUN @ St. Charles
Shark 8 5:30 pm SUN @ St. Charles
Varsity 6:30 pm SUN @ St. Charles

Girls

Training Noon, SAT, St. Charles
Lions 5, 6 pm SUNDAY @ Nativity, v. St. Cat
Cubs 5, 1 pm SAT, V. St. Charles; also 5pm
SUNDAY @ Nativity, v. ND
Eagles 3 pm SAT. @ St. Charles
JV 4 pm SAT. @ St. Charles
Varsity BYE; scrimmage at Hillview, 7:20 Feb. 9