

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Mason Walsh
Carlsbad | Boys wrestling
Only a sophomore, Walsh scored a major decision 10-0 victory to capture the 113-pound weight class in the Masters meet.



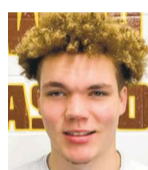
Revere Schmidt
S.F. Christian | Girls water polo
A junior multisport standout, Schmidt scored four goals to lead the Eagles past La Jolla 6-5 in the Division II championship game.



Nayelli Rodriguez
Bonita Vista | Girls water polo
Shutouts are rare in high-scoring high school water polo but the Barons senior accomplished the feat, combining a strong defense with 11 saves in a 9-0 triumph over Francis Parker in the Division III title game.



Allison Burwell
Canyon Crest | Softball
The junior got the season off to a blazing start, going 6-for-10 in three games, including back-to-back home runs.



Cam McCormick
Francis Parker | Boys basketball
A senior, McCormick was the go-to player for the top-seeded team in the Division I playoffs as he scored 29 and 26 points, adding double-figure rebounds in both games.



Michelle Crouteau
Coronado | Girls water polo
Making a dozen key saves, the senior goalie led the No. 2 seeded Islanders past Clairemont 11-3 to capture the Division I championship.

Nominate candidates for High School Athletes of the Week by sending information to stevenrbrand@gmail.com.

LONGTIME CHARGERS STAFFER ROGERS DIES

BY JAY POSNER

Pat Rogers-Thompson, who worked for more than three decades as the public relations secretary for the San Diego Chargers, died Monday at her El Cajon home.

Rogers-Thompson joined the club on April 1, 1963, and worked through the 1995 season before retiring.

"She was not only the backbone of the PR office, but really the entire front office," said Bill Johnston, who worked for the club from 1979-2017.

"As a girl Rogers lived in Hawaii where her father was a Navy radioman. She recalled as a 10-year-old winning a dance contest with a sailor on the night of Dec. 6, 1941.

"It was a day I'll never forget," Rogers told Tom Krasovic of the Union-Tribune in 1991. "Not in my entire life. I may forget everything else in this entire world, but I'll never forget that."

jay.posner@suniontribune.com



TIM DOUGHERTY DOUBLE EAGLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Westview High grad Mac Oribello (1) has found a college basketball home at Keystone College in Pennsylvania, but she'll be heading back to San Diego after her this school year.

ALUMNI REPORT

ORIBELLO'S ROAD HEADS HOME

BY JOHN MAFFEI

The long and winding road of a basketball career that has taken Mac Oribello from Westview High to San Francisco State to rural Pennsylvania is coming to an end.

After four years away from home, the Keystone College senior, who has 1,075 career points and ranks in the college's career Top 10 in scoring, assists (299) and steals (152), is looking forward to a return to San Diego and joining her brother in a family business.

First, however, are the conference playoffs and — she hopes — a shot at the NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament.

The Giants — 17-7 overall, 14-4 in the Colonial States Athletic Conference — are seeded second in the conference tournament and open play in the semifinals at home Wednesday.

Standing in the way of an NCAA Tournament berth is conference champion Clarks Summit, which is 21-4, 17-1 in conference play and holds a pair of wins over Keystone, one by two points, one by 21.

"We won the conference tournament and went to the NAAs my second year here," Oribello said. "We didn't do well (losing 72-47 to Messiah College), but it was a great experience.

Oribello stressed "one more time" because she doesn't plan to use her fifth year, the 2020-21 season lost to COVID-19.

"I love it here, love the program, the girls, but I graduate in May (with a degree in business and a minor in sports and recreation management), and it's time to get back to California," Oribello said. "My brother has a store in Mira Mesa where he buys and sells vintage clothes.

"I want to get involved, maybe open a second store."

Oribello started her college career in California at San Francisco State. She saw limited action as a freshman and decided to transfer.

The coaches at Keystone had recruited her out of high school, so she took a chance on a small

school in rural Pennsylvania, two hours from Philadelphia and 30 minutes from Scranton.

Keystone College has 1,300 students. La Plume, Pa., home of the college, has a population of 570.

"Mac is a great kid with a great personality," said Keystone coach Al Berger, who is in his first year at the school. "She's successful for a reason ... she puts in the work.

"I recruited her for another college when she went to San Francisco State, so I knew all about her when I got here. She's an incredible passer, but the fact she's a 1,000-point scorer is crazy."

Oribello has played just 65 career games, averaging 15.6 as a freshman, 18.3 as a sophomore and 16.3 this season.

She was the conference's Rookie of the Year in 2018-19 as well as first-team all-conference. She was just named first-team all-conference this season.

"Keystone is way small," said Oribello, who was a 1,000-point scorer at Westview. "The classes are small, and the weather is really different. I had never seen snow, the four seasons, before I got here. But I love it.

"The talent in Division III is very similar to Division II. We get great crowds for our games. Honestly, I couldn't have written a better script — 1,000 points, a lot of wins, great friends, great teammates, great coaches. I've made a lot of great memories here, and it was a very hard decision to not play next year.

"But it's time to come home, hopefully with a championship."

Coaching success

Vanessa Nygaard (Carlsbad) was recently named head coach of the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury. A star player at Stanford, Nygaard played for Cleveland, Portland, Miami and Los Angeles in the WNBA.

Jennifer Gross (University City) has 198 wins in just under 11 seasons as head women's basketball coach at UC Davis. A star player in high school, Gross scored 1,243 points as a player at

UC Davis and had 448 assists, 300 steals and 163 3-pointers. The Aggies, who are 12-10 this season, have made two NCAA Tournament appearances and been to the WNIT three times under Gross' leadership.

Men's basketball

JJ Overton (Rancho Bernardo) is averaging 12.5 and 3.7 rebounds as a senior at Weber State. A transfer from Utah Valley, he had a career-high 21 points against Idaho State and UMass.

Freshman AJ Burgin (San Diego) is averaging 2.0 points and 1.3 rebounds at Idaho State. He had a career-high 15 points vs. Bethesda.

Jalen Flanagan (El Camino) is averaging 9.4 points and 4.9 rebounds through 24 games at San Francisco State with a high of 21 vs. Chico State. Freshman Sam Kramer (La Costa Canyon) has played in 12 games and is averaging 1.5 points and 2.1 rebounds.

Sophomore Chibuzo Agbo (St. Augustine) is averaging 1.4 points and 1.2 rebounds for 21-6 Texas Tech.

Kobe Sanders (Christian) is averaging 6.5 points and 2.7 rebounds at Cal Poly SLO. Nick Carlson (Helix) has played in five games.

Baseball

Prospects Live lists six players with San Diego connections among its Top 250 players eligible for the MLB Draft.

USD left-hander Brycen Mautz is listed at No. 102; Ole Miss right-hander Derek Diamond (Ramona) is at 106; Vanderbilt first baseman Spencer Jones (La Costa Canyon) is at 117; Oregon outfielder Anthony Hall (Clairemont) checks in at 158; San Diego State right-hander Troy Melton is at 197 and Alabama shortstop Jim Jarvis (Clairemont) is at 231.

Jones was considered a left-handed pitching prospect, but had Tommy John surgery and is now limited to hitting.

John Maffei's Alumni Report appears during the college seasons. Readers are encouraged to submit information to john.maffei@suniontribune.com

SCOREBOARD

NBA Standings table with columns for Conference, Team, W, L, Pct., GB.

Baseball Standings table with columns for Division, Team, W, L, Pct., GB.

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DERBY

FROM D1

also suspended Baffert for 90 days and fined the Hall of Fame trainer \$7,500 on Monday. The decision followed a Feb. 14 hearing that was closed to the public and media.

Clark Brewster, an attorney who would appeal the ruling.

"This ruling represents an egregious departure from both the facts and the law," Brewster said, "but the numerous public statements by KHRC officials over the last several months have made perfectly clear that Bob Baffert's fate was decided before we ever sat down for a hearing before the three stewards, one of whom is directly employed by Churchill Downs as the racing director at Turfway Park."

The California Horse Racing Board said it will honor Baffert's suspension at its tracks. He is based at Santa Anita, where he has already won some of this season's 3-year-old prep races for the Kentucky Derby.

The CHRFB also said it will honor any stay or preliminary injunction if granted by Kentucky racing officials or a court.

Medina Spirit collapsed and died on Dec. 6 of a heart attack following a training run at Santa Anita less than a month after finishing second in the Breeders' Cup Classic at Del Mar. A necropsy found no definitive cause of the horse's death.

Baffert initially denied wrongdoing after a postrace drug test revealed 21 picograms of betamethasone in the horse's system. Baffert later acknowledged treating the horse with a topical ointment containing the corticosteroid for a skin inflammation.

Churchill Downs subsequently suspended Baffert, citing a recent spate of failed drug tests by his horses. Baffert sued the racing commission last June, seeking custody of remnant samples of Medina Spirit's blood and urine for subsequent testing to prove that the steroid did not come from an injection.

Another Baffert attorney, Craig Robertson, said in December that a urine test from a split sample showed the steroid came from an ointment.

Animal Wellness Action Executive Director Marty Irby applauded the stewards in a statement for taking action against Baffert, whom he called "American horse racing's most infamous violator."

"Baffert continues to drag horse racing through the mud in scandal after scandal," Irby said, "and we call on every racing jurisdiction in the nation to hold him accountable by reciprocating the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's suspension in their own state. We're elated that Baffert won't be participating in the upcoming 2022 Kentucky Derby and believe the horses will be better off, and the event will have more credibility, without him."

Graves writes for The Associated Press.

ODDSBOARD

SPORTS BETTING LINE

(Home team listed in CAPS)

College Basketball table with columns for Favorite, Line, Underdog.

NHL table with columns for Favorite, Underdog.

TRANSACTIONS

FOOTBALL

National Football League INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Re-signed CB Marvell Tell III.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Named Matt Daniels special teams coordinator, Daronte Jones defensive backs coach, Ben Kotwica assistant special teams coach, Wes Phillips offensive coordinator and Mike Smith outside linebackers/pass rush specialist.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Named Juan Castillo tight ends coach.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League ARIZONA COYOTES — Traded G Carter Hutton to Toronto in exchange for future considerations.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Re-assigned F Josh Leivo to Rockford (AHL).

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled F Matt Luff from Milwaukee (AHL).

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Re-assigned G Cory Schneider to Bridgeport (AHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS — Re-assigned G Filip Gustavsson to Belleville (AHL).

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Re-assigned F Radim Sobotka to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).

Activated LW Drew O'Connor from injured reserve and re-assigned him to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton.

VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Promoted D Madison Bowey from Abbotsford (AHL).

SOCCER FC DALLAS — Signed G Antonio Carrera to a three-year contract. HOUSTON DYNAMO FC — Waived M Joe Corona.