

# SPORTS

## SIDELINES

### PREP FOOTBALL STANDINGS PAC-5

School	League Overall
Paso Robles	0-0 5-0
Arroyo Grande	0-0 4-1
Atascadero	0-0 4-1
Righetti	0-0 3-1
SLO	0-0 1-4

### NORTHERN

School	League Overall
Templeton	0-0 4-1
Nipomo	0-0 3-2
Mission Prep	0-0 3-2
Morro Bay	0-0 2-3
Santa Maria	0-0 0-4

### LOS PADRES

School	League Overall
Lompoc	0-0 5-0
Pioneer Valley	0-0 2-2
St. Joseph	0-0 2-3
Cabrillo	0-0 2-3
Santa Ynez	0-0 1-4

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULES

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls tennis at Coast Union

7 p.m. THS varsity football hosts Santa Ynez (J.V. 4 p.m.)

7 p.m. PRHS varsity football hosts Morro Bay (J.V. 4 p.m.)

### SATURDAY

TBD PRHS cross country at Atascadero Invitational at Santa Margarita Lake

### MONDAY

No Events Scheduled

### TUESDAY

2:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls golf hosts Pioneer Valley at Paso Robles Golf Club

3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls tennis at Santa Ynez

3:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls tennis hosts Atascadero at Paso Robles Sports Club

4:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys water polo hosts Pioneer Valley

5:30 p.m. THS varsity girls volleyball hosts Cabrillo

6 p.m. PRHS varsity girls volleyball at Pioneer Valley

### WEDNESDAY

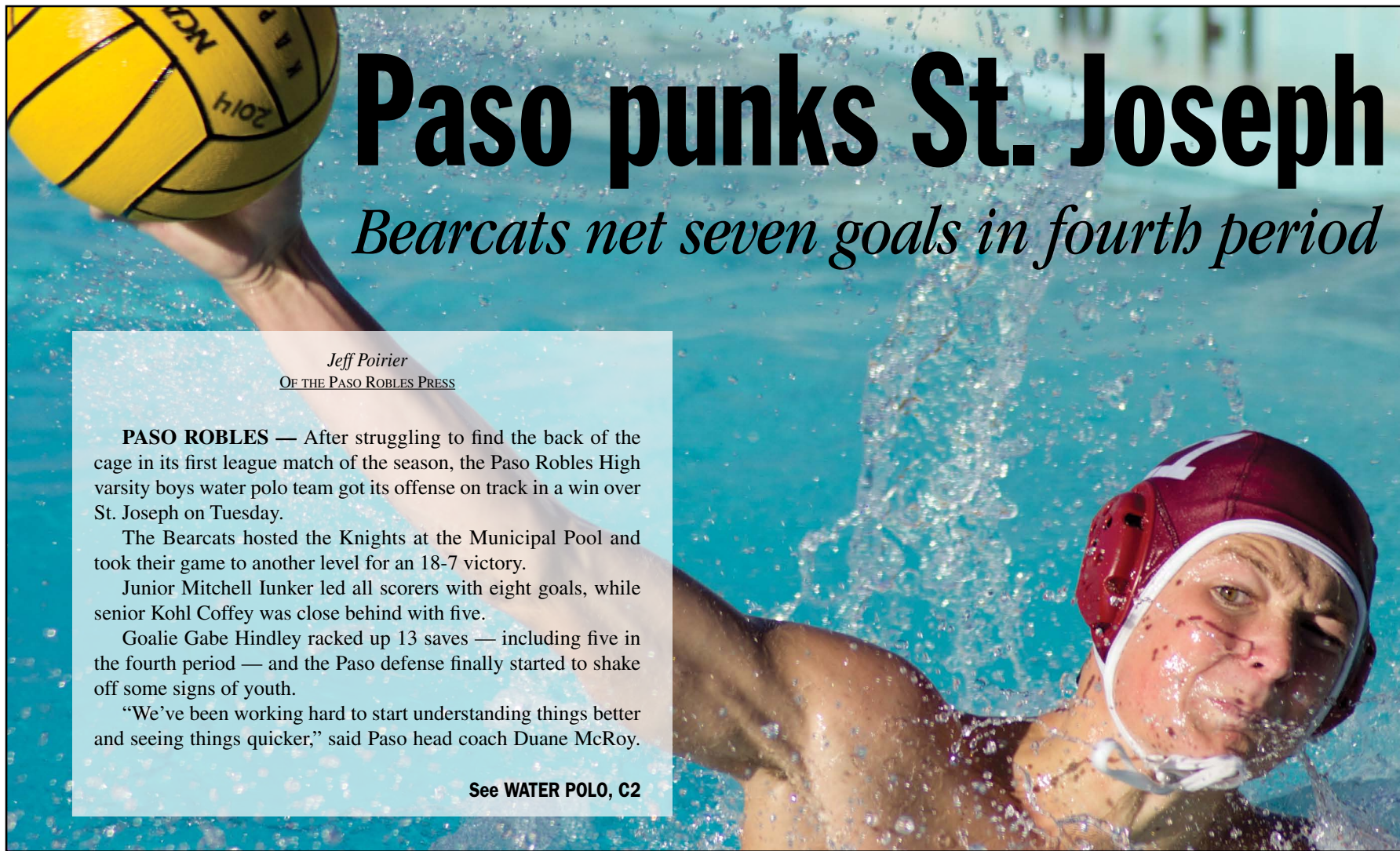
No Events Scheduled

**Note:** Schedules are provided by the local high schools and are subject to change without notice.

### TO REPORT SCORES

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## WATER POLO



# Paso punks St. Joseph

## Bearcats net seven goals in fourth period

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — After struggling to find the back of the cage in its first league match of the season, the Paso Robles High varsity boys water polo team got its offense on track in a win over St. Joseph on Tuesday.

The Bearcats hosted the Knights at the Municipal Pool and took their game to another level for an 18-7 victory.

Junior Mitchell Iunker led all scorers with eight goals, while senior Kohl Coffey was close behind with five.

Goalie Gabe Hindley racked up 13 saves — including five in the fourth period — and the Paso defense finally started to shake off some signs of youth.

“We’ve been working hard to start understanding things better and seeing things quicker,” said Paso head coach Duane McRoy.

See WATER POLO, C2

Paso Robles High senior Kohl Coffey fires a shot past the St. Joseph defense during a PAC-8 match on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at the Paso Robles Municipal Pool. Coffey came away with five goals versus the Knights in the Bearcats’ 18-7 victory, which lifted Paso’s record to 1-1 in league play.

## PREP FOOTBALL

# THS football on fire

## Eagles set sights on fifth-straight win

Nicholas Mattson  
FOR THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**LOMPOC** — A quick start to Friday’s non-conference road contest against the Cabrillo Conquistadores helped the Templeton High varsity football team hang on to its fourth consecutive win, 28-23. The victory sets up the Eagles for a possible five-game winning streak heading into their Northern League opener against Mission Prep.

THS head coach Dan Loney has stuck with the dual-quarterback system with senior Gunnar Griffin and junior Jordan Bernal both playing their roles under center. So far it has produced results.

The two combined for 146 yards on 11-for-23 passing in Friday’s win over the Conqs, with Bernal also churning out 119 yards on the ground on seven carries.

Bernal took advantage of some miscues by the Cabrillo defense early for big gains, and Templeton jumped out to a 20-7 lead in the first quarter.

See FOOTBALL, C3



Templeton High senior running back Bryson Messer hustles for a first down against San Luis Obispo earlier this season.

## PREP FOOTBALL

# Cats close preseason schedule

Paso Robles hosts Morro Bay tonight

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — With five wins in the fold, the Paso Robles High varsity football team is looking to stay perfect as the final preseason game rapidly approaches.

The Bearcats will host Morro Bay this evening at

See BEARCATS, C3

## PREP TENNIS

# Templeton tennis drops two decisions

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

## Eagles fall in consecutive Los Padres League outings

**TEMPLETON** — After picking up two Los Padres League wins in a row, the tables were turned on the Templeton High varsity girls tennis team.

The Eagles dropped con-

secutive matches to Nipomo and Cabrillo, bringing their LPL record to 2-4 through six contests.

THS traveled to Nipomo on Thursday, Sept. 25 and fell by a final of 6-12, while Cabrillo made the trip north on Tuesday

and headed home with a 13-5 win.

As head coach Mary K Housinger explained, the Eagles have been shorthanded for a variety of reasons recently.

“We’ve been struggling a little bit the past week,” Hous-

inger said. “Our kids are so busy academically and they’re involved in so many things... Sometimes they feel like they need to stay at school and get caught up on some things.”

Templeton was without its top two singles players against

the Titans, as freshman Bijou Burns is battling injury and sophomore Mili Proft elected to hit the books instead of the courts.

Burns was also out for the Cabrillo match, while junior Ashley Barnes was forced to

See TENNIS, C3

## Paso Robles Press

# Athletes of the Week

Congratulations to the Athletes of the Week!



## Josh Oliver

Paso Robles High School

Senior Josh Oliver was huge in Paso’s 42-10 win over Nordhoff last week, coming up with several key stops on defense. The two-way standout also caught a pair of passes for 14 yards. Congratulations, Josh!



## Lauren Ralston

Templeton High School

Junior Lauren Ralston led Templeton to road wins over Lompoc and Morro Bay last week, posting a combined 19 kills, 35 digs and three aces in the two league matches. Congratulations, Lauren!



# SPORTS

## SIDELINES

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULES

#### FRIDAY, FEB. 6

- 4:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls soccer hosts Mission Prep
- 5:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls basketball at Mission Prep
- 6:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys soccer hosts Mission Prep
- 6:30 p.m. THS varsity girls basketball at Nipomo
- 6:30 p.m. THS varsity boys basketball hosts Nipomo
- 7 p.m. PRHS varsity boys basketball at Mission Prep

#### SATURDAY

No Events Scheduled

#### MONDAY

No Events Scheduled

#### TUESDAY

- 3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls soccer hosts Cabrillo
- 3:30 p.m. THS varsity boys soccer at Cabrillo
- 5 p.m. Shandon varsity girls basketball hosts Cuyama Valley
- 6:30 p.m. Shandon varsity boys basketball hosts Cuyama Valley
- 6:30 p.m. THS varsity girls basketball hosts Cabrillo
- 6:30 p.m. THS varsity boys basketball at Cabrillo

#### WEDNESDAY

- TBD PRHS varsity girls water polo at PAC-8 Tournament
- 4:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls soccer at Pioneer Valley
- 5:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls basketball hosts Pioneer Valley
- 6:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys soccer at Pioneer Valley
- 7 p.m. PRHS varsity boys basketball hosts Pioneer Valley

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Photos by Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

Paso Robles High seniors Bailey Gaither, Josh Oliver and Jonathan Baldwin each signed their National Letter of Intent to play college football at a ceremony on Wednesday afternoon at PRHS. Gaither and Oliver made their commitment to San Jose State University official, while Baldwin inked his name to attend Northern Arizona University.

# Paso Robles verbals verified

## Trio of Cats make college commitments official



Paso Robles High senior Bailey Gaither puts pen to paper and makes his college football commitment official.



Paso Robles High senior Josh Oliver addresses the crowd during the Bearcats' signing ceremony at PRHS.



Paso Robles High senior Jonathan Baldwin has plenty reason to smile during a television interview on Wednesday.

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — Three of Paso Robles High's top football prospects took the next step in pursuit of their dreams on Wednesday afternoon.

Seniors Bailey Gaither, Josh Oliver and Jonathan Baldwin all signed their National Letter of Intent to play college football during a ceremony at the Paso Robles High School Performing Arts Center in front of friends, family, coaches, teammates and plenty of media members.

Gaither and Oliver are both headed up Highway 101 to attend San Jose State University, while Baldwin will cross state lines to suit up at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

The trio of Bearcats — each one of whom was an integral part of Paso Robles' CIF Southern Section Northern Division Championship this season — made their verbal commitments months ago.

Now, with ink on the page, each Paso senior has officially joined the roster of his respective college team.

On a day when so many recruits across the country flip commitments and shock the world, Gaither, Oliver and Baldwin all stayed true to their prior pledges.

"It's a weight off the shoulders," Oliver said. "I'm just feeling blessed right now to have everything happen the way I wanted it to. When I was a freshman, I always had big dreams. And to get there, it's a big relief."

Oliver will make the switch to SJSU alongside Gaither. Having a close friend to

See FOOTBALL C2

## WATER POLO

# Rivalry game goes the distance

## Hounds defend home pool against Bearcats in overtime

Nicholas Mattson  
FOR THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**ATASCADERO** — When the Bearcats scored the go-ahead goal with five seconds left in the fourth quarter of Tuesday's PAC-8 rivalry game against host Atascadero High girls varsity water polo, a large, and loud, Greyhounds' fan section was left holding their heads in disbelief. But the game was not over, and would be decided in overtime.

In the final seconds, Atascadero mobbed the Bearcats' goal, and through a physical scrum — half of which occurred below the surface of the water and out of sight of any official eyes — AHS found the goal needed to extend the game into extra periods, tied 7-7.

"That was just hard work and guts," AHS head coach Mitch Stafford said. "The girls were just playing with intensity. There were moments of adversity, and moments that it was kind of unwinding, but we pulled it together and played."

Leading up to the craziness that was the end of regulation, Atascadero took a 3-1 lead in the first period before falling behind to force their improbable comeback.

On the Bearcats' first possession, Sarah St. Clair stole the pass to the setter, but Atascadero lost the possession themselves in the same situation, as each team searched for the open shot or advantage against their rival.

On a subsequent possession, near the 5:00 mark of the first period, St. Clair got an open pass into AHS senior Emily Ferree, who whipped around her opponent for a right-handed shot into the right corner of the goal, and Atascadero took a 1-0 lead.

Paso Robles responded with a shot on AHS goalie Riley Brown, but Brown reacted for the block with her right hand and knocked the ball out of bounds. Paso retained possession, and got a new shot clock.

PRHS senior Natalie Reeves entered the ball, and Atascadero's Megan Hendrickson swam out to press.

See BEARCATS, C7

## Paso Robles Press

# Athletes of the Week

Congratulations to the Athletes of the Week!



## Quinn Parker

Paso Robles High School

Senior Quinn Parker sparked Paso in wins over Atascadero and San Luis last week. Parker scored 16 points versus the Hounds and added 21 in an overtime win against the Tigers. Congratulations, Quinn!



## Lauren Sowerby

Paso Robles High School

Senior Lauren Sowerby helped Paso Robles take care of Nipomo in a non-league game last week. Sowerby scored four goals in a 6-4 win on the road in the Titans' home pool. Congratulations, Lauren!

## COLLEGE SOCCER

# Elterman sets course for San Jose State

## Templeton star to play soccer for Spartans

Nicholas Mattson  
FOR THE PASO ROBLES PRESS



TEMPLETON — On the wings of destiny, Templeton High School senior Courtney Elterman signed her National Letter of Intent on Wednesday to trade her wings for a helmet, and transform from a long-time Eagle to become a San Jose State University Spartan.

Shining on the soccer field attracted the attention of SJSU coaches over the last couple years, and Elterman brings a million-dollar smile to the roar of the Spartans as they work to rise up through the ranks of the Mountain West Conference.

“I think of San Jose as meant to be,” Elterman said, “because I signed up for a UCSB camp, but hurt my hamstring the day before.”

Elterman said she was unsure about attending the camp,

with good reason.

“I didn’t want to do poorly in front of the coaches there, that would be embarrassing,” Elterman said.

Decisions and injuries can complicate the career of any athlete, and there are moments in life, like on the field, when pursuing a course of action takes precedence over rest.

These are the moments that make or break a career in unimaginable ways. The future just cannot be guaranteed, and sometimes showing up despite

the arguments opens doors that would otherwise not be.

For Elterman, staying the course was a big part of her future.

“I rested it the day before,” Elterman said. “Then I just went and sucked it up. And San Jose was at that camp and it ended up working out. That is how I met them.”

Signing to attend a university is one of the first big decisions kids make in their lives as they transition from children into young adults, taking their



Nicholas Mattson/For the Paso Robles Press

Templeton High senior Courtney Elterman signs her National Letter of Intent on Wednesday to attend San Jose State University and play soccer for the Spartans. Flanking Elterman, from left to right, are coach Moises Jimenez, coach Mario Perez, father Mark, mother Wendy and sophomore sister Annie.

destiny in their own hands.

Elterman’s moment was powerful as she signed to make the leap into the next level of education and athletics in front of a standing-room only crowd in the hall of the THS administration building.

Cheers rose from the crowd when she announced, “I’ll be signing to San Jose State.”

Childhood uncertainties collided with commitment of womanhood for the young soccer talent as she put pen to paper between her mother and father, and in the presence of her Templeton coaches.

“I just want to say thanks to my parents and my sister,” Elterman said. “I also want to thank my club coach Bob Gala-

neau, my high school coach Mario Perez, faculty and staff, my teammates and friends. Thank you all.”

Elterman and the Eagles will be on the pitch for Senior Night against Cabrillo on Tuesday. The final home game of the regular season begins at 3:30 p.m. at Volunteer Stadium in Templeton.

### FOOTBALL

Continued from C1

commit with was a big part of the process for the two future Spartans.

“As soon as I committed, I felt it was right,” Gaither said. “Two and a half hours from home, a best friend of mine is going there ... I was really looking forward to this day.”

While Oliver and Gaither get settled in San Jose, Baldwin will be getting used to life in the mountains at Northern Arizona. As Baldwin explains, the choice was clear to him after visiting the NAU campus and getting to know the community there.

“I went there for camp over the summer and something clicked — Flagstaff, the school, the football program — it’s all a good fit for me,” Baldwin said. “So it seemed like the right choice.”

One of the obvious attractions of being a college football player is receiving a scholarship, but another is the chance to compete at a high level in some of the biggest venues in the sport.

All three Bearcats will have the chance to show their skills in the coming seasons, and it begins next year with a few huge games.

San Jose State has non-conference road games at Oregon State and Auburn, while NAU will travel to face Arizona in Tucson.

Taking the field on that sort of stage is one of the most exciting aspects of playing at the next level.

“I’ve been looking forward to this since I was a little kid,” Gaither said. “I’m really looking forward to all the games that are coming up, so I just can’t wait to get up there.”

As important as the football aspect is, it’s only one portion of the equation. Academics, social relationships and lifestyle also play their part in the decision-making process.

“We got to meet what all seemed like good, quality guys — guys you’d want on your team and to have your back,” Oliver said of his fellow SJSU commits. “The coaches were all really cool to me, and the players that were already there, they weren’t too high on themselves.”

Baldwin spoke on a similar sentiment, citing the chemistry with his future teammates as something he couldn’t wait to start building.

“I think it’s a huge part of what brings a team together — the bonds between the guys — so that’s what I’m looking forward to,” Baldwin said.

The future is coming fast, but the Bearcats are making sure to enjoy the present and remember the past as well.

“Soon I’m gonna be up there, so I’m just enjoying the moment,” Gaither said. “I’m really excited for the future. I’m looking forward to go, work hard and try to get better as a person and as a player.”

For Baldwin, he said he’ll remember what this particular group of Bearcats meant to Paso Robles.

“The kind of support we got from Paso Robles was just amazing,” Baldwin said, reflecting on what it’ll mean to leave his hometown. “That’s probably the biggest thing I’ll miss.”

The loss of Gaither, Oliver and Baldwin will be tough to contend with for Paso Robles High football, but that’s not something that head coach Rich Schimke is worried about just yet.

Schimke and athletic director Tom Harrington both spoke at the signing ceremony and had words of wisdom for the young Bearcats.

“People are asking how it’s gonna be next year, and I don’t know if we can clone these three up here,” Schimke said. “The senior class this year just wrote a legacy. We had our difficulties along the way, and they stuck with it, persevered, believed, and I’m so proud of them.”

Schimke challenged the trio to carry on the “Bearcat way” as they make the transition from high school to college, whether it be in academics, athletics of life in general.

As Oliver, Baldwin and Gaither finish up basketball and baseball this year, they’ll be rounding out high school athletic careers that couldn’t have gone much better.

The trio of Bearcats brought glory back to the halls of Paso Robles High School, while setting themselves up for the future at the same time.

## BEARCATS

Continued from C1

Reeves passed out to senior Jessica Reeves, who was covered by Ferree. Jessica tried to pass back to Natalie, but the pass was blocked short by Ferree, and Hendrickson beat Natalie out to the ball for a fierce fight over the possession.

Hendrickson won the possession, and was fouled by Natalie Reeves. The Hounds swam down and set up on offense, and Hendrickson passed to AHS senior Courtney McCarthy near the 5-meter mark.

McCarthy saw her chance, as Jessica Reeves was giving her some room, and McCarthy made a shot high into the corner of the Bearcats' goal to put Atascadero up, 2-0.

On a subsequent play, Paso Robles' goalie Kelsey Lewis passed deep ahead to sophomore driver Miranda Pasky, who made quick work to put a well-placed shot into the high corner over Brown. The Bearcats were on the board, 2-1.

Atascadero's Izzy Bischel returned fire to score with 2:12 on the first-quarter clock, and Atascadero held the 3-1 lead into the second quarter.

The teams changed sides, and Atascadero came out swinging in the second period. A quick shot by Mika Williams bounced off the crossbar and Paso Robles came storming back. Lewis passed up to Natalie Reeves who saw senior captain Lauren Reed open in the set position, with nothing between her and Brown but water.

Reed made the easy shot, taking advantage of the Hounds' defensive lapse, pulling the Bearcats within 3-2.

Paso Robles defended the next Hounds' possession well, and returned on offense. A pass into Reed was defended by McCarthy, and Ferree swam in to claim the loose ball for Atascadero.

Ferree, to McCarthy, to Hendrickson, back to Ferree in the left corner led to a shot that was batted over the top of the goal by Lewis. Atascadero retained possession.

The possession ended with a McCarthy shot that nearly got past Lewis, but the Bearcats' goalie got just enough claws on the ball to keep it out.

McCarthy defended the Paso Robles shooter, and the ball sailed wide, and Brown recovered to pass out to Hendrickson.

On a subsequent Paso Robles possession, Reed drew an ejection on Ferree — which forced her to the sidelines — to give the Bearcats a six-on-five advantage for :20.

During the ejection time, the Bearcats were free to pass around to find the open player, and PRHS senior Summer Botts made the score from the left wing, bringing the game to a 3-3 tie with 3:00 remaining in the half. Ferree reentered the game.

Brown stole a subsequent pass and the Hounds drove on offense. Hendrickson drew an ejection on Pasky, and the Hounds gained the six-on-five advantage. A missed pass between Hounds cost valuable ejection seconds and disrupted the rhythm of the offense, leaving the opportunity on the table as Paso Robles fought to earn a foul on a rebound.

On offense, Reed saw an opportunity against Brown, and shot over St. Clair, but Brown responded to knock the ball down and give Atascadero back the ball. Atascadero did not capitalize, but great defense by St. Clair kept the game knotted at 3-3 into halftime.

In the third quarter, Paso Robles took its first lead of the game, taking advantage of a six-on-five scenario with St. Clair sitting out an ejection.

A quick pass-and-shoot inside to Natalie Reeves delivered the score for the Bearcats at the 4:00 mark and Paso Rob-



Nicholas Mattson/For the Paso Robles Press

**Paso Robles High junior Kelsey Lewis leaps from the water to deflect a shot attempt during a PAC-8 rivalry game against Atascadero High on Tuesday afternoon in Atascadero.**

les went up, 4-3. The Bearcats held the 4-3 lead into the fourth quarter.

With 5:00 left, Lewis passed ahead to Reed, but St. Clair broke up the pass and McCarthy swam out to get the ball between two Bearcats — Botts and Reed. McCarthy was called for a foul while keeping the Bearcats at bay, and Paso returned on the attack.

Reed passed ahead to junior Makenna Pugh on the left side, and Pugh passed up to a wide-open Pasky in front of the goal. Pasky spun for the goal past Brown, and Paso Robles took a firm 5-3 lead with 4:10 left.

On a subsequent possession, Paso Robles earned another ejection, sending Williams to the sidelines for :20 valuable seconds of six-on-five advantage for the Bearcats.

Paso Robles coach Duane McRoy called a timeout to strategize the Bearcats' opportunity to put the game further away. Out of the timeout, Botts scored another goal, and the Bearcats had gone on a 5-0 run to gain a 6-3 lead late in the fourth quarter.

The Greyhounds were playing in-your-face defensive press all over the pool, and it paid off with a McCarthy steal. McCarthy drove, and took an open shot, but Lewis batted it down.

Paso Robles, with a lead and a shrinking clock, worked the seconds down on every possession, but gave up the ball without a score as Lewis made a long pass that was intercepted by Atascadero.

Hendrickson took another shot with 1:40 left, but Lewis was able to knock it down and recover for the Bearcats. With :30 on the shot clock, Paso Robles had a chance to do major damage to the game

clock. An ill-advised foul by Hendrickson earned and ejection, and gave Paso Robles a new :30. Just by running the clock down, the Bearcats could get the game clock below 1:00 — putting the pressure on the Hounds, still down, 6-4, but with Hendrickson out for :20, the Bearcats drew up an offensive.

Atascadero defended, down a player to the leading 'Cats, but vicious defense near the goal delivered the ball to the Greyhounds, and Brown sent the ball out to Faith Archibald on the counter.

Archibald passed ahead to McCarthy on the right wing, and McCarthy spun wizardry to put the ball scorching by Lewis on the near side. Atascadero pulled within 6-5, with :40 left.

The Bearcats never developed an offensive play, content to run the clock out to :10 and throw the ball away as the shot clock expired. But Atascadero was not done.

Brown recovered the long shot by Lewis, and an excited Atascadero squad raced downpool in front of a roaring crowd.

A long shot by Faith Archibald bounced off the cross bar, and Ferree beat three closing Bearcats to the rebound. Ferree made a spinning shot over Lewis and into the back of the goal to tie the game, 6-6, as half the crowd jumped to its feet.

"It was so loud," McCarthy said. "We couldn't even hear each other in the pool."

With :10 left, the game seemed to be headed to overtime with the Hounds surging. But Brown was pulled way out of the goal for Atascadero, and the Bearcats just lobbed a long shot over her head and into the goal for the go-ahead, 7-6, goal.

"Instead of dwelling on it," Stafford said. "We took another

step and kept playing. One bad goal or one bad call, it is easy to get you down, but this year coach [Chris] Ferree has done a real good job on the mental toughness."

Atascadero passed deep into a crowd, with a hail-mary shot and a prayer. The ball bobbed as hands grabbed, but McCarthy ripped it away and in for the second game-tying score in 10 game-seconds. The shot flew in at the buzzer, and forced an overtime battle.

"We were running on adrenaline," McCarthy said. "We were tired, but we were going to play for our teammates. We don't want them to quit on us. We aren't going to quit on them."

In overtime, Paso Robles struck first, with a goal by senior captain Lauren Sowerby with 2:10 left in the first 3:00 overtime period.

Atascadero answered with a deep strike by McCarthy from about 12-yards out. The ball nearly caught fire as it sailed into the left corner of the goal for the game's fourth game-tying score, 8-8.

Atascadero pressed, and Ferree forced a bad pass from Pugh, and Hendrickson swam to recover. She drove to the right wing, where she volleyed back-and-forth with Archibald

while McCarthy found her position in the set position in front of the goal.

Hendrickson found her pass, and sent the ball into the unconscious McCarthy, who flipped the ball over Sowerby and past Lewis for the score to give Atascadero its first lead since the second quarter, 9-8. McCarthy, along with the rest of the Hounds, were hitting high notes on pure energy.

High-pressure defense by St. Clair popped the ball out, and Ferree scored another goal for the Hounds. Atascadero took a 10-8 lead into the second overtime period.

Atascadero won the sprint, as they had every quarter of the game, but Paso Robles played tough defense to force a turnover. Lewis passed down to Natalie Reeves, who passed to Jessica Reeves.

Jessica Reeves turned to face Williams, and did not see McCarthy swoop in for the steal, and Atascadero turned around for the counter. But it was short-lived as Natalie Reeves closed in to steal the ball back, and found Botts wide-open at the 2-meter mark in front of Atascadero's goal. Botts put the ball past Brown easily, and pulled the Bearcats within 10-9 with 2:00 remaining.

AHS answered immediately. St. Clair passed up to Hendrickson, who flipped the ball in to Ferree. Ferree steadied herself against the pressure, and struck a shot that glanced off Lewis' hand and into the goal to give the Hounds a late cushion, 11-9.

On offense, the Bearcats got the ball in to a driving Reed, who was clobbered by St. Clair to give Paso Robles a penalty shot from the 5-meter mark. Pugh put the ball in for the score, and the Bearcats pulled within 11-10 with 1:24 left.

Reed played McCarthy aggressively in the middle of the pool and stole the ball. Fighting all the way, McCarthy recovered to turn Reed away from

the open drive. The ensuing chaos ran the shot clock down on the Bearcats, and a long shot sailed over the cross bar as the shot clock expired. Atascadero escaped a near-disaster.

A shot by Ferree was turned into a counter, as both teams found themselves victims of the high intensity of a game within, or out of reach, respectively. Lewis passed long to a cherry-picking Pasky, and she almost had an open counter, but the ball popped up behind her arm as she stroked toward Brown.

Pasky recovered the loose ball, and drew an ejection on St. Clair that put her out of the game for :20 of the final :23. Atascadero had to play five-on-six for nearly the entire offensive set of the Bearcats.

Lewis brought the ball in, the ball passed to Pugh, then to Botts, as Atascadero scrambled to keep up with a player down. Archibald swam out to meet Botts and fouled.

Botts passed across to Pasky who tried to get it in to Natalie Reeves in the middle, but Hendrickson made the play on Pasky's elbow, and the pass was short. Brown recovered, and Atascadero ran out the clock for the win, 11-10.

"It was the best thing ever," Ferree said. "For my last three years on varsity, we haven't beaten them during league. We have in the league tournament, but not in league. It was really cool to be the last game ever in front of the home crowd. That was the loudest game we have ever had. It was really cool to have that support."

The game was for the ages, and Atascadero battled against the odds with an epic rival. The game came down to the final seconds, just like it should have in the final game of the PAC-8 League regular schedule.

Atascadero (4-2 PAC-8, 12-13 overall) may face Paso Robles in the league finals on Wednesday, Feb. 11, or Friday, Feb. 13, in Arroyo Grande. Times are yet to be announced.

## PREP BASKETBALL

# Shandon on pace for third straight CIF berth

## Outlaws clip Crusaders despite 41 from Dam-Mikkelsen

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**SHANDON** — What has already been a season of redemption got even better for Shandon High basketball on Tuesday night.

The Outlaws played host to North County Christian for a Coast Valley League game, and the home team finished in front despite a 41-point performance from the Crusaders' Andrew Dam-Mikkelsen. The NCCS senior guard accounted for all but six of his team's points, as the Crusaders fell to the Outlaws by a final score of 59-47.

With the win, Shandon improves to 5-3 in the league standings, while NCCS is still searching for its first tally in the Coast Valley win column.

The Outlaws have two league contests remaining as they try to lock down a CIF playoff berth for the third consecutive season. As it stands, Shandon is in position to finish with its first winning record in at least 10 years.

"I think we went over a lot of fundamentals," said first-year Shandon coach Ejon Felder. "Understanding defen-

sive philosophies and where to be on offense, just teaching them how to play the game — the basics of the game."

While Shandon sets its sights on CIF, North County Christian is looking for any kind of momentum as the off-season approaches.

The Crusaders only have seven players on their roster, and only five were present for the outing in Shandon. As such, the entire team played all 32 minutes of the game, which doesn't allow much margin for error. Though the night ended in defeat, there were some bright spots for NCCS. The first and foremost was Dam-Mikkelsen. It goes without saying that he led all scorers with 41 points, but his play was more than just getting buckets.

Dam-Mikkelsen also pulled down 16 rebounds to ensure a double-double, while adding five steals and three thunderous blocks. It's no secret that the Crusaders offense runs through Dam-Mikkelsen, and that was evident against the Outlaws as he shot the ball 36 times. Perhaps his best weapon was the ability to score off the bounce,

particularly when he employed the Euro step to cut through the defensive front.

After Dam-Mikkelsen came senior Elijah Shively and freshman Frank Prebor, who finished the game with four points and two points, respectively.

For Shandon, three players reached double-digit scoring, led by sophomore Juan Reyes with 11 points. The Outlaws also got 10 points apiece from junior Josiah York and sophomore Jose Hernandez. Reyes was outstanding all around, posting a double-double with 10 rebounds. The next rebounder for Shandon was sophomore Beige Grassotti with nine, five of which came on the offensive glass.

Despite the play of Dam-Mikkelsen, the game got out of hand early for the Crusaders. Shandon took a double-digit lead in the opening minutes of the first quarter and never stopped pushing.

After a free throw by Dam-Mikkelsen slowed their roll, the Outlaws went back to work with three straight scores. York finished a transition layup before Grassotti closed the quarter with two buckets, giving Shandon a 24-7 lead after one.

The Outlaws then scored the first eight points of the second quarter, extending their lead to 32-7 in the process.

NCCS answered with an eight-point run as Dam-Mikkelsen drained two 3-pointers and then went coast-to-coast for another basket. The outburst trimmed the Outlaws' lead back to 17, but the Crusaders were stuck on 15 points for the rest of the half. Shandon strung together eight points in a row, including a long jumper by Hernandez with 10 seconds before halftime. The Outlaws led 40-15 at the break and would only widen the gap in the third.

The Crusaders only scored four points in the third, while Shandon added 10 to its total to make the count 50-19.

With the game essentially over, Felder emptied the bench and Dam-Mikkelsen started to dominate. NCCS netted eight of the first nine points in the quarter, including three consecutive baskets by Dam-Mikkelsen at the rim. The Crusaders scored 28 points in the fourth quarter alone, which is ridiculous given their total of 19 points through the first three frames.



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

**Shandon High freshman Gonzalo Barajas looks to pass in transition during a league game against North County Christian on Tuesday.**

The effort wasn't enough to overcome the huge deficit, but it does give North County Christian something to work with going forward.

Other than Dam-Mikkelsen, the Crusaders also got a solid effort from junior Kendall Van Ness, who grabbed eight rebounds while running with the big boys. Freshman Joseph Trigueiro added five boards,

while Prebor had four and Shively had three. Shively also had two assists, two steals and one block for NCCS.

Looking ahead, the Crusaders are back in action this evening, while the Outlaws are off until next week. NCCS will host Valley Christian this afternoon at Colony Park in Atascadero, and Shandon will host Cuyama Valley on Tuesday.

## SIDELINES

## COMING FRIDAY



CIF STATE BOWL  
PREVIEW

CIF FOOTBALL  
SCORES

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

— Paso Robles 13,  
Newbury Park 10

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

— Nipomo 22,  
Arrowhead Christian 19

PREP SPORTS  
SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

3:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys soccer hosts THS at Barney Schwartz

3:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls soccer at THS

4 p.m. PRHS varsity girls water polo at Arroyo Grande

## WEDNESDAY

TBD PRHS varsity boys basketball at North High Shootout in Bakersfield

TBD THS and PRHS varsity girls basketball at SLO/MB Tournament

## THURSDAY

TBD PRHS varsity boys basketball at North High Shootout in Bakersfield

TBD THS and PRHS varsity girls basketball at SLO/MB Tournament

3:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys soccer at Morro Bay

3:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls soccer hosts Morro Bay at Barney Schwartz

3:30 p.m. THS varsity boys soccer hosts AHS

3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls soccer at AHS

4:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls water polo hosts Morro Bay at Municipal Pool

**Note:** Schedules are provided by the local high schools and are subject to change without notice.

## TO REPORT SCORES

We want to get local scores and sports briefs in the newspaper — call sports reporter Jeff Poirier at 237-6060, Ext. 205 or email him at sports@pasoroblespress.com.

## CIF CHAMPIONSHIP: PASO ROBLES 13, NEWBURY PARK 10

## Bearcats can't be beat

*Paso Robles clinches first CIF football title since 2000*



Photos by Nicholas Mattson/For the Paso Robles Press

Members of the Paso Robles High varsity football team pass around the championship plaque while celebrating a 13-10 win over Newbury Park High that clinched the CIF Southern Section Northern Division title on Friday night at a jam-packed War Memorial Stadium.

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — While rain fell and soothed the drought-stricken Central Coast soil on Friday night, another dry spell was coming to an end in Paso Robles.

For the first time since 2000, the Paso Robles High Bearcats are CIF football champions after finishing off Newbury Park in the CIF Southern Section Northern Division title game.

The Bearcats survived a mud bowl at War Memorial Stadium to score a 13-10 win over the Panthers that will go down in PRHS history.

As the Paso offense kneeled out the clock in the victory formation, the celebration started. Fans and families stormed the field while players slid through the mud and took in every sight and sound around them.

The energy was palpable, and it won't soon be forgotten by this group of Bearcats.

"It's fantastic," said junior defensive end Evan Espinoza. "This was our goal from the beginning and we can only dream of actually doing it. Now that it's done, it's just a dream come true. There's no better feeling right now."

Espinoza and the Paso defense had a spectacular game, holding an explosive Newbury Park offense to just 10 points. The conditions certainly helped slow the Panthers down, but the Bearcats were giving it all on each and every play to reach the finish line.

Two plays down the stretch stick out as indicative of the defensive effort. Clinging to a 13-10 lead late in the fourth quarter, the Bearcats stopped Newbury Park on fourth down to end two consecutive drives.

The first came when junior nose guard Jacob Stanko swatted a pass at the line of scrimmage, and the second was minutes later after the offense lost its third fumble of the night.

The Bearcats had issues with ball security from the center-quarterback exchange, and the turnover with 2:45 left in the fourth quarter gave the Panthers new life.

Paso Robles needed one last defensive stop to get over the hump, and the Bearcats responded.



Paso Robles High head coach Rich Schimke hoists the 2014 CIF Southern Section Northern Division plaque after leading the Bearcats to their first divisional football championship since 2000. Schimke has won three CIF titles with Paso Robles.

On fourth down, NP was one yard shy of keeping the drive alive.

The Panthers lined up for a dive play behind 6-foot-4, 310-pound senior offensive lineman Zach Okun, who just so happens to be committed to the Oregon Ducks for college.

Conventional knowledge would lead to the conclusion that Okun got the push needed to convert, but the Paso defense wrote a different ending.

The Bearcats willed their way into the backfield, led by Stanko and senior captain Michael Horne, and they made a play that epitomized the Paso Robles championship run.

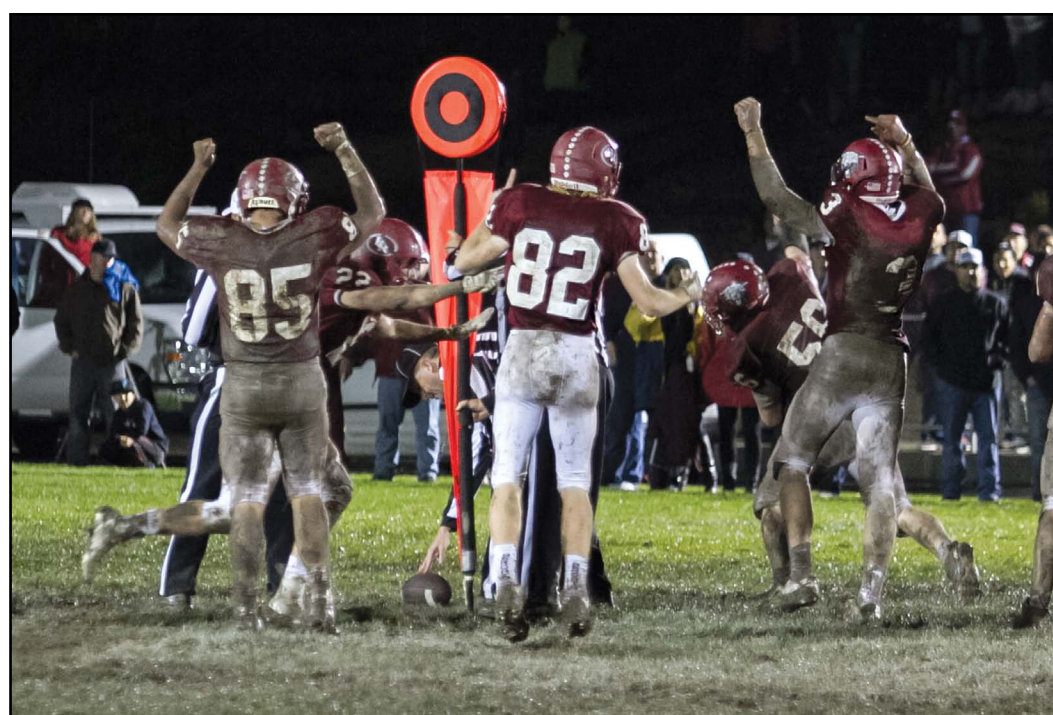
After measurement confirmed that Newbury Park was short, the Bearcats were moments away from officially becoming CIF champs.

Head coach Rich Schimke highlighted the gravity of that play in the greater scope of the game.

"That's a credit to coach [Jerry] Reynolds and the defensive staff," Schimke said of the fourth-down stuff. "... We were ready for it, and that's just a testament to the defensive coaches having those guys ready."

When all was said and done, perhaps no one at War Memorial Stadium was as pleased as Schimke.

"It's not always perfect, but the system worked," Schimke said while clutching the CIF championship plaque close to his chest. "I trust my coaches,



The Paso Robles High defense celebrates as a measurement confirms that Newbury Park was stopped short on a fourth-down conversion attempt late in the fourth quarter on Friday night.

the players trust their coaches and look where we are right now. It's pretty incredible."

Paso didn't make it easy, but the Cats made the plays necessary to win the game. Newbury Park led 3-0 in the second quarter and 10-7 heading to the fourth, yet the Bearcats continued to battle.

Paso claimed its first lead of the game in the second quarter, when junior quarterback Justin Davis connected with senior Jonathan Baldwin for a 34-yard touchdown.

The touchdown pass came on fourth down, as the Bearcats faked out the Pan-



Paso Robles High seniors Parker Gray (22) and Michael Horne douse head coach Rich Schimke with the ceremonial Gatorade shower after the Bearcats clinched the championship.

See CHAMPIONS, B2

PREP FOOTBALL

# Paso climbs the CIF mountain once more

*Bearcats earn ninth football championship in school history*

As Paso Robles High basks in the glory of its first CIF football championship in over a decade, it's only appropriate to look back on the last time the Bearcats played for all the marbles.

It was the Year 2000, and the world was finally okay with the fact that Y2K was nothing more than a field day for

technophobic doomsdayers. The average cost for a gallon of gas was \$1.49, and the first true unification efforts between North Korea and South Korea led to a Nobel Peace Prize for Kim Dae-jung.

In sports, Michael Phelps competed in the Summer Olympics in Sydney at the age of 15, making him the youngest U.S. swimmer to qualify for the

games since the 1930s. Elsewhere, the New York Yankees were fresh off their third World Series win in a row, while the Los Angeles Lakers were just getting started on their NBA title three-peat.

On the Central Coast, the Paso Robles Bearcats were looking for a championship trifecta of their own after coming off two consecutive CIF cham-

ampionships in 1998 and 1999. The Bearcats ended up winning it all in 2000 to start the millennium off in style, but the program then went 14 seasons without a return trip to the CIF finals.

Current head coach Rich Schimke was at the helm for the championships in 1999 and 2000, while longtime coach Bill Stansbury concluded his

Paso career with the crowning accomplishment in 1998. The 2014 Bearcats have already asserted themselves as one of the best teams in PRHS history, a statement supported simply by their appearance in the finals.

As Schimke explains, getting to the title game, let alone winning it, is an extreme challenge.

"To go back in that 14-year span since we've been there, it just shows you how precious it is but also how difficult it is to get there," Schimke said.

"The level of competition has really helped us up our game," Schimke continued. "It's special getting back to that spot, and I'm just really proud of the guys this year getting to this game."

Not only did Paso get to

See FOOTBALL, B8



Paso Robles High senior Manny Mendez, above, slides through the mud after the Bearcats put the finishing touches on a 13-10 win over Newbury Park on Friday night.



At left, Paso Robles High seniors Jonathan Baldwin (14) and Kasey Millsap (43) chase a bouncing ball on a night plagued by sloppy conditions at War Memorial Stadium.

Photos by Nicholas Mattson/For the Paso Robles Press

## CHAMPIONS Continued from B1

thers by lining up in the I formation. Paso had run over and over out of that set, but instead Davis went to the air and the gamble paid off.

Senior Bryce Pasky kicked the extra point, and Paso led 7-3 through halftime.

Both teams traded punts for much of the third quarter, as the field made offensive football nearly obsolete.

Senior guard Manny Mendez described the difficulty of playing in inches of mud.

"It was a battle; it really was," Mendez said. "We couldn't do a lot of the stuff we would normally do, but I think we put in a lot of work during the week practicing. Both sides of the ball, coaches, everyone just went all out for the CIF championship game."

After Newbury Park retook the lead on an amazing pitch and catch from Daniel Prieto to Darick Holmes, Jr. in the third quarter, it was up to Mendez and the Paso offense to answer.

With the clock inside eight minutes to play, the Bearcats did just that.

Paso leaned on senior Bailey Gaither to carry the load offensively, as he took the vast

majority of touches out of the jumbo package. Gaither ended up with over 200 yards rushing, and he set Paso up goal-to-go from a yard out. Davis finished the drive with a touchdown dive, and Paso took a 13-10 lead after another failed snap on the extra-point attempt.

Then came the Bearcats' two defensive stands, which closed out the school's ninth overall CIF football championship on Friday.

Reserve running back Robert Mares, who was filling in for three injured Bearcats backs, pointed to Schimke's leadership as paramount to the championship effort.

"Honestly, this whole effort, this whole CIF run... all of this is coach Schimke," Mares said. "I have never had a coach more prepared in the offensive game plan."

Schimke alluded to the players' trust in each other and the coaching staff, something that he instilled in the locker room with the help of his three-year varsity players — Gaither, Baldwin, Horne and offensive lineman Jordan Burbank.

"It comes back to Bailey, Jonathan, Michael Horne and Jordan Burbank," Schimke

# Nipomo wins first-ever CIF championship

*Titans edge Arrowhead Christian Eagles in Northwest Division final*



Nipomo High running back Antonio Navarro finds room to run on the Arrowhead Christian defense during the CIF Southern Section Northwest Division championship on Saturday night at Nipomo High School.

Photos courtesy of Santa Maria Times

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

NIPOMO — The Paso Robles Bearcats aren't the only CIF football champions on the Central Coast this year.

One night after Paso clinched its first CIF title since 2000, the Nipomo High Titans defeated Arrowhead Christian in a thriller to win the school's first-ever CIF championship.

Nipomo High School has only existed since 2002, and the Titans made their first title game appearance count with a 22-19 besting of ACA in the CIF Southern Section Northwest Division championship.

Nipomo (10-4) made a miraculous run through the playoffs after sharing the Northern League crown with Templeton and Morro Bay. The Titans blew out Bishop Montgomery, Shadow Hills and Poly-Pasadena by a combined score of 162-41 to reach the finals.

ACA entered the game after eliminating the Templeton Eagles with a 40-30 win in the CIF State Bowl Championship, which will begin this weekend.

The Northern Division champion Bearcats were selected to compete in the CIF State Bowl Championship, which will begin this weekend.

The winner of Saturday's bowl game will advance to face either Campolindo (14-0) or Sutter (13-0) in the Division III state championship.

For a complete preview of the El Capitan matchup, pick up the Friday, Dec. 12 edition of the Paso Robles Press.

The Titans drew first blood with a short touchdown run by sophomore Michael Jordan, but the Eagles answered with an 80-yard scoring drive capped by a pass from senior quarterback Bradley Mowbray to Isaac Mowbray.

The 7-7 tie held strong as both defenses were wreaking havoc on the opposing offenses,

racking up sacks and interceptions left and right. Nipomo even dug into the bag of tricks to offset ACA's defense, but a fake field goal was ineffective late in the second quarter.

Both teams were held in check in the first half, as Nipomo had 124 yards of total offense to ACA's 123 at the break.

In the third quarter, the Titans started to pull away.

After the Eagles scored the first points of the second half on a Bradley Mowbray keeper, Nipomo scored 15 unanswered to close the third quarter with a 22-13 lead. ACA missed the extra point after Mowbray's touchdown, which ended up playing a big part down the stretch.



Nipomo High senior Chris Owens plants and cuts to evade an Arrowhead Christian defender in the Titans' 22-19 championship victory over the Eagles on Saturday.

extra point was good, giving the home team a 14-13 edge.

After Nipomo forced a punt, the NHS offense took advantage with a screen from

senior quarterback Matt Albright to do-everything senior Nick Kimball, who also fills in at kicker.

The Titans went for the two-

point conversion and got it on a run by senior Chris Owens, which made the score 22-13 in favor of NHS.

Heading to the fourth quar-

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Mustangs halt two-game slide with win

*Cal Poly tops Menlo College in return from brutal road trip*

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

SAN LUIS OBISPO — After heading home from a challenging two-game road swing with nothing to show, the Cal Poly men's basketball team got back to its winning ways with a romp of Menlo College at the Mott Athletics Center.

The Mustangs rode a 41-17 halftime lead to the finish to dispatch the Oaks on Saturday night by a final score of 72-35.

The victory improves Cal Poly's overall record to 3-3 on the young season, and it helps partially erase the memory of two lopsided losses at Cal-Berkeley and St. Mary's last week.

Junior forward Brian Bennett carried the Mustangs past Menlo, leading all scorers with 15 points. Bennett made all seven of his shot attempts from the field, which padded Poly's team shooting percentage of 39.4. Had it not been for one missed free throw, Bennett would have had a flawless night filling it up.

Two other Mustangs ended up in double figures, with junior forward Joel Awich dropping 13 and senior guard Reese Morgan adding 11.

Awich was efficient from the floor on 5-of-10 shooting, while Morgan made three of his

nine attempts, but only drained one 3-pointer on five tries.

If there was one area that Cal Poly fell short of brilliance, it was shooting behind the arc. The Mustangs combined to shoot 25 percent from deep, with only senior swingman Michael Bolden connecting on more than one triple.

In contrast, six different players missed at least two 3-balls for Poly, including a forgettable 0-6 mark by senior forward Anthony Silvestri.

The struggles from 3-point land didn't matter much in the outcome of the game, as Menlo College — which competes in the Division II-comparable NAIA — was severely out-matched.

The Oaks only had one player break into double-figure scoring, and none of the starters netted more than six points. Sophomore guard Skyler Sexton led Menlo with 11 points on 4-of-7 shooting off the bench.

As a team, the Oaks shot at a clip of 28.6 percent, which explains why they trailed by as many as 40 points at one juncture in the game.

Cal Poly held Menlo to just 17 points in the first half, and the Mustangs nearly matched the defensive effort in the second half as the Oaks scored 18.

A major reason for Poly's success was a decided advantage on the glass, where the Mustangs grabbed 51 rebounds, including 20 on the offensive end.

Menlo managed just 26 total rebounds, likely a factor of Poly's height differential. Six Mustangs measure in at 6-foot-7 or taller, compared to just two Oaks.

Bennett was the lead rebounder with eight total boards, followed by Bolden and forward Aleks Abrams with seven apiece.

Abrams, a freshman from Newbury Park High School, finished with three points, a block and an assist in his first serious action for Poly.

Awich, Silvestri and senior guard Malik Love each snatched five rebounds, while no Menlo player had more than four.

Love and Bolden also had eight points apiece, while Bolden led the charge defensively with a game-high three steals.

Cal Poly had 17 assists to just five turnovers, while the Oaks committed a total of 15 turnovers. Poly got to the free-throw line 17 times — making 14 for a mark of 82.4 percent — while Menlo only attempted six free throws all game.

Overall, the Mustangs dominated Menlo College, as they should. It was a confidence-building win for a team that hadn't won a game since Nov. 21. The Mustangs ended a two-game slide that included a 72-52 loss to the Golden Bears and an 82-56 trashing by the Gaels.

Bennett handled most of the scoring against Cal with a team-high 16 points, while junior David Nwaba was next with 14. The roles were reversed in Berkeley, as Cal Poly was out rebounded by a margin of 44-27. The Bears buckled down defensively with six blocks in the game.

Against St. Mary's, Nwaba was on fire offensively with 19 points, but the Mustangs couldn't contain the Gaels on the defensive end of the floor. Four players scored in double figures for St. Mary's, led by senior Brad Waldow with 22 points.

Waldow notched a double-double in the win, pulling down 13 rebounds to go with his 9-of-13 shooting performance.

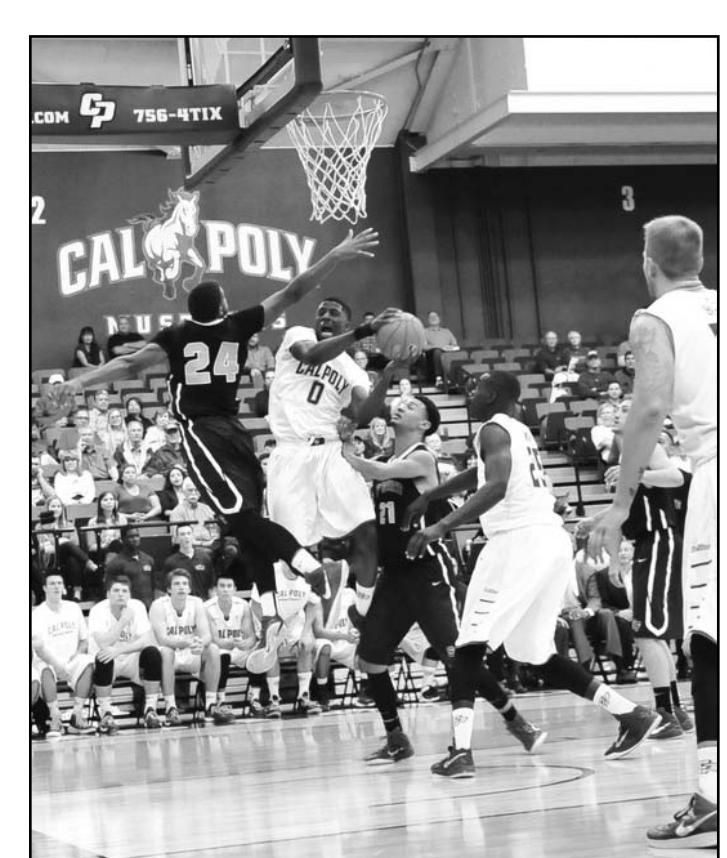
Realistically, the two road tests were games that Cal Poly was supposed to lose. California already has a win over Syracuse on its resume, while St. Mary's is a perennial power out of the West Coast Conference.

That's not to say the Mustangs didn't go in expecting to be successful, but the experience of playing in hostile arenas against teams with superior talent will be important down the road.

If Cal Poly is to make a return trip to the NCAA Tournament, the Mustangs will need to draw from these early-season games when it's crunch time come March.

Cal Poly will have a break before its next game, as the Mustangs don't play again until Saturday night on the road at Fresno State.

The Bulldogs are just 3-6



Courtesy of Ray Amble/RAPhotos.com

Cal Poly junior David Nwaba rises to the rim in a game against San Francisco State at the Mott Athletics Center on Nov. 18.

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The Bulldogs are just 3-6

on the year, but they played Cal-Berkeley close, falling to the Golden Bears by a final score of 64-57 in Fresno.

Opening tip between Cal Poly and Fresno State is set for 7 p.m. at the Save Mart Center in the San Joaquin Valley. The game can be listened to live on the Central Coast by tuning in to 940 AM ESPN Radio.

For more information on Cal Poly basketball, visit the school's athletics website at [gopoly.com](http://gopoly.com).



**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

# Boise State claims Mountain West crown

## Conference title locks up bid to Fiesta Bowl

Jeff Poirier

OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**BOISE** — It wasn't always pretty, but the Boise State Broncos did enough to secure their eighth win in a row with a 28-14 takedown of rival Fresno State in the Mountain West championship game on Saturday night.

The conference title bout featured two local football alums in Boise's Tyler Gray and Fresno's Bo Bonnheim.

Though he didn't get the start, Gray got the better of Bonnheim in the second meeting of the season between the teams to make sure Templeton High will be represented in a premier game of the college football postseason.

With the Mountain West title secured, Boise State earned a berth in the "New Year's Six" with a matchup against Arizona in the VIZIO Fiesta Bowl.

Gray and the Broncos finish the regular season ranked No. 20 in the College Football

Playoff rankings, while their opponent — the UA Wildcats — are ranked No. 10 after getting blasted by second-ranked Oregon in the PAC-12 Championship game.

As for Paso Robles High grad Bonnheim and Fresno State, the loss to Boise slot-d them in the Hawaii Bowl against the Rice Owls on Christmas Eve.

At 6-7 overall, the Bulldogs certainly had their share of issues to contend with in 2014, but to come within two scores of the conference's flagship program is commendable.

Early on in Saturday's championship game, it looked like Boise State was poised to blow Fresno State out of the water.

The Broncos took a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter on a touchdown run by star running back Jay Ajayi, which followed two first-quarter scores — a touchdown run by quarterback Grant Hedrick and

a pick-six by linebacker Tanner Vallejo.

In total, the Broncos intercepted three passes from Fresno State QB Brian Burrell, which played a major part in the final score.

Even so, Burrell still passed for 332 yards on 30 completions compared to just nine completions all game by Hedrick.

However, Hedrick had two rushing touchdowns, including the first score of the second half to put Boise ahead, 28-0.

It wasn't until late in the third quarter that the Bulldogs got on the board, as Bonnheim and the Fresno offensive line paved the way for a touchdown run by Josh Quezada.

Unfortunately for Fresno, the Quezada rush was one of few successful runs on the night. The Bulldogs finished with 41 attempts for just 70 yards, which works out to 1.7 yards per carry.

Burrell pulled Fresno State within 14 points in the middle



Courtesy of Boise State Media Relations

**Templeton High alum Tyler Gray (36) joins in on a tackle in a game against San Diego State played on the unmistakable blue turf at Albertsons Stadium in Boise, Idaho.**

of the fourth quarter, standing in the pocket and connecting with Greg Watson for a 25-yard scoring strike.

The Bulldogs even went so far as to convert the ensuing onside kick, but the Broncos didn't allow any further damage defensively.

Gray only recorded one

tackle in the game, but he has been a large part of Boise's season-long success. Prior to the conference title game, Gray had 58 tackles on the year, which was good for second-most on the team. He was also tied for first on the roster with seven pass breakups.

While Bonnheim and the

Bulldogs look to get back to .500 against Rice in Honolulu, Gray and the Broncos will look for an elite bowl win in Glendale, Ariz. in the Fiesta Bowl.

Boise State has won the Fiesta Bowl twice before, most memorably in an epic upset of Adrian Peterson and the Oklahoma Sooners in 2006-07.

**FOOTBALL**

Continued from B2

the title game, but the Bearcats took it a step further with a 13-10 win over Newbury Park.

The CIF championship was the ninth all-time for Paso Robles High School, as the Bearcats also won the whole thing in 1951, 1952, 1953, 1972, 1974 and the aforementioned three-peat from '98 through 2000.

In the previous championship years, Paso competed against schools such as South

Pasadena, Duarte, Inglewood and Monrovia.

The championships in 1998 and 1999 were won against Monrovia, while the 2000 title came against Inglewood. While those are strong football schools, they don't match up with the programs Paso faced in the following seasons.

In the years after 2000, the Bearcats were paired in the playoffs with the likes of Westlake, St. Bonaventure, Valencia and Hart, which made a championship run more difficult to

achieve.

However, Schimke believes the increase in competition has helped Paso Robles move to the next level as a football program, and that progress was on display in 2014.

"That's thanks to my athletic directors over the years for scheduling better opponents [and] good preseasons to get us ready for opponents like Newbury Park that have athletes all over the place," Schimke said.

The end result was a cham-

pionship this season, which will allow today's Paso stars, like Bailey Gaither, Josh Oliver, Jonathan Baldwin and others, to be remembered for years to come.

The 2014 Bearcats will join

the ranks of Andre Nickelson, who led Paso with over 230 yards in the title game in 1999, and Jason Holmes, who caught three touchdowns to push the Cats past Inglewood in 2000.

Paso Robles isn't done

making history either, as the Bearcats will go to the state playoffs for the first time.

Regardless of the results in this weekend's state bowl game, Schimke and the 2014 Bearcats can party like it's 1999.

**BREAKING NEWS, SPORTS, PHOTOS  
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## SPORTS

SECTION B

CONTACT JEFF POIRIER | 237-6060 EXT. 205 | SPORTS@PASOROBLESPRESS.COM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

## SIDELINES

PREP SPORTS  
SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

3 p.m. THS varsity boys soccer at Cabrillo

3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls soccer hosts Cabrillo

4 p.m. PRHS varsity girls water polo hosts Atascadero (3 p.m. J.V.)

5 p.m. Shandon varsity boys basketball at Northwest Christian

7 p.m. PRHS varsity wrestling at Atascadero (5:30 p.m. J.V.)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

5 p.m. PRHS varsity girls soccer at Atascadero

6 p.m. PRHS varsity girls basketball hosts Atascadero (3:15 p.m. J.V.)

6:30 p.m. THS varsity boys basketball at Cabrillo (5 p.m. J.V.)

6:30 p.m. THS varsity girls basketball hosts Cabrillo (5 p.m. J.V.)

7 p.m. PRHS varsity boys soccer at Atascadero

7:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys basketball hosts Atascadero (4:45 p.m. J.V.)

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

3:30 p.m. THS varsity boys soccer hosts Lompoc

3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls soccer at Lompoc

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

5 p.m. PRHS varsity girls soccer hosts San Luis Obispo

6 p.m. PRHS varsity girls basketball at San Luis Obispo (3:15 p.m. J.V.)

6:30 p.m. THS varsity boys basketball at Morro Bay (5 p.m. J.V.)

6:30 p.m. THS varsity girls basketball hosts Morro Bay (5 p.m. J.V.)

7 p.m. PRHS varsity boys soccer hosts San Luis Obispo

7:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys basketball at San Luis Obispo (4:45 p.m. J.V.)

**Note:** Schedules are provided by the local high schools and are subject to change.

## TO REPORT SCORES

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## PREP BASKETBALL

## Outlaws stave off late Riverdale rally

*Shandon overcomes struggles in fourth quarter*Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**SHANDON** — After building a 17-point lead in the first half, the Shandon varsity boys basketball team weathered a last-ditch effort by Riverdale Christian Academy, holding off the visiting Ambassadors for a 72-64 victory.

“I thought we had a good offensive game, but our de-

fense was kind of lacking,” said Shandon head coach Michael Hove. “We got relaxed in the second half.”

The Outlaws were led offensively by senior guard Cicero Goddard, who scored 37 points despite fouling out with over three minutes left in the game.

Shandon also got a strong performance from freshman Beige Grassotti, who chipped in 19 points and was crucial

defensively and on the glass.

The Ambassadors and Outlaws met previously in Riverdale, a game which Shandon won with ease, 74-51.

Early on, the rematch looked destined to repeat that result, but the Ambassadors didn't fold when the pressure built.

In the first quarter, Shandon got off to a quick start, racing out to a 13-4 lead in the

See SHANDON, B6



Shandon High senior Cicero Goddard turns defense into offense on Friday, Jan. 31 versus Riverdale Christian Academy.

## SUPER BOWL XLVIII



Members of the Gallant Entertainment drumline perform for the crowd at Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium outside New York. Gallant Entertainment was founded by Paso Robles High alumna Shaun Gallant.

## PRHS alum entertains at Super Bowl

*Gallant Entertainment takes New York sports scene by storm*Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** — While the Seattle Seahawks were busy embarrassing the Denver Broncos on the field at Super Bowl XLVIII, a Paso Robles High School alumna was hard at work entertaining the crowd of 82,500 at MetLife Stadium.

Shaun Gallant — a 2004 PRHS graduate and founder of Gallant Entertainment — had the honor of being chosen to add to the spectacle that is the greatest show on turf.

Gallant's Manhattan-based company specializes in music entertainment, specifically a drumline that performs at professional sporting events throughout New York.

Prior to landing the gig

with the NFL, Gallant's group had performed for the New York Knicks, Jets, Giants and Rangers, as well as the Boston Celtics.

However, all of the above pales in comparison to the Super Bowl, which is the creme de la creme of professional sports in the United States.

“For all sports entertainment, the [Super Bowl] is the pinnacle,” said Gallant in a recent phone interview. “It is the cream of the crop.”

“We feel very honored to be not only playing for the NFL, but that the NFL has given us the right to brand ourselves as the NFL drumline,” continued Gallant.

Before founding the company, Gallant moved to New York to pursue his master's

degree in percussion performance at NYU. The graduate program was the culmination of a long road of drumming that included four years in the PRHS marching band and five years with the prestigious Santa Clara Vanguard organization.

And while Gallant Entertainment is his brainchild, Gallant does not actually perform with the drumline. He works behind the scenes to make sure everything goes down without a hitch.

“The creative side of it is the easy part,” said Gallant. “Since the start of the company, the more difficult side, the steeper learning curve, has definitely been the business side of it. But I've been fortunate enough to surround myself with great advisors in

the industry.”

In addition to the numerous sporting events they've performed for, Gallant's group has appeared in commercials and done several events for Nike, Under Armour and all sorts of production companies.

But now that they've reached the height of the sports scene, what's next for Gallant Entertainment?

“The goal is to begin franchising across the country into different sports, different NFL teams, different cities [and] different NBA teams,” said Gallant. “It's been set up like that from the beginning.”

“One really important thing that we're going to get out of this Super Bowl is looking to retain this contract and build this relationship for years to

See GALLANT, B2

## PREP SPORTS

## Cats and Hounds set for rivalry week

*North County rivals face off six times this week*Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

## NORTH COUNTY

The longstanding rivalry between Paso Robles and Atascadero is set to write another chapter this week, as the Bearcats and Greyhounds will meet in six separate varsity events over the course of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Kick-starting the schedule of competition is girls water polo, as Atascadero will visit the Paso Robles Municipal Pool this afternoon to battle the Bearcats.

The match is the regular season finale for both teams and could provide a glimpse of what to expect at the PAC-7 Varsity Tournament next week in San Luis Obispo.

The Hounds enter the matchup coming off a pair of league wins, while the Bearcats have won their last three matches at home.

The teams recently squared off in the Oxnard Pacific View Tournament, with Atascadero coming out on top, 12-6.

The PAC-7 meeting between the Cats and Hounds is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. in Paso Robles.

Following the pairing in the pool, Atascadero and Paso Rob-

See RIVALRY, B2

## PREP BOYS SOCCER

## Bearcats fall in overtime to Pioneer Valley

*Panthers net game-winner in first extra session*Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

Paso Robles High sophomore Juan Pino lines up a penalty kick against Pioneer Valley on Friday, Jan. 31. Pino's goal was the only one for the Bearcats in the 2-1 overtime loss.

**PASO ROBLES** — In a game that saw far more fouls than scoring chances, Pioneer Valley edged Paso Robles in boys varsity soccer on Friday, Jan. 31 at War Memorial Stadium.

The Bearcats hosted the Panthers looking to rebound from a road loss to Righetti, but the visitors broke through in the first overtime period to escape with a narrow 2-1 win.

Paso battled adversity for

much of the evening, as senior defender Matthew Mihelic was lost for the entirety of the second half and overtime after drawing two yellow cards and the subsequent automatic red card.

Given the uphill climb the Bearcats faced, head coach Omar McPherson was very pleased with his team's effort in spite of the end result.

“They stepped up today and they played an amazing game,” said McPherson. “Unfortunately, the ball rolled [PV's] way.”

“But I'm very proud of how

the guys played. I always want them to play this way,” continued McPherson. “This was the best game we've played all season, although we lost.”

After 20 minutes of back-and-forth action, the Panthers got their first break of the night, as Mihelic was given his first yellow card on a tackle attempt in the box.

It seemed that Mihelic made contact with the ball cleanly, but as Pioneer Valley's attacker tumbled to the grass, the referee blew his whistle and signaled a foul.

See SOCCER, B2

## PREP BOYS SOCCER

## Eagles bounce back to topple Nipomo in OT

Templeton improves to 4-3-2 in Los Padres League with win



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

Templeton High senior striker Jeffrey Hammond turns on the attack against Santa Maria on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at Templeton High School. Hammond scored the Eagles' lone goal in a 3-1 loss to the Saints.

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**NIPOMO** — Coming off a home loss to Santa Maria, the Templeton varsity boys soccer team got back to its winning ways, taking down Nipomo in overtime on Thursday, Jan. 30.

The Eagles traveled to face the Titans in Nipomo, needing extra time to escape with a thrilling 4-2 win.

Junior forward Austin Alarcon was the star of the show for Templeton, notching a hat trick to lead the Eagles past the Titans.

Alarcon's first goal of the game came unassisted on a free kick, which he lobbed masterfully over the Nipomo wall and beyond the reach of the keeper.

The scoring strike came in the 28th minute to put THS on top, 1-0.

That margin only held for eight minutes, as Nipomo an-

swered with a goal moments before halftime.

Alarcon got on the board again midway through the second half, beating the Titans' keeper on an assist from senior midfielder Matt Mosher.

The Eagles led 2-1 for much of the half, but Nipomo scored an equalizer with less than two minutes to play in regulation to send the game to overtime.

Five minutes into the first overtime period, Templeton retook the lead on a goal by sophomore Clayton MacKay, assisted by none other than Alarcon.

Despite taking the lead, Templeton continued to pressure Nipomo, hoping to put the game to rest without further drama.

Alarcon notched his third goal of the game two minutes after his assist, drilling home another free kick from just beyond the box.

The goal gave the Eagles their final winning margin of 4-2, locking up the season sweep of Nipomo.

Senior goalkeeper Yusuke Yokota had eight saves in the win, including two in overtime to keep Templeton in front.

The win improves the Eagles' overall record to 7-8-2, and 4-3-2 in Los Padres League action.

Templeton will be back on the pitch this afternoon, traveling to face Cabrillo for another LPL match.

The Eagles and Conquistadores are set to begin at 3 p.m. in Lompoc.

In previous action, Templeton lost a home match to Santa Maria, 3-1, on Jan. 28 despite holding the advantage in shots on goal.

The Eagles' lone goal scorer was senior Jeffrey Hammond, who scored in the second half assisted by junior Matt Jangaard.

## SOCCER

Continued from B1

Paso territory.

Seconds before the half ended, a mass of bodies collided in the Bearcats' box, drawing a whistle and — much to the dismay of Mihelic — his second yellow card.

The call was questionable, but there was no arguing it once the referee flashed the red card.

Pioneer Valley earned another penalty kick, which they converted, and Paso Robles was forced to play man down for the rest of the match.

Despite the reduced manpower, the Bearcats actually seemed to possess the ball better for the rest of the night, something that McPherson attributed to more open space on the field.

In the 57th minute, Paso was

given a corner kick, which ultimately ended in another whistle. This time, however, the penalty was in favor of the Bearcats.

Paso Robles sophomore Juan Pino lined up for the penalty kick, sending home the equalizer to the low corner just beyond the keeper's reach.

With 15 minutes to play in regulation, Roman took a free kick from just outside the PV box, striking a perfectly placed ball to the top corner.

But the Panthers' keeper made an amazing save, elevating full extension to send the ball away and keep the score knotted, 1-1.

The score remained tied, forcing overtime to decide a winner. Five minutes into the first extra

period, two Pioneer Valley attackers snuck behind the Paso defense, forcing Ruiz to come off his line.

The Panthers proved too much to handle, as they finished the break off with the eventual game-winning goal.

Both teams continued to battle the rest of the way, but Paso couldn't generate enough on the attack to force another tie.

Paso came close with 30 seconds to play, as a throw in sailed high into the PV box and bounced around off a few deflections.

Ultimately, the ball was cleared, and the score went final in favor of the Panthers, 2-1.

Paso Robles will hope to shake off the loss and refocus for a rivalry showdown with Atascadero. The Bearcats and Hounds will do battle on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Atascadero.

Paso won the previous meeting between the teams this season, 1-0, in overtime.

## RIVALRY

Continued from B1

les will match up on the mat.

The Bearcats will travel to Atascadero to take on the Hounds in varsity wrestling. The meet, which is the regular season finale for both squads, is set to begin at 7 p.m.

Paso Robles and Atascadero both hold league records of 4-1, as each dropped its only dual loss against PAC-7 powerhouse Pioneer Valley.

Both groups will be looking to snatch bragging rights and grab some momentum heading into the PAC-7 Finals, which are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 15 at Righetti High.

The rivalry slate will con-

## GALLANT

Continued from B1

come."

There are plenty of drumlines and performance groups in professional sports, but what separates Gallant Entertainment is the pure showmanship of their performances, as well as their passion for entertaining.

"Something that really sets us apart from just being a drumline is that we really are an entertainment company," explained Gallant. "We're running really high tech inside the stadiums, all the drums are mic'd internally, so we're bringing a whole audio element into it as well. We really are — top to bottom — an entertainment production company, rather than just a drumline."

Gallant went on to describe the dedication of he and his

performers, saying, "We love what we do. All of us from top to bottom. From me all the way down to a substitute performer. Everyone is on board and we're all moving towards one common goal."

That common goal on Sunday was to entertain a crowd of football fans at Super Bowl XLVIII that was otherwise shell-shocked.

Those in attendance at MetLife Stadium were expecting an epic showdown between Peyton Manning and Seattle's Legion of Boom, but all they got was a lopsided blowout.

The Seahawks absolutely stomped the Broncos from start to finish, taking down Manning and Co. by a final score of 43-8.

Gallant Entertainment made sure to inject some much-needed excitement into the festivities on Super Bowl Sunday.

tinue on Wednesday, with the varsity basketball and soccer teams set to go head to head.

The varsity boys and girls met in both sports in early January, with the home teams pulling out wins in each game.

The Hounds hosted the Bearcats in basketball, while Paso welcomed Atascadero to War Memorial Stadium for an exciting night of soccer.

The AHS girls pounded Paso Robles, 45-16, while the boys won handily as well, 74-55.

On the pitch, things were much closer, as the Bearcats edged the Hounds, 1-0, in both games.

The Paso varsity girls took care of business in regulation, whereas the boys went through two over-

time periods to get the win.

This time around, the basketball and soccer teams will switch places, with Paso hosting the Hounds on the hardwood and Atascadero taking its home field for some European football.

The games at Gil Asa Gymnasium are set to begin at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for the girls and boys, respectively.

Down in Atascadero, the girls will get underway at 5 p.m., while the boys will begin at 7 p.m. on the field at Atascadero High School.

By the end of the night on Wednesday, the rivalry between Paso and Atascadero will have yet another riveting set of games to add to its already rich history.

**SHANDON**

Continued from B1

opening minutes.

The Outlaws benefitted from a myriad of fast-break opportunities, including a pair of back-to-back layups off of steals by Grassotti and Goddard.

Riverdale struggled to get the ball down the court, as Shandon's pressure defense forced a number of turnovers early on.

Goddard extended the Outlaws' lead with 3-pointers on consecutive possessions, followed by another fast-break layup as a result of strong on-ball defense.

A layup by Grassotti pushed Shandon's lead to 10 points in the first quarter, but the Ambassadors responded with a couple of layups and a triple to get back into the game.

With less than a minute in the quarter, Shandon sophomore Justin Denton gobbled up a big rebound and dropped it in to slow the Riverdale run.

Grassotti closed the quarter

by connecting on a baseline jumper, giving the Outlaws a 27-19 edge at the first intermission.

After Riverdale opened the second quarter with a layup, Shandon engineered a 7-0 run, including a bucket by sophomore Timothy Ramirez and a pair of 3-pointers from Goddard.

Back-to-back layups by Grassotti and Goddard pushed Shandon's lead to 17 points, but the 40-23 advantage wouldn't hold for long.

Riverdale ended the half on a 5-0 scoring spurt, cutting the deficit to just 12 points by halftime.

Early in the third quarter, Grassotti got back on the break after a steal, finishing at the rack with a reverse layup and the foul.

The old-fashioned three-point play gave Shandon a 15-point lead and could have been the nail in the coffin for Riverdale.

But credit the Ambassadors, who continued to fight despite

*Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press*

**Shandon High freshman Beige Grassotti finishes a fast-break layup against Riverdale Christian Academy on Friday, Jan. 31.**

the mounting odds against them.

Riverdale clawed back into the game with five straight points, but a skip pass from Goddard to Ramirez gave the sophomore a clean look, which he buried to slow the Ambassadors' comeback.

into the final quarter.

The Ambassadors opened the fourth quarter with three of the first four field goals, slicing the score down to 61-52 in favor of Shandon.

Riverdale cut the lead to single digits, but the Outlaws answered with a 9-0 run to regain control.

Goddard sank another triple to start the run, followed by three straight layups by junior Roberto Rodriguez, sophomore Jacob Taylor and Grassotti.

At that point, Shandon led 70-52 with a little more than three minutes left, but the Outlaws were unable to slam the door.

Goddard was called for a charge — his third offensive foul of the game — giving the Ambassadors an edge as the clock ticked towards the end of regulation.

Grassotti nailed a jumper shortly thereafter to put Shandon ahead, 72-54, but the Outlaws didn't score for the rest of the game.

Without Goddard on the

floor, Shandon struggled to get the ball past the timeline and couldn't find any rhythm offensively.

Riverdale rattled off 10 unanswered points to cut the deficit back to single digits, giving the Ambassadors a glimpse of hope while the Outlaws' offense stalled.

In the end, the hole was too deep to dig out of though, as Shandon held on to notch the eight-point win, 72-64.

The Outlaws will be happy to get out with the victory, but they can't be too pleased with how the last few minutes played out.

What could have been a double-digit blowout turned into a sloppy finish against a team that was clearly overmatched.

Nonetheless, Shandon completed the season sweep of Riverdale, gaining some confidence heading into a critical road game at Northwest Christian.

The Outlaws and Guardians will tip off at 5 p.m. tonight in Bakersfield.

# SPORTS

## SIDELINES

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULES

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 21

2:30 p.m. PRHS diving hosts Mission Prep

3:30 p.m. THS varsity swim at Lompoc

7 p.m. THS varsity baseball hosts Nipomo

7 p.m. THS varsity softball hosts Nipomo

#### SATURDAY

TBD PRHS track and field at Santa Barbara Easter Relays

11 a.m. THS varsity baseball hosts Caruthers

7 p.m. PRHS varsity baseball hosts Alumni Game

#### MONDAY

2 p.m. PRHS swimming at Orcutt Academy at Paul Nelson Pool

2:30 p.m. PRHS diving hosts Orcutt Academy

**Note:** Schedules are provided by the local high schools and are subject to change.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### PASO ROBLES DOG JOG

The sixth-annual Paso Robles Dog Jog will take place this Saturday, Mar. 22 at 9 a.m. in Paso.

The event will feature a canine-friendly 4K and 2K and will benefit the Sherwood Dog Park.

Registration is \$15 and includes a pancake breakfast and goodie bags for all racers.

For more information, call 239-4437 or visit [www.parks4pups.org](http://www.parks4pups.org).

### PR LIONS CLUB GOLF

The Paso Robles Lions Club is hosting a charity golf tournament on Saturday, June 14 at the Paso Robles Golf Club.

Payment and registration must be received by May 1, and can be mailed to P.O. Box 815, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

For more information, contact any Paso Lion or visit the organization's website

— Staff report

## ALL-NORTH COUNTY SELECTIONS

# Stalwart seniors headline All-NC Basketball



Photos by Nicholas Mattson/For the Paso Robles Press

Atascadero High senior Robbie Berwick stands in front of the hoop he grew up shooting on in Atascadero as three-time PAC 7 league champion, and now, boys basketball All-North County Player of the Year.



Photos by Nicholas Mattson/For the Paso Robles Press

Templeton High senior Mari Stewart stood tall above the rest last season as the captain of the Los Padres League champion Eagles. She racked up 30 consecutive double-doubles and has been named All-North County Player of the Year.

## Berwick, Stewart outrun the rest for All-North County Player of the Year picks

Nicholas Mattson  
FOR THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

The ball keeps bouncing for the future Florida State University Seminole Robert Berwick — the sound of which still rings in the ears of his longtime neighbors on the south end of El Camino Real.

"I don't think there was ever a day that I came home or tried to go to bed at night — that ball just pounded and pounded," John Berwick said of his son. "There was not one day he wasn't out there working and working and dreaming. You can't explain how many hours he spent out here working — six or eight hour days."

Since Berwick can remember, he has had a basketball in his hand, and has commanded skepticism, criticism and praise, but most of all, the boys basketball All-North County Player of the

See BERWICK, C2

### ALL-NC SIXTH MAN OF THE YEAR — BOYS BASKETBALL

Taylor Kim, Atascadero



Atascadero High junior Taylor Kim came off the bench for the Greyhounds and made a major impact to earn Sixth Man of the Year on the All-North County boys team.

ALL-NC SELECTIONS ARE A JOINT EFFORT OF THE ATASCADERO NEWS AND PASO ROBLES PRESS

### ALL-NC SIXTH MAN OF THE YEAR — GIRLS BASKETBALL

Chandler Haskell, Atascadero



Atascadero High senior Chandler Haskell recovered from a tough injury to help lead the Greyhounds to the CIF-SS quarterfinals and earn Sixth Man of the Year honors for the girls.

## All-NC Boys Teams

### FIRST TEAM

Robbie Berwick, Sr., Atascadero  
Will Mehring, Sr., Templeton  
Jaylon Davis, Sr., Paso Robles  
Joe Johnson, Sr., Atascadero  
Kevin Woodard, Sr., Atascadero

### SECOND TEAM

Anthony Spencer, Sr., Paso Robles  
Jason Germain, Jr., Paso Robles  
Jared Stuedemann, Sr., Atascadero  
Connor Kim, Sr., Atascadero  
Matt Jardini, Sr., Templeton

Nicholas Mattson  
FOR THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

## All-NC Girls Teams

### FIRST TEAM

Mari Stewart, Sr., Templeton  
Autumn Russell, Sr., Templeton  
Marissa Torres, Sr., Templeton  
Maddie Leong, Jr., Atascadero  
Sabrina Degnan, Jr., Atascadero

### SECOND TEAM

Kailey Warren, Sr., Paso Robles  
Nathalie Barahona, So., Paso Robles  
Melody Ayers, Sr., Atascadero  
Briana Belmonte, Sr., Templeton  
Paige O'Sullivan, Sr., Templeton

The community of Templeton has been watching and waiting for years as a stout class of 2014 grew up through the ranks of Templeton High School girls basketball to take the court as seniors this past season, and standing at the helm was the unassuming Mari Stewart, who left her heart on the court to earn the title of All-North County Player of the Year for girls basketball.

Stewart embodied leadership this season as an example of the cliché "it's not all about winning." She grew up on the basketball court in front of the small community of Templeton and what she showed this season is that she had grown up. It is not all about winning — it is all about winning the right way, and winning the right way, Stewart

See STEWART, C8

## Athletes of the Week

Congratulations to the Athletes of the Week!



### Spencer Howard

Templeton High School

Senior Spencer Howard lifted Templeton to a third-straight victory, pitching six innings and knocking two hits — including a grand slam — in a 7-1 win over Morro Bay. Congratulations, Spencer!



### Annie Meeder

Paso Robles High School

Freshman Annie Meeder helped Paso Robles top San Luis Obispo in a dual meet by winning the 1600-meter run. Meeder also took second in the 3200 at the AHS Memorial on Saturday. Congratulations, Annie!

## TO REPORT SCORES

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## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Cal Poly coasts to first March Madness win

*Mustangs flex fundamentals to buck Texas Southern Tigers in First Four*

Jeff Poirier

OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**DAYTON, Ohio** — The magical run to March Madness will live on a bit longer for the Cal Poly men's basketball team, as the Mustangs earned the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament victory on Wednesday night in the First Four.

Matching up with Texas Southern at the University of Dayton's home arena, Cal Poly played a technically clean brand of basketball to survive and advance to the Round of 64 with an 81-69 win.

Cal Poly will move on to face No. 1 seed Wichita State (34-0) on Friday afternoon in St. Louis, with the winner advancing to the third round of the Midwest Region.

The Mustangs had to shake some early jitters against Texas Southern, but once they got settled in the rout was on in the

program's tournament debut.

Cal Poly was executing near-flawless fundamentals throughout the first half, throttling the Tigers with hustle, lock-down defense and offensive ball security.

Texas Southern senior Aaric Murray — a legitimate NBA talent — torched the Mustangs for 38 points, but the rest of the Tigers did little to support him.

In less than 10 minutes of action, Murray racked up 13 points to put TSU on top early. However, a first-half run swung momentum into Cal Poly's corner, as the Mustangs went on to build a lead as large as 14 points.

A baseline drive and dunk by sophomore Dave Nwaba put Poly up 14 with two minutes left before halftime. When the buzzer sounded for the break, the Mustangs held a 12-point lead thanks in large part to having just one turnover all half.

Cal Poly — led by senior Chris Eversley's 19 points and nine rebounds — finished the half with 13 points off Texas Southern turnovers. The turnover margin favored the Mustangs by seven, as the Tigers played a sloppy half and gave up the ball eight times.

But when Cal Poly came out in the second half, the script was flipped and TSU slowly clawed back into contention.

After losing one turnover in the entire first half, the Mustangs coughed it up three times in the first four minutes of the second half. Cal Poly ended up with 10 turnovers in total, a primarily second-half stat that head coach Joe Callero couldn't have been too pleased with.

The turnovers allowed Texas Southern to chip away at the deficit, which was quickly cut to single digits. Murray went right back to work after halftime, connecting on a

3-pointer and a nasty put-back slam to get the Tigers within striking distance.

Unfortunately for Murray, a short distance was as close as it would get.

The Mustangs didn't lose their composure, even in the face of mounting turnovers and a shrinking lead. Cal Poly continued to run its offense, crash the boards and play defense, all of which allowed the Mustangs to stay in front.

Eversley led the team in scoring, followed closely by Nwaba who finished with 17 points on 7-of-11 shooting. However, it was the Cal Poly reserves that provided the last punch, as the Mustangs scored 29 bench points.

The unsung hero of the night was Reese Morgan, a junior guard who only averaged 5.7 minutes per game in the regular season. Morgan had only two made buckets all year, but he seized the moment and

drained three 3-pointers to lift Cal Poly to the March Madness win.

Two of Morgan's triples came late in the second half, assuring the Mustangs remained on top even as Murray and the Tigers made their run.

Texas Southern continued to fight for its tournament hopes, cutting the deficit to seven points with roughly two minutes left. But the Mustangs held serve at the free-throw line to secure the win down the stretch.

The game was an offensive clinic by Cal Poly, featuring 57-percent shooting and the highest point total against a Division I opponent all season.

Sophomore forward Brian Bennett boosted the Mustangs' percentage greatly, making all five of his shot attempts to post 10 points in 10 minutes on the floor.

The all-around performance

was truly worthy of the big stage, but the lights will get even brighter in the next game.

Wichita State is the only undefeated team left in college basketball, and it'll be up to Cal Poly to hand the Shockers their first loss of the year.

WSU is a year removed from reaching the Final Four, but the road back to the National Semifinal runs first through a Cinderella squad from San Luis Obispo. A top-seeded team has never lost to a No. 16, but maybe the Mustangs have a little more history left to write.

The Mustangs will tip off with the Shockers at 4:10 p.m. this afternoon from St. Louis in a game televised by CBS.

For more information about the 2014 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship and to access live streams of games, visit [www.ncaa.com/march-madness](http://www.ncaa.com/march-madness).

## BERWICK

Continued from C1

Year has commanded attention.

"Rob would have a ball in his hand and get on any open court," Berwick's father said. "We didn't need a babysitter. He'd be there for hours and hours."

Berwick became a halftime

show at the tournament games his brother and sisters played in. "Referees at most of those games would kick kids off the court," Berwick's father said. "Rob became such an icon that he would shoot these 3-pointers and he could hardly pick up the ball. Crowds would start cheering and watch him out there perform. The referees

would let him shoot and I felt sorry for the other kids because they would kick them off the court and let Rob stay out there shooting. There was something special about him."

That attention placed a lot of pressure on the Greyhounds star point guard but compared to the pressure that Berwick placed on himself, it was just another drop in the bucket.

"As a freshman [at AHS], I expected to be the greatest player to ever play here," Berwick said. "I came in believing that I was going to be the best player to step into the Atascadero High School gym."

Berwick has a heaping pile of accolades that rivals the pile of sneakers he has run through on his way toward FSU to play for the Atlantic Coast Conference Seminoles to play against elite college teams like Duke, Syracuse, North Carolina, and Virginia to name a few.

"People said I wouldn't start on varsity as a freshman [at AHS]," Berwick said. He did start as a freshman as a part of another good team that went undefeated through the PAC 7.

This past season, as a senior at Atascadero High School, Berwick led the Greyhounds to an undefeated PAC 7 title to repeat as league champs and Berwick's third league title in four years on varsity.

Berwick averaged 19.5 points per game during his senior year and more than six assists per game as the Hounds earned a 12-0 league record and a 24-3 overall record before losing to Servite in the CIF-SS quarterfinals — a game in which Berwick hit two 3-pointers in the final seconds to keep the Hounds within striking distance.

"Even coming up short," Berwick said. "I still feel we accomplished so much as a community, as my brothers I

grew up playing with — Jared [Stuedemann], Joe [Johnson], Connor [Kim], Kevin [Woodard], Grant Woodard, Chase Young. That final game was sad, but those kids have helped me a lot making me become the player I am today."

Berwick went on about his teammates and their accomplishments together and summed up the senior season stating, "some things didn't go right this year."

The season was not a total loss for the hometown kid with basketball dreams and there are some things he would never change.

"Overall, it was a great career," Berwick said. "It was a great four years — football and basketball. I couldn't be more thankful for the town I'm playing in. I don't want to play in any other town but this town. I would rather lose in the quarterfinals than win with some stacked team at Mater Dei. I'm happy I'm here. Look at this place. We're in Atascadero, California."

Berwick spent his entire life as a resident of Atascadero and has seen the great teams in the county that came before him over the past decade and knows there is no way to prove that his team was the greatest team to ever play on the Central Coast.

"We could argue about

being the greatest of all time," Berwick said, "but my dad, my mom, and my family has their opinion and their opinion is all that matters to me."

With the season behind him, he turns his attention to Tallahassee and the upcoming season as a collegiate basketball player and the new pressure that comes with that challenge.

"I think the same [as I did as a freshman in high school]," Berwick said. "I'm such a hard worker that I know that my time will come at Florida State and, when my time comes at Florida State,

I'm going to make the best of it. You can't hold a bubble under water. I'm going to make a name for myself."

For Berwick, the ball keeps bouncing and each bounce has a peak and a valley but all come with memories and an afternoon in patio chairs with Berwick and his father can be a ride through the beginning of a story not yet finished.

"I coached over 24 years of AAU club basketball," Berwick's father said. "I learned one thing from Rob, and that is I don't care how much I train someone, the kid's got to go out and get it. If they are destined, they are destined. They are going to go out and get it. It has been an honor to have a son like Rob."

PREP BASEBALL

# Bearcats stay unbeaten in baseball

## *Paso Robles handles Mission Prep for fourth win*

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — Following a tie ballgame in the season opener, the Paso Robles varsity baseball team has rattled off four consecutive victories to remain undefeated on the season.

The Bearcats' latest victim was Mission Prep, as the Royals made the trip north to Barnhart Field for a non-league matchup on Tuesday, March 18.

Paso entered the game after blowing out Morro Bay, 9-2, last week, and the Bearcats continued their strong play against Mission with an 8-5 win.

Freshman Nolan Binkle got the nod to start on the bump, blasting the Royals for four innings while allowing just one run.

Offensively, the Bearcats continued their hot streak by jumping on Mission early, plating three runs in the first inning to take control of the game.

The infield tandem of freshman Christian Erickson and senior Taylor Holden carried the weight at the plate for Paso, each knocking three hits in the game.

As a team, the Bearcats totled 11 hits, including three extra-base hits — two of which came from Erickson.

Paso also earned five baserunners via walk of hit by pitch, giving the needed offen-

sive output to get the victory.

After falling behind from the get-go, the Royals battled back to make the game competitive.

In the top of the third, Mission got its first three batters on base, starting with a leadoff single.

Binkle didn't break under the pressure, as he successfully picked off the leadoff man for the first out of the frame.

However, the Royals came right back by drawing a walk and following it up with an RBI double to left field.

The base hit cut the deficit to two runs, but it was the only score Binkle allowed in the outing.

The next two batters were retired with a pop out and strikeout, bringing the Bearcats back to bat.

Paso Robles kept pounding away on offense, starting with an infield single that was legged out by junior Bailey Gaither.

Gaither went on to steal second, and was advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt that ended up as another infield single.

With runners on the corners, junior Jonathan Baldwin grounded out to the pitcher to advance a second runner into scoring position.

That's when Erickson grabbed his spot in the batter's box and went to work.

Erickson wasted no time to bring the Bearcats home, slap-

ping a triple on a line to right center.

Next up was catcher Kai Bedell, who drove home Erickson with a double to put Paso ahead 6-1.

The Bearcats then scored their seventh run, as senior Steven Deaville stroked a single to give the home team a 7-1 edge.

After a scoreless fourth inning, Mission Prep rallied for a high-powered fifth inning.

Binkle was relieved by sidearm specialist John Katches, but the Royals figured out the senior's delivery to get back in the hunt.

Mission scored four runs in the fifth after Katches struggled with control, walking a few batters and throwing a couple wild pitches.

Freshman Martin Salas came in to get the final out of the inning, which he did successfully to end the Royals' rally.

Paso notched its final run of the night in the bottom of the fifth, using a bases-loaded sacrifice fly to take the decisive 8-5 lead.

The Bearcats will open PAC-7 play on Tuesday, March 25 on the road at Pioneer Valley.

"We're gonna have to pitch well," said Paso head coach Derek Stroud. "We've been playing great defense, so hopefully we can continue to do that and be able to execute our offense. We'll need all of those things together in order to win ball games."



Photos by Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

**Paso Robles High freshman Christian Erickson slides safely into third base after knocking an RBI triple versus Mission Prep on Tuesday, March 18 at Barnhart Field.**



**Paso Robles High freshman Nolan Binkle gets set to deliver a pitch against Mission Prep in a game on Tuesday, March 18 at Barnhart Field. Binkle earned the win with four innings of work.**

PREP DIVING

# Paso competes at SLO Dive Preview

## *Grant Britton takes second place among boys with a 406.10*

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**SAN LUIS OBISPO** — The Paso Robles dive team joined a number of other local schools in competition on Saturday, March 15 in the SLO Dive Preview held at Sinsheimer Pool.

In addition to the Bearcats, divers hailed from host-school San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Righetti, Mission Prep, Morro Bay, Ni-

pomo and Orcutt.

At the end of day full of diving, Paso Robles' Grant Britton held the highest standing among Bearcats, taking second place for the boys.

SLO High standout Blake Griffith ran away with the event, scoring a 462.60 — good for the second-highest score in Tigers history.

Britton was next in line with a score of 406.10, while an Arroyo Grande diver took third.

Also competing among the boys was Paso's Keenan Harris.

In the early stages of the boys' dives, it became clear the meet was a two-man battle between Britton and Griffith.

Britton was pulling down scores of 6 and 7 on many of his dives, including a 1-1/2 pike that drew four scores above 6.5.

However, in the end it was Griffith who took the top spot while diving off the 1-meter

and 3-meter.

Britton and Griffith both earned CIF qualifying scores at Sinsheimer.

On the girls' side, Arroyo Grande won the meet, while a pair of SLO divers finished second and third.

Paso Robles' Natalie Duren finished 12th with a score of 221.65.

Fellow North County diver Carly Elliot ended up with a score of 213.20 for 13th place.

The schools will meet

again in three weeks for the true SLO Dive Invitational, which will feature a field of competitors executing in midseason form.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 12 at Sinsheimer Pool in San Luis Obispo.

In the meantime, Paso Robles will dive back into action on Monday, March 24 with a home meet against Orcutt Academy at the Municipal Pool.



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press  
**Paso Robles' Grant Britton dives at the SLO Preview meet.**



**STEWART****Continued from C1**

led the Eagles to an undefeated Los Padres League title, knocking off the league juggernaut Morro Bay Pirates on the road to set the tone for the rest of the season.

“We just knew going in there, it was an important game,” Stewart said. “[Winning the first game on the road] was nice because at home we had the crowd behind us. It was such a great atmosphere to play in.”

Stewart also set a Templeton High School record with a personal performance that spanned nearly 13 months.

Beginning on Feb. 1, 2013, Stewart delivered a double-double performance for 30 consecutive games with double-digit points and double-digit rebounds. She averaged 21.7 points per game to go with 17.2 rebounds.

In previous years, that may

have meant more to Stewart, but throughout the record-breaking season, she seemed to care less about the stats and looked like she was just enjoying the game she fell in love with in middle school.

Stewart worked hard in order to have so much fun. She spent countless hours traveling to Los Angeles to train and wore the badge of team captain with obligation.

“Being a team captain, she took that to heart,” THS head coach Shawn Koehler said. “She [showed] how to play the game right. She runs the drill from line to line. She doesn’t shortcut herself.”

As Koehler watches one of his star pupils take flight into a bigger world, he is confident that she has prepared herself the right way.

“Mari is going to be successful and she is going to do things right,” Koehler said. “She worked hard. She worked all summer. I hope that fresh-

man class picked that up. I think they did.”

Stewart earned the rewards of hard work and although she has not yet chosen her collegiate destination, wherever she goes, she will take with her the memories made this season while wearing the green and the white.

“[Playing as an Eagle] has been awesome,” Stewart said. “I have been a Templeton student my entire life. It is such a unique school and a lot of us went to school together. We got a lot of community support.”

Stewart and the Eagles took the fans of THS basketball on a great ride this season and the team and the fan base gets to walk away with memories of a hard-fought overtime win in Morro Bay that paved the way to an undefeated LPL title.

“My best memory was the first time we beat Morro Bay,” Stewart said. “[Losing to them over the years] was something

we held onto for a couple years. It was such a good feeling to get the win.”

Vince Lombardi, legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers said, “Winning isn’t everything. It’s the only thing.”

But winning is not something that can be printed up in a box score. Winning is an inside job.

“I believe there is so many life lessons in basketball,” Stewart said. “This year I just tried to play for the love of the game and leave it all out on the court.”

Her coach saw that growth in her this year.

“I saw her mature this year,” Koehler said. “I saw her become more unselfish. She just let go this year. This year she came in and just played.”

She raised the stakes for the Eagles that follow in her footsteps and the banner that hangs in the THS gymnasium announcing their LPL championship stands to remind the underclassmen that greatness is within reach, if they are ready to spread their wings and take hold of it.

Soon, Stewart will announce whether she will spread her wings and head south, north, east or west for the winter and her first semester of college to continue her adventures in basketball.

“I want to thank everybody for being a huge support,” Stewart said, “and our coach [Shawn Koehler] has always been a huge support and just been so positive. He never tried to rip us apart or make us cry. He always encouraged us and that is huge, especially for a girls team.”

## SIDELINES

## PREP FOOTBALL SCORES

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

— Paso Robles 45, Cabrillo 6  
 — Templeton 35, Santa Paula 28  
 — Atascadero 34, Stockdale 31  
 — Righetti 28, Simi Valley 23  
 — San Luis Obispo 29, Oxnard 26  
 — Arroyo Grande 41, St. Joseph 7  
 — Lompoc 42, Nordhoff 10  
 — Nipomo 48, Carpinteria 6  
 — Morro Bay 40, Segerstrom 8  
 — Dos Pueblos 42, Santa Ynez 20

## PREP SPORTS SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

2:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls golf at Arroyo Grande  
 3:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls tennis hosts SLO  
 3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls tennis at Lompoc  
 4:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys water polo at Arroyo Grande  
 5:30 p.m. THS varsity girls volleyball hosts SLO  
 6 p.m. PRHS varsity girls volleyball at Nipomo

## WEDNESDAY

No Events Scheduled

## THURSDAY

2 p.m. PRHS varsity girls golf at Pioneer Valley Tournament at Blacklake Golf Resort  
 3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls tennis at Morro Bay  
 3:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls tennis at St. Joseph  
 5:30 p.m. THS varsity girls volleyball hosts Santa Ynez  
 6 p.m. PRHS varsity girls volleyball hosts Atascadero

## FRIDAY

3:30 p.m. PRHS varsity girls tennis at Coast Union  
 7 p.m. THS varsity football at SLO  
 7 p.m. PRHS varsity football hosts St. Joseph

**Note:** Schedules are provided by the local high schools and are subject to change without notice.

## TO REPORT SCORES

We want to get local scores and sports briefs in the newspaper — call sports reporter Jeff Poirier at 237-6060, Ext. 205 or email him at sports@pasoroblespress.com.

## EQUESTRIAN

## Barrel racing reigns supreme in Creston

*Hundreds showcase skills in opening-day event*

Jeff Poirier  
 OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**CRESTON** — With a population hovering around 100, it's not too often the town of Creston draws a crowd.

How could it? The city center is mostly dirt roads with a few scattered structures — not much to offer in terms of moving the masses.

But for the annual Creston Classic Rodeo from Sept. 11-14, the community came together, and all eyes were on the sleepy town in San Luis

Obispo County.

The CCR, which first began in 1996 as a means of raising funds for a community center, has evolved into an annual event for all the Central Coast to enjoy.

Creston kicked off its 19th iteration of the ranch rodeo earlier this fall, opening the action with an exhilarating evening of barrel racing.

The Jackpot Barrel Race, which was sanctioned by both the West Coast Barrel Racing Association and the

American Computer Barrel Racing Association, brought in hundreds of eager participants on Patriot Day.

The collection of racers ranged in age and ability, but one thing was constant — the need for speed.

That's what drew 9-year-old Emily Ward and her horse Rocky out to give it a go.

"It felt really good," Emily said after her race with Rocky in Creston. "She wants to run and I want to run."

See CRESTON, B2



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

Jennifer Burke cranks up the speed with her horse Bedazzling Cayucos to start the Jackpot Barrel Race at the Creston Classic Rodeo on Thursday, Sept. 11 at the Creston Rodeo Grounds.

## PREP FOOTBALL



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

Paso Robles High junior quarterback Justin Davis drops under center to take a snap from center Richard Flores against Cabrillo at Huyck Stadium in Lompoc on Friday, Sept. 12.

## Heroism and heartbreak

*Paso Robles' blowout win tainted by trauma*

Jeff Poirier  
 OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**LOMPOC** — As the Bearcats filtered off the field at Huyck Stadium on Friday night, their faces didn't reflect the result flashing on the scoreboard.

Tears were flowing, heads were hanging and any joy that could've come from Paso Robles' 45-6 win over Cabrillo was simply gone.

The Bearcats got a big win, but they paid a bigger price.

With just over four minutes to play in the game, senior Cole Manske went down with a gruesome injury that sent shockwaves through the stadium.

Manske — who came on as a reserve running back after Paso built a 42-0 halftime lead — clutched his right leg in agony as medical staff rushed to his side.

The Paso players could only watch helplessly as Manske was attended to and eventually carted off by an

ambulance in Lompoc.

For the Bearcats left behind, the victory was bitter-sweet to say the least.

The on-field action was basically one big highlight reel, but to lose a player like Manske made for a somber post-game huddle.

"He doesn't play a lot, but he's out there every day," said Paso Robles center Richard Flores. "His work ethic is, honestly, one of the best out there. And that's why it's so heartbreaking to see him go

down like that."

Starting running back Christian Erickson had more of the same to say about his replacement.

"He means a ton to us," Erickson said in the aftermath of the injury. "He practices hard; he always goes hard, 100 percent all the time."

Manske didn't usually get much field time with the Bearcats, but he made the most of the minutes he saw against Cabrillo.

See FOOTBALL, B4

## PREP FOOTBALL

## Eagles protect nest from Cardinals

*Templeton holds on to 28-0 lead for second win of young season*

Nicholas Mattson  
 FOR THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**TEMPLETON** — The Templeton Eagles have landed, giving the home crowd a show on Friday night at Templeton High School's Volunteer Stadium where they pummeled the Santa Paula Cardinals for a 28-0 lead by halftime.

The Cardinals made a strong effort to get back into the game, but fell a touch-down shy as the Eagles came away with their second straight victory.

Templeton's defense paved the way for the victory, holding Santa Paula scoreless through the first half.

The Eagles scored on their first offensive play, and escaped the edge of the Cardinals defense to run a touch-down for the game's first score.

THS then added a 2-point conversion to take an 8-0 lead.

Templeton's defense stuffed the Cardinals through the first half, forcing them to

See EAGLES, B4

## PREP TENNIS

## Paso Robles slides past Atascadero

*Bearcats win rivalry match with tiebreaker*

Jeff Poirier  
 OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — The Cats and Hounds met on the tennis court last week, and the rivals were about as evenly matched as possible.

Atascadero paid a visit to Paso Robles on Patriot Day, but it was the Bearcats who headed home with the slight edge.

Through 18 sets, the teams were tied at nine apiece, sending the match to a total-games

tiebreaker.

Paso claimed five of nine singles sets, while AHS took five in doubles.

When the total games were tabulated, the Bearcats beat out the Greyhounds, 76-72.

Seniors Lindsey Horst and Katie Evenson each won two singles sets for Paso, while junior Krista Natividad added one set-win.

Horst was the strongest in singles, taking her two sets with scores of 6-1, 6-1.

For Atascadero, freshman

Nicoline Breytenbach continued her phenomenal play, sweeping three sets, 6-0, 6-0, 7-5.

Evenson battled Breytenbach the closest, winning five games to put the pressure on. But in the end, the Hounds' first-year star was too much to handle.

AHS also got one set-win from senior captain Victoria Thek, who nipped Natividad, 6-3.

See TENNIS, B4



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

Paso Robles High junior Krista Natividad keeps her eyes on the prize in a PAC-8 match versus Atascadero on Thursday, Sept. 11.

CRESTON  
Continued from B1

Emily has been barrel racing by herself since she was 3, and has been involved with the sport for eight of her nine years of life.

She was born into being a horse-lover, as her family owns a ranch in Oceano.

Rocky, Emily's 16-year-old Paint Horse, has been a member of the Ward-clan longer than the young rider.

Another teenage painted named Peekaboo was raised at the Ward's beachside ranch alongside Rocky, and Emily got to ride both through the barrels in Creston.

Racing has always been a part of her life, as well as other events like gymkana, jumping and roping, but it isn't even her favorite part of being an equestrian.

That particular distinction goes to a much tamer pastime.

"My favorite is that you get to brush them, play with

them and wash them," Emily said.

Rocky and Peekaboo will need a good grooming after their CCR performances, and Emily will be happy — if not ecstatic — to do the honors.

Emily was one of the youngest racers to mount up in Creston, but on the other end of the spectrum, some racers have been gracing the rodeo grounds for quite some time.

One such racer is Sherrie Jones, a Morro Bay native who has been coming to the annual rodeo for over 15 years.

Jones has been riding since she was in single digits, and still takes the time to get out and race.

"I've been barrel racing for a really long time," Jones said with a laugh. "A really long time."

Jones paid her dues to get a shot at the barrels with her horse Shooter, and she finished with a solid time of 18.554 seconds.

Jones didn't land in the cash, but she still got to enjoy the spectacle.

"I think it's a great thing for the community," Jones said. "They get a great crowd. People love to come out and support the local cowboys and cowgirls, and the community of Creston in general."

The feel-good nature of the festivities has kept Jones and countless other rodeo enthusiasts coming back for more each and every year.

In the end, only the speediest of Stetson-wearing riders earned the right to brandish a championship buckle and pocket some paper.

To learn more about the Creston Classic Rodeo or to see this year's CCR Jackpot Barrel Racing results, visit [www.crestonclassicrodeo.org](http://www.crestonclassicrodeo.org).

For more information about the sport of barrel racing in general, visit [www.acbra.net](http://www.acbra.net) or [www.westcoastbarrelracing.com](http://www.westcoastbarrelracing.com).



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

Denise Madsen and her horse Astonishing Fuel pull away after taking a penalty at the second barrel of the Creston Classic Rodeo Jackpot Barrel Race on Thursday, Sept. 11 at the Creston Rodeo Grounds.

# Eagles get feet wet in first meet

## Varsity girls set tone for Templeton cross country

CROSS COUNTRY

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**MORRO BAY** — The Templeton cross country season began on Saturday, as the Eagles competed in the Morro Bay Invitational for the first live action of 2014.

The meet had no official team scores, but head coach Don Crow believes his girls team was among the best in contention.

"We went home and looked through all the results and times of the teams in our league that were at the meet,"

Crow said, "and in the girls' meet if they would've scored it, we would've had the best placement by any Los Padres League team."

The THS girls were led by the senior duo of Veronica Russell and Kecymar Osuna, who finished fourth and ninth overall, respectively.

Russell completed the 2.8-mile course in 20 minutes, 16 seconds, just 17 seconds off the first-place finishing time.

Osuna was 22 seconds back of Russell, crossing the finish line with a mark of 20:38.

Russell and Osuna were the

two highest LPL finishers, giving them a good outlook for the fast-approaching Mid-Season league meet in Santa Ynez.

In junior varsity, Templeton had two girls place in the top six, with Olivia Mariucci taking third and Paige Cuddy ending up sixth.

"We feel like our girls are right where we want them to be right now," Crow said. "They're running pretty well."

"Our goal is to win the Los

Padres League, make CIF and run well at CIF," Crow continued. "Our ultimate goal is to

make the top seven at CIF and

see if we can make it into the State meet in Division 4."

Reaching the State meet will be tough for Templeton, as recent reclassification has added San Luis Obispo and Atascadero to Division 4.

Nonetheless, the Eagles have the depth and talent to make a run for the money.

On the boys' side, THS isn't at the same level, though there is reason for optimism heading forward.

"Our boys team will not be as strong as our girls team," Crow explained, "but I think by the end of the year they're

gonna be very competitive in our league."

In Morro Bay, the THS boys were paced by sophomore Noah Crabtree, who finished 39th overall with a time of 18:21.

Junior Sean Brown was next for the Eagles, taking 88th place, while sophomore Robert Shin rounded out the THS finishes in 113th.

Templeton was without several team members in Morro Bay as a result of various other obligations.

Crow hopes the boys will be at full-strength by the team's next meet, the Righetti

Invitational on Sept. 27.

"Our boys team was really shorthanded," Crow said. "Hopefully by the 27th, they'll all be there and ready to go."

With a week off before Righetti, the Eagles will hit the pavement hard.

"With no meet this week," Crow said, "we feel like we can get a really good week of work in."

Templeton will compete in the Righetti Invitational before gearing up for the LPL Mid-Season Meet, hosted by Santa Ynez High School on Wednesday, Oct. 8.



## SIDELINES

PREP SPORTS  
SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

3:30 p.m. THS varsity boys soccer hosts Santa Ynez

3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls soccer at Santa Ynez

5 p.m. Shandon varsity girls basketball hosts Coast Union

6:30 p.m. THS varsity boys basketball at Santa Ynez (5 p.m. J.V.)

6:30 p.m. THS varsity girls basketball hosts Santa Ynez (5 p.m. J.V.)

6:30 p.m. Shandon varsity boys basketball hosts Coast Union

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

TBD PRHS varsity girls water polo at PAC-7 Tournament at SLO High

5 p.m. PRHS varsity girls soccer hosts Arroyo Grande

6 p.m. PRHS varsity girls basketball hosts Arroyo Grande (3:15 p.m. J.V.)

7 p.m. PRHS varsity boys soccer hosts Arroyo Grande

7:30 p.m. PRHS varsity boys basketball hosts Arroyo Grande (4:45 p.m. J.V.)

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

3:30 p.m. THS varsity girls soccer hosts Coast Union

5:30 p.m. THS varsity boys soccer hosts Coast Union

6:30 p.m. THS varsity boys basketball host Nipomo (5 p.m. J.V.)

6:30 p.m. THS varsity girls basketball at Nipomo (5 p.m. J.V.)

**Note:** Schedules are provided by the local high schools and are subject to change.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## SWIMMING LESSONS

Paso Robles recreation hosts youth swim programs at the Municipal Pool twice weekly for children of varying ages.

For more information, visit [www.prcity.com/recreation](http://www.prcity.com/recreation).

— Staff report

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## WINTER OLYMPICS

## Paso snowboarder stoked for Sochi

Trevor Jacob to compete in snowboardcross



Contributed photo

**Paso Robles resident Trevor Jacob will compete for the United States in the Winter Olympics in Sochi, taking to the slopes in the men's snowboardcross event.**Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — With the Winter Olympics well underway in Sochi, Russia, one North County resident eagerly awaits his opportunity to take to the snow for competition.

Trevor Jacob — a 20-year-old snowboarder who recently moved to Paso Robles — will take part in the Sochi games, representing the United States in men's snowboardcross.

Jacob grew up in Malibu and Mammoth, but made his way to Paso after visiting a friend and falling in love with the area.

"Living in Paso is nice because the weather is great and it's beautiful," said Jacob. "You just take the six-hour drive up [to Mammoth] and you're in the mountains. That's the great thing about California is you can have every type of terrain you could want."

For the past year, Jacob has called Paso Robles home, and

now he gets to represent the Central Coast on the world stage.

"I saw [the Olympics] in the near future and I thought, 'I'm gonna give it my best shot,' and it actually ended up working out," said Jacob.

"I really worked hard these last two years to just give it my all and for it to pay off is really exciting for me."

Jacob first began snowboarding at the age of 3, but didn't get into snowboardcross — a down-

See SOCHI, B2

## PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL



Nicholas Mattson/For the Paso Robles Press

**Templeton High senior Mari Stewart outrebounds the Eagles' Los Padres League nemesis Morro Bay Pirates, helping THS win its 10th straight LPL game and a league title.**THS girls improve to 10-0 in LPL  
Eagles clip Morro Bay to clinch league championshipNicholas Mattson  
FOR THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**TEMPLETON** — Templeton High School seniors Mari Stewart, Autumn Russell, Marissa Torres, Megan Hattar, Paige O'Sullivan, Hailey Sudbrink, and Briana Belmonte were in middle school when they began a journey to become the 2014 Los Padres League girls varsity basketball champions.

Since that time, in 2007, the Eagles have not defeated the Morro Bay Pirates in a league contest and, according to THS head coach Shawn Koehler, former Morro Bay coach Cary Nerelli had never lost to Templeton in 26 years. The long drought versus the Pirates ended this season with a Jan. 15 overtime victory in

Morro Bay.

On Friday, it was the Eagles turn to host the league matchup. The Pirates would be looking to avenge their loss and keep the LPL title within reach, but they would need to pull it off on the road, without their leading scorer, senior Sierra Schwellenbach, who was out with a stomach virus.

The loss of Schwellenbach was devastating to the Pirates. She not only leads Morro Bay in scoring but in rebounds, assists, steals and deflections.

"Obviously we would have liked to see [Schwellenbach] play," Koehler said, "but we were prepared to play with or without her. She's a really good player, but they have several good players. There are a good team."

Regardless of the advan-

tage for the Eagles, it was obvious from tipoff that Templeton was not going to take it easy on the Pirates.

A packed house at Templeton High School's gymnasium was green to the gills. One of the girls' parents bought green t-shirts emblazoned with "GO EAGLES" and the THS athletics department was giving them away with the price of admission.

"Our gym was packed," Koehler said. "It was a huge deal. Everyone talks about Seattle's 12th man. I told our girls out there is our 600th man."

After Morro Bay scored the first four points of the game, Belmonte knocked down a 3-pointer to give Templeton a 5-4 lead.

Torres hit a 3-pointer for

the Eagles, followed by a Belmonte layup, to complete a 10-0 run.

The run was interrupted by a Pirates' free throw but Stewart and Russell combined for five points to take a 15-5 lead with 1:28 left in the first quarter.

On her way to a 25th straight double-double, Stewart grabbed a rebound for a putback and Templeton finished out the first quarter with an 18-5 lead.

"We wanted to try to slow Kara [Schmidt] down and went with a box and one," Koehler said. "They started to get the ball down low and spread us out on the baseline. We adjusted to that. We never did slow it down [on offense]."

The Eagles took control

See EAGLES, B5

## COLLEGE HOOPS

## Cuesta men stay atop WSC standings

Cougars pounce on Pierce in 82-79 victory

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**SAN LUIS OBISPO** — The Cuesta College men's basketball team continued its tear through the Western State Conference on Saturday, taking down Pierce College, 82-79, to remain in first in the league standings.

The Cougars hosted the Brahmas in San Luis Obispo, looking to win their third consecutive game in WSC play.

Pierce entered the game already on a three-game winning streak, so something had to give.

Cuesta was led in scoring by forward Kyle Geer, a 6-foot-4 freshman from Connecticut.

Geer posted a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds, leading the Cougars past the Brahmas in a back-and-forth battle.

Cuesta improved to 18-9 with the win, having won 10 of its last 12 games.

The Cougars faced a fierce test against rival Allan Hancock earlier last week, blowing a 21-point lead before rallying to finish off the Bulldogs on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Oscar Pedrosa dropped 35 points in the game, helping the Cougars come out on top, 93-90.

Cuesta as a team shot a blistering 63 percent from

See CUESTA, B5

## PREP BOYS SOCCER

## SLO completes season sweep of Paso

Tigers score once in each half to top Bearcats

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — Coming off three consecutive losses, the Paso Robles varsity boys soccer team was in dire need of a win against San Luis Obispo on Friday night.

However, the Tigers came into War Memorial Stadium and took it to the Bearcats, handing Paso its fourth loss in a row with a 2-0 win.

With the defeat, the

Bearcats find themselves in a tight spot with regards to CIF contention, needing to win their final two games of the year and get some fortuitous outcomes elsewhere in the PAC-7 standings.

"It's going to be tough to actually get to CIF," said Paso head coach Omar McPherson. "If we win the next two games, we can give ourselves an opportunity to make it, but we need some help."

Paso Robles' remaining

schedule includes a home match against Arroyo Grande this evening and a road date with St. Joseph on Friday. Should the Cats find a way to win out, it'll be up to fate whether they make the cut for postseason play.

In spite of the long odds, McPherson is confident in his team's resilience and focus at this critical point in the season.

"It's never a doubt in my mind that these guys get up each game and play hard, regardless

See BEARCATS, B6



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

**Paso Robles High juniors Rafael Roman (10) and Josue Ojeda (15) fall back on defense against San Luis Obispo on Friday, Feb. 7 at War Memorial Stadium.**

**SOCHI**

**Continued from B1**

hill racing event that includes challenging terrain features, tight turns and plenty of adrenaline-pumping action — until relatively recently.

“I was doing a lot of half-pipe...but it just got boring and I got burnt out on it,” explained Jacob.

“[Snowboardcross] is just so much more exciting because anything can happen, anything is possible and it’s just a free-for-all.”

After training and working hard to improve his racing abilities, Jacob landed a spot in a World Cup snowboardcross event in Andorra in early January.

In seven previous World Cup events, Jacob had never finished better than seventh.

However, his spectacular showing in Andorra, where he won the event, earned him one of four slots on the U.S. Olympic team for snowboardcross.

“I’m speechless,” Jacob said when asked what it means to wear the red, white and blue of the United States.

“It’s so much of an honor to represent my country — a country that I love so much and have so much passion for.”

“I’m obviously going to try my hardest to bring back U.S.A. a medal,” continued Jacob.

“But I’m really excited to just go check out the whole thing. It’s such a great experience, even if you’re not competing.”

Jacob departed the country on Tuesday, Feb. 4, first stopping Germany before continuing on to Sochi.

Through the first few days of Olympic competition, the United States has collected five medals as of press time.

That medal count includes two golds, one of which came from Jacob’s U.S. Snowboarding teammate Sage Kotsenburg, who took the top spot in men’s slopestyle.

Jacob will look to add to that total, along with his three American teammates, when the men’s



*Contributed photo*

**Trevor Jacob will compete in the men’s snowboardcross event, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 17 in Sochi at the 2014 Winter Olympics.**

snowboardcross event takes place on Monday, Feb. 17.

Competing alongside Jacob will be 2010 Olympians Nate Holland and Nick Baumgartner,

as well as fellow rookie Alex Deibold.

“I’m just gonna have as much fun as I can and try to ride as best as I can,” said Jacob.

“That’s all I can really do, and hopefully it works out. But if not, I’m gonna go, have the best time I can and enjoy every second of it.”

For more information on the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi and to access live and replay streaming of events, visit [www.nbcolympics.com](http://www.nbcolympics.com).

## PREP GIRLS SOCCER

## Tigers tame Bearcats in shutout victory

San Luis Obispo pummels Paso in 5-0 win

Jeff Poirier  
OF THE PASO ROBLES PRESS

**PASO ROBLES** — Things got out of hand quickly for the Paso Robles girls varsity soccer team on Friday night, as the Bearcats fell behind early and never recovered in a loss to San Luis Obispo.

Paso welcomed the Tigers to War Memorial Stadium for the teams' second meeting of the year, but the result was far from ideal for the Bearcats.

San Luis Obispo scored twice early in the first half and tacked on three more goals throughout the night, stomping out Paso Robles by a final score of 5-0.

The Tigers won the previous meeting in SLO in shutout

fashion as well. The combined scores of the season sweep favors the Tigers, 9-0.

SLO broke through in the first half on two through passes, putting Paso keeper Natalya Marcove on an island with no life raft.

The Tigers scored on nearly identical plays within minutes of each other, taking a 2-0 lead and pressuring the home team to respond offensively.

Unfortunately for Paso, possessing the ball was a tough task and the offense couldn't get anything going.

The score remained 2-0 heading into halftime.

"I did what I could trying to spark something, but it just didn't happen today," said head coach

Mike Valenzuela when asked about halftime adjustments. "It just wasn't our day today."

In the second half, the Tigers picked up right where they left off, scoring three minutes into the half to take a stranglehold on the match.

The Bearcats struggled to keep the ball on the attack, failing to generate many offensive chances throughout the night.

Meanwhile, San Luis Obispo continued to pepper the Paso defense and put Marcove to the test.

Midway through the second half, SLO scored again on a header off a free kick, giving the visitors a 4-0 lead.

Marcove made a number of saves in the second half, but the



Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press

**Paso Robles High senior forward Alyssa Harris pressures a San Luis Obispo attacker on Friday, Feb. 7 at War Memorial Stadium.**

Tigers scored again with two minutes left to go up 5-0.

"Right now, we're still in contention for CIF," said Valenzuela. "So we've just got to hold it together and come out

stronger on defense."

Paso's next game is Wednesday night at home versus Arroyo Grande. The Bearcats and Eagles will open play at 5 p.m. in varsity competition.

**EAGLES**

Continued from B1

of the game in the first quarter with a whirlwind of offense and big performance on defense. That performance, led by Stewart, continued into the second quarter. Stewart was getting to loose balls, creating turnovers and grabbing rebounds as the Eagles held onto their lead through the first half.

Morro Bay was not the pushover they were in the first quarter and gave Templeton a better fight. The Pirates grabbed a few big rebounds but were unable to capitalize on every possession and Stewart hit back-to-back turnaround jumpers to settle the momentum shift. After the second shot, the Eagles led, 24-9, with 3:45 left in the half.

Stewart was the first to a loose ball on the Pirates end of the court and passed out to Torres, who dribbled down and hit a pull-up jumper from the wing. Stewart grabbed another loose ball from the Pirates and the Eagles ran the offense to find an open Hattar for a 3-pointer to take a 29-9 lead over their long-time nemesis with 2:36 remaining.

Morro Bay slipped in a 3-pointer with less than :13 on the clock to pull within 31-16 at halftime.

Each team scored 10 points through the third quarter and Templeton took a 41-26 lead into the fourth quarter, then the Eagles finished out the game

hammering the Pirates to take a 56-35 victory to end the Pirates' domination of the LPL.

Stewart led the Eagles with 19 points and 13 rebounds, nearly pulling off a triple-double with nine steals. Russell posted 13 points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Torres scored 11, four rebounds, three assists and one steal. O'Sullivan grabbed 10 steals while dishing for seven assists. Belmonte scored five points to go with three re-

bounds, two steals and one assist. Hattar ended with three points, Sudbrink with two.

The win secured the Eagles at least a share of the LPL title and one more victory will earn Templeton sole possession of the league championship.

Templeton (20-2 overall, 10-0 LPL) will host the Santa Ynez Pirates (1-8 LPL) today at 6:30 p.m. for what should be the clincher of sole possession of the LPL title for the Eagles.

**CUESTA**

Continued from B1

the floor, while Pedrosa went 5-of-8 from beyond the arc.

The Cougars have three games left on the schedule, including meetings with College of the Canyons and Moorpark College, the last two teams they lost to.

Cuesta's next game is Wednesday night on the road at Santa Barbara City College.

The Cougars and Vaqueros

have met three times already this season, with Cuesta coming out victorious in each game.

Most recently, the Cougars won a 79-66 decision in SLO.

The teams will tip off at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in Santa Barbara.

**PASO ROBLES WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB RESULTS**

Feb. 4, 2014

**ACE OF THE MONTH**

Low Gross:  
Janis Denner 97,  
Geneva Eddington 97  
Low Net:  
Gennie Roeder 73,  
Lois Young 73

**FIRST FLIGHT**

1st Low Gross:  
Janis Denner 97  
1st Low Net:  
Geneva Eddington 72  
2nd Low Gross:  
Kimberly Dolata 101  
2nd Low Net:  
Denise Kudla 76

**SECOND FLIGHT**

1st Low Gross:  
Gennie Roeder 105  
1st Low Net:  
Lois Young 73  
2nd Low Gross:  
Betty Triol 107  
2nd Low Net:  
Pam Morrison 77

**CLOSEST TO PIN**

1st: Josette Warner  
8 feet, 8 inches  
2nd: Janis Denner  
23 feet, 10 inches

**BEARCATS**

Continued from B1

of the result," said McPherson. "That's what I ask of them...100 percent all the time."

Against San Luis Obispo, the Bearcats certainly gave it their all for a full 80 minutes.

Just 30 seconds into the match, Paso broke through the Tigers' defense and got a clean look at the goal — the first of many scoring chances throughout the night.

Both teams were able to generate some offense, though Paso was never able to convert their chances into points.

Midway through the first half, the Bearcats got back-to-back shots on goal, possibly their best offensive sequence of the match.

The chance began with a nice pass ahead to sophomore Juan Pino, who fired on goal and forced SLO to make a stop.

The shot was deflected away, where junior defenseman Jesus Pantaleon was waiting to redirect it back on goal, but the Tigers again turned it away.

Over the next 10 minutes, SLO began to assert its will offensively, stringing together a number of solid scoring chances.

In the 24th minute, a goal kick was misplayed by the Paso defense, resulting in a break-away for the Tigers. The shot bounced wide of the post, but it sparked an outburst from the SLO offense.

The Tigers got another chance shortly thereafter, as an attacker dribbled unimpeded into the Paso box, booting the ball just outside the goal.

Less than a minute later, the Tigers were back on the attack, getting a powerful shot on goal that was blocked away by Paso junior keeper Juan Carlos Ruiz.

San Luis Obispo had gained momentum in the match, but the scoreboard still showed zeroes for both teams.

Sensing a turn in the tide, Paso Robles began to increase its pressure offensively, generating a few good looks in the closing minutes of the half.

The first came from senior forward Marcus Millan, who

*Jeff Poirier/Paso Robles Press*

**Paso Robles High senior forward Marcus Millan outduels a San Luis Obispo opponent for a header on Friday, Feb. 7.**

flashed some fancy footwork to dribble into open space at the top of the box.

Millan fired on goal, but the SLO keeper stopped the shot. The ball bounced away from his grasp and Paso attempted to follow up with another shot. However, the referee dis-

allowed the try, squashing the Bearcats' offensive sequence.

In the 34th minute, Pino got back to work, sending a strong kick on goal that was shoved aside by a miraculous SLO save.

With less than four minutes to go in the frame, the Tigers got a big break, drawing a Paso

yellow card in the box and earning a penalty kick.

Ruiz did all he could to maintain the tie, but SLO converted the PK for a 1-0 lead.

The score remained for the final minutes, bringing halftime with the Bearcats down a goal.

Unfortunately, Paso would have to battle back without one of its captains, as junior Luis Reyes went down with a collarbone injury and was lost for the rest of the game. Nonetheless, it was all business for the Bearcats, who came out in the second half fired up.

Roughly eight minutes into the half, Ruiz made a beautiful kick save to keep Paso within a goal, but the save resulted in a corner kick for the Tigers.

On the ensuing possession, SLO dropped in a perfect corner to catch Ruiz off guard, scoring another goal to go up 2-0.

With about 20 minutes to play in the game, Millan got good looks on two consecutive offensive pushes, but the SLO keeper gobbled up both tries.

The action continued to go

back and forth, as both teams got a number of chances down the stretch of the half.

Junior midfielder Rafael Roman came close to breaking through in the 70th minute, as his free kick snuck over the wall, but couldn't beat the keeper.

Inside three minutes to play, Paso got another free kick hoping to cut the deficit in half, but the ball bounced around in the box before coming to a harmless halt in the defense's possession.

The Tigers were able to preserve the shutout, taking a 2-0 win to complete the season sweep of the Bearcats.

Paso Robles lost earlier in the year on the road at SLO, a 4-0 game that wasn't nearly as competitive as the rematch.

The Bearcats have fallen on hard times of late, but there's no reason to close the door on the year just yet.

If Paso can take down AG on Wednesday, hope will remain for a shot at postseason play.

Start time against the Eagles is set for 7 p.m. for the varsity boys at War Memorial Stadium.