

Mustangs Will Travel to Thessaloniki and Athens, Greece

By Gregg McMullin

The Mira Costa High School water polo team has long been established as one of the premier high school teams in the South Bay, if not the CIF Southern Section. The aquatics program that includes the swim team and water polo teams do well annually for both the boys' and girls' teams. With a great coaching staff and a great aquatics center to play and train in, it's easy to see why the Mustangs have been so successful over a number of years. For the past couple of years though, to help prepare for the upcoming season, the Mustangs have traveled to Europe to play against some of the top teams in their age group in a tournament-style format. Last year, a team of Mustangs traveled to Italy to play in a tournament, and this year a group of Mustangs will travel to Thessaloniki and Athens, Greece to train and play under the watchful eye of their coach Jon Reichardt.

The Mustangs have benefited from their overseas training in the past by playing against some pretty heady competition. This year they'll be playing against three different Greek teams, a German squad and one from Serbia. According to Reichardt, this is a great opportunity for the players to train, compete and play against some top notch athletes and develop new friendships. "They'll build lasting relationships with the players from other countries and I'm sure one day the friends they make might one day come to visit our players here," said Reichardt.

The Mustangs slated to make the trip with Reichardt are Evan Bronner, Travis Elliot, Conner Davidge, Spencer Neste, Devon Norris, Deven Ram and Jason Veris. To subsidize the trip, the players have raised money through some fundraising events as well as receiving support from community businesses. Body Glove stepped up in a big way by donating clothing.

Taking a group of athletes on the road can always be challenging. But when these athletes are together for a couple of weeks like these seven water polo team members are going to be, it can lead to a special union between themselves and could quite possibly lead to a successful season in the fall. The 2008/09 team that went to Italy last summer bonded so well during the season that they reached the CIF Southern Section semifinals. The Mustangs will embark on their trek to Greece starting June 21 and will return July 6. Reichardt believes this will be a very special 15 days for these players. "They aren't just representing Mira

Costa or their own families--they're also representing our country and this should be a lasting memory for all of them I know it will be for me," he said.

Playing overseas will also broaden the scope of the players' education and insight of another culture by being in another country for over two weeks. These players will return with a better understanding of the country they have visited, a sense of understanding athletes their own age from other nations, and an appreciation for culinary delights while being in Greece. This is a win-win situation for everyone involved according to Reichardt, and he views this as much more than just some high school athletes going across the Atlantic Ocean to play some games. "This is an opportunity for these players to do something special and something they'll long remember after they graduate from high school," he said.

The team is still raising funds for their trip according to Irene Bronner, one of the parents helping to organize the excursion, and is still in need of corporate sponsorships. "We're hopeful that someone or organization will step in and help defray some of the costs." She added, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for some of these players and it's more than just playing some games or doing some sightseeing. This is also an opportunity to learn other traditions."

If you would like to help out the Mira Costa water polo team get to Greece, you can do so by contacting Irene Bronner or by sending your donation in care of the MCHS Water Polo Team at 2405 John Street, Manhattan Beach.

MUSTANGS NEWS AND NOTES

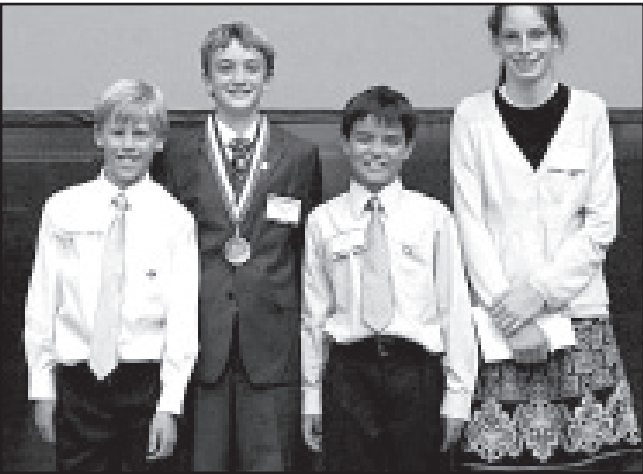
Savannah Pio represented Mira Costa at the CIF State Tack Championships in Clovis, California and ran in the 3,200 where she placed 10th. Though she was out of the running for a medal, she vows to return to the state meet next year and place in the top six for a medal and break the school record in the process.

Manhattan Beach resident Heath Jones has been umpiring baseball at the collegiate level for the past nine years. He was so good this year calling games in the Pac-10 and Big West Conferences that he was rewarded with assignments at the regional in Georgia and the Super Regional in Tallahassee, Florida. Jones was one slot away from calling games in the College World Series and should get that assignment in the next couple of years. •

American Martyrs School State Science Fair Competitors



Matthew Reilly-4th Place State winner - Toxicology



Shown from left to right: Greg Regan, Matthew Reilly, Jake McCabe and Aarin Henning. Not shown: Meaghan Truman

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AMS STATE SCIENCE FAIR COMPETITORS!

On May 19th, 2009, five of our American Martyrs School students competed at the 58th annual California State Science Fair. The Fair was held in the California Science Center. This year, 965 participants from 374 schools throughout the State met for the competition. Aarin Henning participated in the Microbiology division and Meaghan

Truman participated in the Zoology division. The team consisting of Greg Regan and Jake McCabe received an honorable mention in the Plant Biology division. Matthew Reilly was awarded 4th place in the Toxicology division. It took a great amount of dedication and hard work for these students to continue refining their projects from the time the AMS Science Fair was held last February. Congratulations on a great job! •



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SOUTH BAY

Metro Rail Returning to East LA

Some 46 years after the last trolley crossed the First Street Bridge, rail is returning to East LA with the opening of a new branch of the Metro Gold Line. The soon-to-open extension will span six miles from Union Station in downtown LA via the Little Tokyo/Arts District and Boyle Heights to Atlantic/Pomona Boulevards.

Metro Bus Team Nation's Best

Teams from more than 50 public transit agencies recently competed to see who was best and Metro came out on top. Mechanics Frank Rude, Ronald Vargas and Andrew Warren Jr. along with operator Juan Navarro formed the Metro team which won the overall championship at the 2009 International Bus Bando.

Metro Service Changes Set for June 28


The expansion of Metro Rail to East LA is prompting several bus route changes beginning June 28. In addition, service in the El Segundo area is being restructured on that date. For complete details and timetables, visit metro.net.

Hit the Beach Without the Hassles

Make the most of your day at the beach without fighting the summer traffic, searching for parking or paying high prices at the gas pump. Metro has convenient bus and rail connections that can get you to all the Southland beaches. Visit the Trip Planner at metro.net for a wide selection of schedules and connections.


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