

2008-2009 St Mary's Year-End CYO Sports Wrap-up!

Summary of the Past Year in Sports

This year the St. Mary's CYO program had another record number of participants in the various sports - Cross Country, Basketball, Track & Field and Volleyball. The program served over 535 school, CCD and parish children ranging from 2nd to 8th graders. The St. Mary's CYO program is comprised of 4 Cross Country Divisions, 12 girls' basketball teams and 23 boys' basketball teams, 4 girls Volleyball teams and one very large Track and Field team.

In order to run a program of this magnitude, we need the help of many volunteers. We had over 80 parents volunteer this past season and we are most grateful for their help. Our program simply could not run without our excellent volunteer Coaches and crew! Thank you for your extraordinary help.

Fall Review – Cross Country

St. Mary's Cross Country continued to dominate the Diocese by winning 3 of the 4 divisions for an unprecedented 4th year in a row, no team in the history of the Diocese as done so well for so long. The Cross Country team could not have had such great success without a very strong, talented and hard working group of runners and without the expertise and knowledge of its coaching staff. St. Mary's has one of the largest teams in the diocese, approx 70+ kids, a tribute to the phenomenal Coaches, Rich Vasquez and Dave Burnash. They work hard with each runner to insure that each of them does their best throughout the season. The improvement in the runners over the season is very impressive. Congrats again to the Cross Country team.

If you are interested in joining the Cross Country team, this coming season starts with the first Practice & Sign Up's Monday August 17th at Sutherland Dr. Shell Ridge Open Space at 6:30 PM. Please refer to the St. Mary's Cross Country/Track & Field website for information.

http://www.eteamz.com/CYO_ST_MARYS_TRACK/



St Mary's 2008 Cross Country Championship Team

ST MARY'S CYO BASKETBALL

CYO Basketball is our most popular sport and it attracts over 300 kids each year to play in a very competitive West Diablo CYO league with teams from Orinda, Lafayette, Pleasant Hill, Martinez and Walnut Creek. Each year we field between 34-36 teams from the 2nd grade thru the 8th grade for both the boys and girls. We could not do it without the following dedicated and skilled coaches:

BOYS

2nd Grade – David Brown, Rob Fregulia, Steve Gonsalvez, and Mike Taft

3rd Grade - Jerry Florence, Kevin Baker, Kevin Hing, Tim Walsh

4th Grade - Dana Kafka, Derwin Longmire, Frank Ficken, Tony Marcon, Tom Janettas, Tom Henry, Mike Mulligan, and Steve Rego

5th Grade – Bob Hagler, Jeff Sperbeck, , Harry Robey, Chuck Corich, Bob DeMercurio, and Ted Angus

6th Grade - Tom Olinger, Frank Ficken, Jeff Thomas, and Morgan Tovey

7th Grade - Mike Gallagher, Vince Franchesi

8th Grade – Dean Myers, Steve Wood, Don Gieseke, Steve Grazzini, and Edgar Hawkyard,

GIRLS

2nd-3rd Grade, Brian Locher, Ann Larsen, Kelly McCormick, Sean McGlynn

4th Grade - Phil Dialo, Brian Locher

5th Grade - John Bomba, Jim Francis, Terry Moore, and Richard Hietman

6th Grade - Jim Regan, Carl Chenault, Dave Platt, Jim O'Donnell and Jose Rodriguez

7th Grade – Erik Udd, John and Gino Lucia

8th Grade - Patti Devlin and Ron LaCour,

League and Playoff Results!

GIRLS

This past season was an especially successful one for our girls program in terms of qualifying for league playoffs. Each year, the top teams in each division head to the league playoffs. Eight of our girls teams qualified for the league playoffs and 2 advanced onto the Diocesan Playoffs. The following girls' teams represented SM in post-season play:

- Brian Locher's 2nd/3rd grade team surprised the #1 seed in the playoffs to advance to the finals.
- Jim Francis and Terry Moore's National 5th grade team advanced to the playoffs
- Jim Regan and Carl Chenault's 6th grade American team finished in first place in league, swept the playoffs and won the overall Diocesan title beating a very large Good Sheppard team. This was only the second time a St. Mary's Girls team has won the Diocese title.
- Dave Platt and Jose Rodriguez's 6th grade National team won the League playoffs by beating the #1 and #2 seed teams – they played great team basketball.
- Jim O'Donnell's 6th Grade National team also qualified for the playoffs but lost to the top seed in the League. Congratulation to all the 6th Grade girls' teams for representing St. Mary's so well.
- Erik Udd's 7th grade American team finished second in the league, qualifying for the playoffs.

BOYS

Our boys' teams also had a great run this past season with a number of teams qualifying for league playoffs and a couple advancing to the Diocesan Playoffs.

- Congratulations to our 2nd/3rd grade teams for their success in the playoffs. Kevin Baker's 3rd Grade American Boys advanced to the Finals against a very good St. Perpetua team losing in a close, hard-fought game.
- Dana Kafka and Derwin Longmire's 4th grade American Boys team was the 2nd seed and qualified for league playoffs. Frank Ficken's National Team made it into the National playoffs being a #2 seed and they won the league playoffs and moved on to the Tournament of Championship in the Diocese before winning it all. Congrats 4th Grade National Boys!
- Harry Robey's 5th Grade National team was the #1 overall seed in their division after a stellar regular season.
- Tom Olinger's 6th Grade American finished as the 3rd seed in a very tough American division.
- Frank Ficken also had his 6th grade National team qualify for the playoffs, winning the league with a 10-0 record.
- Steve Wood and Dean Meyer's 8th Grade American team finished second in league and did well enough in the playoffs to advance to the Diocese. They lost to a very good Holy Spirit team in the Diocese. Congrats on a strong finish for the 8th grade Boys team. Good luck in High School.

Farewell to a number of great Coaches:

Each year we have to say good-bye to a number of 8th grade Coaches who have contributed so much over the years. Thank you to these Coaches who have played such a large role in our program being mentors and role models for the youth in the program. These Coaches will be leaving the St. Mary's program this year:

- **Patti Devlin** has coached her son and 3 daughters for the past 12 years as well as being the Girls Registrar for the past 8 years. Her patience, her love of the game and her coaching skills will be sorely missed. She will keep busy by watching her three daughters start next year for the Contra Costa Christian varsity team. Congratulations and thank you!
- **Ron LaCour** has been part of the program for 8 years – starting with his son's team and continuing with his younger daughter's team. It's always nice to have a former college player come and coach because the kids really respond to someone of that size and stature. Thanks Ron.
- **Dean Meyers** coached for St. Mary's on and off for 6 years and took a very talented bunch of 8th Grade Boys to the Diocese this past year. Dean did an excellent job teaching his boys how to play as a team. It was fun to watch a team gel and play so well at the end of the season.
- **Don Gieseke** has also coached on and off for years in the program and he has really helped as his 8th Grade A2 team finished second in a tough division.
- **Steve Grazzini and Ed Hawkyard** stepped up and volunteered a number of years ago to take the National team when we didn't have a Coach – they did well and all the players on their team enjoyed their second chance at playing basketball – thanks Steve and Ed for your help.

PHOTO GALLERY



St. Mary's 4th Grade Boys - American



St. Mary's 4th Grade Boys – National Tournament of Champion Winners!



St. Mary's 4th Grade American Boys – Timeout Huddle with Coaches Kafka and Wood.



St. Mary's 6th Grade Boys – National with Head Coach Frank Ficken



St. Mary's 7th Grade Boys – American II – Coaches Mike Gallagher and Dean Alms



St. Mary's 6th Grade American Girls – Diocese Winners!-



St. Mary's 6th Grade National Girls – League Playoff Winners!- Coaches Dave Platt and Jose Rodriguez



St. Mary's 7th Grade National Girls – Coaches John and Gino Lucia



St. Mary's 8th Grade American Girls – Prayer Time before the game!



St. Mary's 8th Grade American Girls – Coaches Patti Devlin and Ron LaCour – Thanks for all your time and effort over the years!

Track and Field Results!

This year was another very successful track and field season for St Mary's. We had approx 120 kids sign up and participate in all events ranging from the sprints (50m, 100 m, 200m), middle distance (400 m, 800 m), long distance (1600 m), to the relays (4 X 100m, 4 X 400 m, Sprint Medley). There were also a slew of participants in the field events – shot put, high jump, long jump and tetherball throw.

St. Mary's Track and Field team is one of the largest and most talented in the Dioceses. It has been built up over the years with the help of a lot of great volunteers like Co-Head Coaches Rich Vasquez and Dave Burnash; as well as Keith Barnes, Darvin Montero, Mike and Sally Domingo and Jack Kearney. We also had a couple of alumni volunteers from last year's team come back to help out – Danny Montero and Libby Brokaw showed the kids how it really is done in Track!



2009 St Mary's Track and Field Team

Volleyball Results!

Each year St. Mary's CYO fields teams for Girls Volleyball for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade. This year, we were fortunate to have enough volunteers to field 4 volleyball teams - 2 8th grade, 1 7th grade and 1 6th grade teams. Thanks to Janis Palana, Karen McHugh, Denise Cirelli, Michelle and Hannah Eichers for coaching the girls this year. You did a great job.

The 6th Grade girls went undefeated in the league and won the Tournament of Champions at the end of the year beating CTK, St. Isodore's, St. Raymond and St. Joan of Arc. It was a pretty impressive display of volleyball skills all year. Congrats ladies!



St. Mary's 6th Grade Girls Volleyball – Diocese Winners!

St Mary's CYO Alumni in the News

One of the best parts of being the Athletic Director is seeing the kids develop through the program, some starting as early as the 2nd grade, while others coming in later. It is rewarding to see so many of the St. Mary's CYO alumni do so well at the High School level. Each year there is a handful of CYO alumni scattered through the various high schools making a name for themselves. Here are a few alumni and what they are up to:

Tyler Anderson is playing tailback on the De La Salle football team and running on DLS' North Coast Section championship 4 X 100 team. Sean Delfani is one of the top 5 - 400 meter runners in the state

running for Las Lomas High. Carlton Walters is the starting Tight End for the DLS football team that played in the State title game as well as a member of the DLS NCS Baseball team. Michael Jameson finished in 2nd place for the Las Lomas Knights in the 800 m in the NCS finals. Michelle Gemar finished in the top 10 in NCS in the pole vault and Ashley Love qualified for the 1600 M in NCS. Nicole Rumore finished her stellar running career at CHS qualifying for NCS in the 3200, she is off to Columba University next year. Katie Regan and Melissa Russi were 2 freshmen playing for the Carondelet Girls Varsity Basketball team that played for the state title in March, only to lose to an excellent team from SCAL. Claire Logan, Jessica Vox and Caitlyn Pebbles all played freshman basketball for Carondelet Cougars, with Claire leading her team in scoring for the year. Eileen and Katie Devlin helped Contra Costa Christian into the NCS playoffs . Next year, their younger sister, Meaghan, will be joining them for another run. There were many more former St. Mary's CYO alumni participating in the league and NCS championships for Cross Country and Track & Field and basketball. It truly is a joy to watch these kids grow and mature into fine young men and women.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BOARD

Special thanks to our CYO Basketball Board Members who spend the extra, behind-the-scenes time to make sure our program runs smoothly.

Registrars: Jerry Florence and Patti Devlin (who is retiring after 8 years)

Treasurer: Mike Gallagher – the money man making sure we were able to pay for everything.

Uniforms: Laurie Alamillo and Bonnie Paulson – thank you for doing a very “thankless” job with the uniforms (collecting, counting, storing and distributing them).

Referee Coordinators: Jack & Jodie Russi – we are very lucky to have some of the best referees around in our league thanks to the training and efforts of Jack and Jodie.

Facilities: Joey Regan who opened, closed, cleaned and monitored the St. Mary's Gym for all league games this year. Thank you to Bob Lamb who handed over the reins of the Facilities after 20 years doing it.

HELP WANTED!! New Registrar needed!

This coming year we are looking for someone to take over the Girl's Registration process. If you can help out, please contact Jim or Stephanie Regan 256-8453.

REMINDER!

Registration for the 2009/10 CYO Basketball Season will be held on **Tuesday, August 18th and Thursday August 27th** at St Mary's Gym from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Start recruiting friends, neighbors and your child's classmates as our goal is to get 350+ kids into the program next year. We also have on-line registration through Sportability – please visit their website at

<http://www.sportability.com/spx/Leagues/Client.asp?ClientID=527>

Thank you

Sincerely,

Jim Regan
St. Mary's Athletic Director.
925-817-8876