

Furious Sharks comeback falls short in league opener

By Dick Dornan
Special to The Malibu Times

If the Malibu-St. Bonaventure game last Friday was any indication of what's to come, fasten your seat belts because boys basketball in the Tri-Valley League will feature plenty of twists and turns these next five weeks.

In an exciting league opener at Malibu High, St. Bonaventure outlasted Malibu, 53-49, despite a valiant comeback by the Sharks.

Trailing 44-36 to begin the fourth quarter, Malibu roared back to take the lead, 49-48, with 1:25 remaining when senior Jonathan Baldwin knocked down a baseline jumper.

But the Seraphs responded when Darius Vines made a layup off a backcut for a 50-49 lead with 1:03 left. On the ensuing possession, Malibu's Landon McBroom missed a shot in the lane that gave St. Bonaventure the ball with 48 seconds remaining.

St. Bonaventure worked the clock down to 15 seconds against Malibu's 2-3 zone, when Jake Todey raised up and nailed an uncontested three-point shot from the left wing as the shot clock expired. It was only the second three-point of the game for the Seraphs.

"They hadn't made a three all half. He let it go and I was like, 'Please don't let it go in,'" Malibu coach Bobby Tenorio said. "And it goes in. It was

one of those things. If he misses, we were going to come down and score. We had the momentum."

Malibu (7-10) subsequently turned the ball over on its final possession resulting in the four-point loss. Baldwin, who hit four three-pointers to lead Malibu with 14 points, said the Sharks' offense was decent but the team needed improvement on the other end and on the boards.

"We played pretty well," said Baldwin. "We fell behind a little at half but when we came back out after half-time we turned it up and battled back. But we need to talk more on defense and rebound better."

Senior center Justin Holmes added 13 points and eight rebounds for the Sharks, while McBroom also scored 13. Friday was McBroom's first game for Malibu after transferring from Paraclete High School in Lancaster at the start of the semester.

St. Bonaventure (7-7) was paced by 20 points from athletic 6-foot-4 senior Bryce Dixon, who has committed to play tight end for the USC football team in the fall. Vines and Tommy Quinn added seven points each.

After struggling through a 1-9 record in 2013 in their first year following promotion to the tough Tri-Valley League, Malibu players and coaches have vowed to be more competitive this season. The early going saw them



Dick Dornan / TMT
Senior guard Jonathan Baldwin (left) drives down the lane against St. Bonaventure in the Sharks' league opener last Friday. Baldwin scored 14 points as the Sharks fell just short, 53-49 in a tight contest.

deliver on that promise, with Baldwin connecting on back-to-back threes to give Malibu a 12-11 advantage in the first quarter.

Dixon led a surge by St. Bonaventure, claiming a steal and a layup to give the Seraphs a 22-16 lead at the 4:32 mark of the second quarter.

Baldwin's third trey from downtown cut the deficit to 22-21 with 3:20 left in the half. His offensive presence was a big boost for the Sharks who often rely on All-League center Justin Holmes to put up big numbers every game.

"I was feeling pretty good since the

first half when I made three threes. I just stayed confident through the whole game," Baldwin said. "I definitely want to help the team out more on offense."

But Dixon proved a handful for the Sharks with his athleticism and deft touch around the basket.

He scored six of the next eight Seraph points on layups, including an alley-oop from Vines that gave St. Bonaventure a 30-23 lead with less than a minute to play.

After McBroom knocked down a three, Vines countered with his own triple with six seconds left to close out the half and give the Seraphs a 33-26 lead at the break.

The third period was played evenly as both teams exchanged buckets throughout the stanza setting up the fourth quarter flourish.

"I thought we played well. We played tough," said Tenorio. "The kids felt like we gave them the game. We are far more competitive than last year. We need energy all four quarters and I think we will be okay."

With upcoming contests against Santa Clara, Oak Park, Bishop Diego and Oaks Christian, don't expect anything less than a thrill ride through the Tri-Valley League.

Malibu next plays on Friday at home at 7 p.m. against Santa Clara, a team they defeated three weeks ago in the Pacifica Tournament.

Youth hoops take center stage during the winter

By Dick Dornan
Special to The Malibu Times

His eyes were fixated on the basket as the clock ticked away precious seconds. With the opposition surrounding him in the middle of the key, Garen Harper fired up the shot. No one blocked the attempt; no one interfered with the flight of the basketball.

Two seconds, one second, at the buzzer...GOOD!

It might have only marked the end of the third quarter, but for Harper this was his "ESPN Top-10" moment. Harper's basket elicited an eruption of screams from the fans and many high-fives from his teammates as he walked off the court and his Warriors' team leading, 25-9.

"That was one of the best moments I've had in basketball," Harper said after the game. "It was really exciting."



Dick Dornan / TMT
The green team defeated the red team in youth basketball action recently, 21-8.



Dick Dornan / TMT
The Warriors' Stevie Prudholme (left) goes in for a layup against a Lakers defender.

The Warriors ultimately defeated the Lakers in a City of Malibu Park and Recreation youth basketball game. But that one instant signified

what the fourth-graders and youth of all ages wish for: their moment in the sun.

Every Friday night and Saturday afternoon, boys and girls from kindergarten to eighth grade take the court to play coed basketball. With flag football and AYSO soccer in hibernation and little league baseball yet to start, basketball plays center stage at Malibu High School during December, January and February.

Practices are held one day a week and the kids get the opportunity to play between eight and 10 games during the course of the season. For the middle school kids consisting of grades six, seven and eight, playoffs will occur on February 8 with the championship game set for Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

On this particular day, fourth grade was represented by the Warriors, Lakers, the red team and the green team. While the green team was playing its way to a 21-8 win against the red team, members of the Warriors and Lakers were stretching in anticipation of their second matchup of the season.

Warriors coach Steve Prudholme, assistant coach Royce Clayton and Lakers coach Indy Moore entered the gym moments before tip-off after conducting Little League tryouts at the Bluffs Park for the upcoming season.

Their dedication to youth sports in

Malibu is evident year-round with the trio coaching football, basketball and baseball. Coaching takes up a large part of their lives, but they wouldn't have it any other way.

"Basketball is going great. The kids are really enjoying playing and it's been very competitive this year," Prudholme said. "I want them to have fun, play hard and be aggressive. This year we've been teaching the team plays, pick-and-rolls, and screens."

"We've taught how to play defense with your feet and not just hacking and fouling. The kids have been receptive to it. It's been good to see a lot of the kids who we started with at five years old and now they are nine and 10, just how much they've learned the game and how much they are enjoying it."

Prudholme's son, Stevie, and Clayton's two sons, Royce Jr. and Elijah, are on the team. Stevie has enjoyed learning new plays while teammate Stefan Colburn has gained a better understanding of basketball by listening to his coaches.

"We are having a lot of fun and doing good," Stevie, nine, said. "We've learned new plays like 'jelly bean,' 'skittles' and 'gummy bear.' I like 'skittles' because we set a lot of screens and you could get open shots."

Colburn sets the screens for Stevie to get open.

"I like how you are always moving and doing something else," he said. "I've learned how to set a lot of screens, how to pass the ball and to not be afraid to shoot."

As for the game plan against the Lakers?

"Coach said we have to move the ball a lot and set picks because they are a physical team," Colburn said before the game.

The Warriors executed their game plan and made plenty of open shots as they defeated the Lakers, 28-15.

"They come into the program, put in the work and are having fun with it," Clayton said. "Just seeing the teamwork come together and the camaraderie that they are developing is special."

Each game is a teaching opportunity for the coaches. Each day is a day of growth for the boys and girls who walk on to the court in search of that one shining moment.

Just ask Harper. Three, two, one...

MHS upcoming games

Thurs., Jan. 16

Girls varsity basketball vs. Santa Clarita Christian, at home, 5 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 17

Varsity girls water polo vs. Carpinteria High School, at Carpinteria High School, 3:15 p.m.

FS boys basketball vs. Santa Clara, at home, 4 p.m.

JV girls water polo vs. Carpinteria High School, at Carpinteria High School, 4:15 p.m.

JV boys soccer vs. Fillmore High School, at Fillmore High School, 4:30 p.m.

JV boys basketball vs. Santa Clara, at home, 5:30 p.m.

Varsity boys soccer vs. Fillmore High School, at Fillmore High School, 6 p.m.

Varsity boys basketball vs. Santa Clara, at home, 7 p.m.

Tue., Jan. 21

Varsity girls basketball vs. Grace Brethren High School, at Grace Brethren High School, 6 p.m.

Lacrosse clinic



Dick Dornan / TMT
The Malibu Youth Lacrosse program will host a free clinic on Jan. 26 for potential players to learn about the sport.

On Jan. 26, the Malibu Youth Lacrosse program will host a free clinic to give potential players a chance to learn about lacrosse. Equipment for 30 players will be available during the clinic. Parents

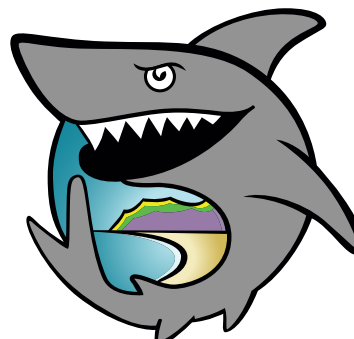
who have played lacrosse, coaches and Malibu High School varsity lacrosse players will attend to explain and demonstrate the sport. The 2014 lacrosse season starts in February.

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