

# Malibu AYSO boys U-12 win consolation championship

Surfriders FC make a strong impression in the AYSO National Games.

By Dick Dornan  
Special to The Malibu Times

As millions continue to marvel at the World Cup spectacle in Brazil, a group of 12 boys represented Malibu in proud fashion by winning the U-12 consolation championship at the American Youth Soccer Organization's 50th anniversary of the National Games.

The youth soccer extravaganza brought 7,000 players together in Torrance and Riverside.

In a spirited performance that covered eight games in four days, the Malibu Surfriders FC won the boys 'core' U-12 consolation championship with a 4-2 victory over Pearl City, Hawaii, at Ladera Linda Park in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Malibu's team was composed of forwards Landon Amaral, Evan Geft and Tommy Avena, midfielder/forward Nalu Mack, midfielders Carson and Grant Baer, defenders Bowen Brock, Alden Silvestre and Tariq Stack, midfielders/goalies Trumann Gettings and Nick Reinhold, and goalkeeper Mason Sainz.

In a very physical game against Hawaii that was tied 2-2 at the end of the third period, the Surfriders rose to the occasion behind a hat trick (three goals) and an assist from Amaral.

"I thought we played great in the tournament," said Amaral, a left-footed striker who led the team in scoring for the tournament. "We just played our game. That's all we have to do. We work together and have improved."

Led by Coach Tim Silvestre and Assistant Coach John Gettings, the Surfriders began pool play with games on July 3 and 4. Malibu defeated Trinidad and Tobago (6-0), St. Clair, Michigan (7-0), Idaho Springs, Idaho (4-0) and La Habra, Calif. (3-0).



Landon Amaral scores a goal on a powerful shot.

Dick Dornan / TMT

"We played well. We had good interior passing and great defense," said Alden Silvestre about the first four wins. "We controlled the middle and put it up the sides and scored. We were good on set pieces like corners and free kicks. We kept going and didn't stop."

Silvestre, Brock and Stack were defensive stalwarts throughout the tourney. Amaral, Mack and Geft dominated offensive possession.

After posting four consecutive shut-outs, the Surfriders ran into a tough squad from nearby Glendale and lost, 5-2, to conclude pool play in second place at 4-1.

Eight teams advanced into the championship tournament on July 5, including Malibu. Despite leading 5-1 in the third quarter, the Surfriders succumbed to the eventual U-12 champions, Rowland Heights. The game was tied, 5-5, after regulation and Rowland Heights advanced on penalty kicks, 4-3.



Malibu Surfriders FC

Photo courtesy of Tim Silvestre

The heartbreaking loss dropped the Surfriders into the consolation bracket on July 6, where they defeated Victorville, Calif., 4-1. The win set up the match against Pearl City, Hawaii, later that day.

It was a magical ride for the Surfriders, a team formed by Tim Silvestre last fall. The Surfriders won the Area 10E tournament in Moorpark back in January, competing against the best 'core' players from the five other regions in the AYSO area.

Malibu's success continued as it came in third place in the Section 10 championship in Bakersfield and won the Strawberry Cup in Camarillo a few weeks later against a very competitive flight of AYSO 'extra' teams (a higher division).

The Surfriders earned the invitation to play in the National Games and ended their season as a squad with the consolation championship in hand. Beginning in the fall, most members of the team will move up to the U-14 division while a few will remain at the U-12 level.

"What I love about Malibu's team is all these kids love playing together. They are all friends," Gettings said. "It was a great opportunity. Soccer Fest was wonderful and the boys had an amazing time interacting with the different teams. It was a great experience to be a part of."

Tim Silvestre praised the Surfriders for an outstanding effort at the National Games and reflected upon what this group of boys had accomplished in such a short amount of time.

"The National Games was a fabulous experience for our boys, with very competitive soccer games, wonderful friendships and great pin trading," Silvestre said. "The long journey for the Surfriders left us all with a host of fond memories and cherished moments. It is profound and bittersweet to see our 12 little boys move on into their teens and we will remember this time together forever."

# Malibu Little League All-Stars make strong run

11-year-old boys fall just short of advancing to the next round.

By Dick Dornan  
Special to The Malibu Times

One foot was in the door, but Malibu couldn't quite get the other foot to follow.

Despite pounding two opponents en route to a 3-0 start, Malibu fell short of the title by dropping its final two contests in the 11-year-old District 25 All-Star baseball tournament held June 21-July 2.

The losses marked another year in which Malibu couldn't get out of the first round. It hasn't had a team advance past the preliminary round since 1992.

Malibu began the double-elimination tourney, hosted by Beverly Hills Little League, with a 10-0 win over Santa Monica East in four innings. The game was cut short based on the mercy rule — a 10-run lead after four innings are complete. Lyam Lynch had three hits and five RBIs in the game.

Three days later, the team knocked off Ladera, a heavy favorite to win the tournament, 4-1. The winning ways

continued as Malibu rolled to an easy 11-1 four-inning victory on June 28 against Culver Marina.

The stage was set for Malibu to advance to the next round in Torrance for the first time in 22 years. But first Malibu had to defeat Ladera on June 30 in a meeting of two high-powered teams.

Malibu's Russell Kish threw 4 2/3 innings of electric baseball, limiting Ladera to only four hits and one unearned run while walking two and striking out eight batters.

"I felt really good," Kish said. "I was trying to keep them off balance and not ready for the next pitch."

Trailing 1-0 with two outs at the top of the fifth inning (Little League games consist of six innings), Malibu knocked in two runs. Kish drove in Jake Friedman on an RBI single to left field for the first run. Trumann Gettings followed with an RBI single up the middle, bringing home Lynch to give the Tide a 2-1 lead.

But Ladera rallied with two runs in the bottom half of the inning to reclaim the lead, and Malibu couldn't mount a comeback in the sixth inning, losing the



Russell Kish pitched an outstanding game against Ladera.

contest, 3-2. The loss forced a winner-take-all decisive game on July 2.

Once again, Ladera edged out Malibu in the rematch, winning 2-1 in a close extra-innings game. Gettings had a strong outing on the mound, throwing five innings and allowing one unearned run.

But that wasn't enough, as Ladera scored the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh, setting off a wild celebration.

Still, Malibu took the loss in stride. "They played beautifully and played as a team," Malibu coach Geoff Stern said. "They embraced representing Malibu playing as one unit. Our boys gave it all they had. They played Malibu baseball. It's been a pleasure."

Kish finished the tournament pitching 12 innings and allowing only two unearned runs while contributing four hits, including a home run and five RBIs at the plate.

"Russell was amazing on the mound. He's a phenomenal baseball player," Stern said.

Gettings pitched in three games and recorded 13 strikeouts while collecting three RBIs.

"We had a good group of kids. Things just didn't go our way," Gettings said. "Hopefully we all get better and next year we just try harder."

Other notable tournament performances include Joshua Stern tallying six hits and tossing two innings where he gave up zero and struck out three. Treye Meadows and George Roth each had three RBIs apiece over five games.



Jake Friedman scores a run for Malibu.

Photos by Dick Dornan / TMT

## Smart golfers

Liv Cheng and Alessandra Arza of the Pepperdine women's golf team have earned All-American Scholar status for 2013-14 from the Women's Golf Coaches Association. In order to receive this award, recipients must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least a 3.5 and compete in at least half of the team's events.

This is the third time Cheng, from Auckland, New Zealand, has received this award. She graduated from Pepperdine this year with a degree in economics. She played in 118 rounds throughout her four years with the team.

Arza, who is from Asuncion, Paraguay, played in the Waves' eight regular-season tournaments as a freshman.



Alessandra Arza



Liv Cheng

Photos courtesy Jeff Golden