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Around the horn

Bay Area News Group

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NCS basketball seeding

Several local teams were rewarded for their strong regular seasons with high seeds in the NCS playoffs. The Berkeley girls are the top seed in the Division I bracket, while the Bishop O'Dowd boys and girls are the top seeds in Division III. Both the St. Joseph Notre Dame boys and girls are top seeds in Division V, and the St. Mary's girls are No. 1 in Division IV. The St. Mary's boys are No. 3 in Division IV, while Piedmont (Division IV) and Alameda (Division II) are No. 4 seeds in their respective boys divisions..

— Matt Smith

Albany soccer

It has been a banner year for Albany High boys and girls soccer, and the boys' season is still alive. The second-seeded Cougars (23-0-3) opened the North Coast Section Division II boys playoffs with a 4-1 win over Kennedy-Fremont on Feb. 20 and were set to face Dublin on the semifinals on Feb. 24. Results weren't available at press time. In the girls Division II playoffs, No. 3-seed Albany (21-1-1) was upset by No. 11 Alhambra 2-0 on Feb. 20.

— Matt Smith

Gauchos fall

El Cerrito High's attempt at an unbeaten Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League boys basketball season ended with a 70-49 loss to Berkeley in the regular-season finale on Feb. 19. . Still, the Gauchos (23-3, 11-1) won the ACCAL crown despite having their 12-game winning streak snapped. They earned the No. 4 seed in the NCS Division III playoffs and beat Tamalpais 63-23 on Feb. 24.

— Matt Smith

On deck

Bishop O'Dowd v. Albany, girls basketball, Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m. — The Dragons received an opening-round bye in the NCS Division III bracket and will host Albany, which advanced with a 44-39 win over San Marin on Feb. 23.

Berkeley v. Washington, girls basketball, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. — The top-seeded Yellowjackets host the No. 9 Huskies (17-10) in the quarterfinals.

Stars of the Week

Deanna Calhoun, Albany girls basketball — The 6-4 senior center scored 21 points in a 60-52 loss to Encinal in the first round of the BSAL playoffs on Feb. 16.

Dominique Lee, St. Mary's boys basketball — The Utah-bound senior had two 18-point games in the Bay Shore Athletic League playoffs, doing so in a 66-44 win over Albany on Feb. 16 and a 59-54 loss to Salesian on Feb. 18.

Taylor Wallace, Berkeley girls basketball — The senior post player put up 22 points against Hercules in a 70-25 ACCAL win on Feb. 16.

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Saidah Allen/Andrea Chenier, Piedmont girls basketball — The tandem combined for 33 points in a 44-33 first-round BSAL playoff win over St. Joseph on Feb. 18, with Allen, a junior adding 14 rebounds and Chenier, a senior, six assists. Allen had 14 points and 17 rebounds in a 47-35 semifinal loss to St. Mary's on Feb. 20.

Brandon Ashley, Bishop O'Dowd boys basketball — The 6-8 sophomore scored 18 points in a 67-37 win over Hayward on Feb. 18, then followed up with 16 in a 71-58 win over Castro Valley the next day.

Monina Cuyugan, St. Joseph Notre Dame girls basketball — The junior guard scored 18 points and sank three 3-pointers in a first-round 51-39 BSAL playoff win over Salesian on Feb. 16.

Mikayla Lyles, Bishop O'Dowd girls basketball — The senior scored 19 points in an 80-32 Hayward Area Athletic League win at Hayward on Feb. 17, then had 17 in an 81-34 HAAL win at Castro Valley on Feb. 19.

Janis Peterson, Encinal girls basketball — The senior scored 22 points in a 60-52 win over Albany on Feb. 16 in the first round of the BSAL playoffs, then added 26 in a 70-52 semifinal loss to St. Mary's on Feb. 18.

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