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Bishop O'Dowd has 2 first-rate basketball teams

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Mitch Stephens, Special to The Chronicle

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

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There's no extra swagger or backslapping around Bishop O'Dowd's gymnasium in Oakland these days, despite the fact that its basketball teams could finish atop the boys and girls Metro rankings.

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Dennis Lee

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Breanna Brown (6-3), Oderah Chidom (6-2) and Kendall Waters (6-1) added some much-needed brown to what looked like a vertically challenged group, and Bostick's sister, 5-2 Ariel, added some absolutely electrifying point-guard skills.

"We thought we were going to have to play (Mayberry) in the post until girls 6-3, 6-2 and 6-1 walked into the door," second-year coach Malik McCord said. "Obviously, we've been very, very blessed."

The second-ranked boys received a similar blessing last season when 6-8 Brandon Ashley and 6-6 Richard Longrus Jr. arrived and started as freshmen. They are considered two of the nation's top sophomores and, with 6-5 senior Jordan Barton, make up one of Northern California's most imposing front courts.

With Capiti, a strong 6-1 senior point guard, three-point shooters Anders Haas and James Thomas Jr., and a deep bench, the Dragons (21-3) are pretty much unbeatable around these parts.

"Not even close," O'Dowd senior Nick Capiti said.

"There's so many talented teams and players up here nobody really stands out."

Said Robie Mayberry, a 6-foot senior who leads the girls team in scoring, rebounds and assists: "Besides that, everyone is so into their schoolwork and trying to get good grades. Sports is huge, but we're all trying to get into college."

Mayberry doesn't need to worry. She has signed a letter of intent to Pepperdine, and teammate Mikayla Lyles, a 5-8 super shooter and defender, has signed to Cal. The team's only other senior, 5-8 point guard Alexis Bostick, took a trip to Oregon State on Friday and is expected to commit this week.

Few girls teams boast three Division I players on one roster, and that's simply where the Dragons begin. The back end of the area's No. 1 squad (20-3 overall) is perhaps the most skilled, most talented and tallest freshman class in the state.

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"We get hyped up watching (the boys) with all their dunks and alley-oops," Mayberry said. "But we also have fun and give them a hard time. I mean right now there is only one team in the Bay Area No. 1."

The boys are the favorite to win the Northern California Division III title and reach the state finals in Bakersfield. The girls have giant roadblocks in Sacramento, a team that beat the Dragons, and St. Mary's-Stockton, the nation's top-ranked team.

WCAL roundup: Fourth-ranked St. Francis (22-2, 14-0) became the third school, fifth boys basketball team and first since 1999 to go undefeated in the West Catholic Athletic League play with a 51-45 victory at No. 7 Serra on Saturday. The other schools to go unbeaten were Riordan (1985-87) and St. Ignatius (1976 and 1999); each of those schools went 12-0 in WCAL play.

Chronicle Top 20 Boys Basketball

Team	W-L	Last
1. Salesian	18-1	1
2. Bishop O'Dowd	21-3	2
3. Newark Memorial	22-3	3
4. St. Francis	22-2	4
5. De La Salle	22-2	5
6. San Ramon Valley	22-2	6
7. Castro Valley	20-4	8
8. Serra	20-4	7
9. Bellarmine	20-4	9
10. Analy	25-1	10
11. Redwood	24-2	12
12. St. Patrick/St. Vincent	21-4	17
13. St. Joseph-Notre Dame	20-6	16
14. Campolindo	21-4	13
15. Oakland	14-9	14
16. El Cerrito	23-2	15
17. St. Mary's	18-8	11
18. Mitty	16-8	20
19. Heritage	19-5	18
20. Palo Alto	16-6	NR

Chronicle Top 20 Girls Basketball

Team	W-L	Last

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1. Bishop O'Dowd	20-3	1
2. Berkeley	20-3	2
3. Mitty	19-5	3
4. Carondelet	19-5	4
5. St. Mary's	22-3	5
6. Dougherty Valley	22-2	6
7. Northgate	21-3	7
8. Pinewood	19-5	8
9. Miramonte	18-6	9
10. Deer Valley	18-6	12
11. Dublin	19-6	10
12. Eastside Prep	20-4	14
13. St. Ignatius	17-7	15
14. Valley Christian	17-4	11
15. Piedmont	20-6	13
16. Justin-Siena	23-3	17
17. Marin Catholic	19-6	19
18. Drake	21-4	20
19. Presentation	15-9	NR
20. Monte Vista	19-5	16

See WCAL playoff schedule and more at sfgate.com/sports/preps. E-mail Mitch Stephens at mstephens@maxpreps.com.

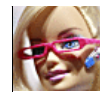
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fzburk 2/16/2010 9:41:36 AM

BOD is a scholarship/recruited team. They play the public schools on an unfair playing field.

Do you think BOD's coaches are better, the school promotes better athletes due to religion, or is it just the god is on their side?

How many schools just happen to have a 6'2, 6'1 and 6' freshman girls class fall into their lap? Only the highly recruiting catholic schools.

They should be in their own league, like the defunct CAL. The scholarship schools are robbing the public schools of league titles and the ability to get into North Coast Playoffs.

Separate but not equal, the catholic schools for the most part circumvent the recruiting rules and get away with it. The North Coast Section does not have the willingness nor manpower to actually monitor the abuse.

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We Are O'Dowd

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sfnative94107 2/16/2010 4:42:52 PM

fzburk stop crying. If you're gonna accuse O'Dowd of illegal recruiting practices then back it up with evidence. It just sounds like whining to me. Were you on here the last few years condemning McClymonds for their success, which was in no small part helped by the, shall I say, suspicious arrival of ultra-stud player Damon Powell? Or what about Newark Memorial? Does the city of Newark just have more top notch basketball talent than most other places around here, or could it be that a handful of the players get "recruited" to go there and addresses and whatnot are fudged to make the enrollment legal. Come on man open your eyes. The public engage is a ton of legitimately illegal recruiting practices.

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