

# CONTRA COSTA TIMES

ContraCostaTimes.com

## Berkeley dominates San Benito, advances to title game

**Miramonte falls to St. Mary's-Stockton, which is ranked No. 3 in the nation**

By Ricardo Sanchez Jr.

STAFF WRITER

Article Launched: 03/07/2008 03:04:51 AM PST

Tiffany Hamasaki set the tone in the first quarter and Jazmine Perkins continued Berkeley High School's momentum all the way to the final buzzer.

It's the type of leadership the captains of the Yellow Jackets girls basketball team are expected to provide. And because of it, they each ended their last home game the way seniors should -- with a win.

Hamasaki and Perkins combined to score 28 points and Berkeley dominated visiting San Benito-Hollister 50-38 in the California Interscholastic Federation Division I Northern regional semifinals on Thursday, bringing the Yellow Jackets one step closer to the state championship game.

The Yellow Jackets (29-3) take on Kennedy-Sacramento at 10 a.m. at Arco Arena on Saturday in the NorCal final.

"We rebounded," Hamasaki said. "And we played defense. Rebounding and defense wins championships."

The Haybalers (24-6) had no answer for

Berkeley's height as they were beat repeatedly on the glass.

Camila Rosen and **Chairese Culberson** scored on three-straight possessions in the first quarter on putbacks and Hamasaki, who usually picks her spots and is content on setting up others, somehow found herself in the right place at the right time Thursday.

She scored seven points of her game-high 15 points in the first quarter, the last two ended a 13-6 Berkeley run as Hamasaki stole an inbound pass and hit a jumper at the buzzer to give Berkeley a 21-12 lead.

"I had to go all out," she said.

San Benito couldn't handle Berkeley's press and scored only one field goal in the second quarter but were 8-for-11 from the free throw line and trailed 33-22 at the half.

Despite Vanessa Farias 14 points, the Haybalers struggled in the third quarter and were held to just two points and trailed 42-24 entering the fourth.

Perkins scored seven of her 13 points in the second half. Culberson finished with nine points and eight rebounds and Rosen had nine points and 13 rebounds. Berkeley's Airika Warren chipped in with 12 rebounds.

### DIVISION III

St. Mary's-Stockton 70, Miramonte 51: The Matadors succumbed to the Rams' vaunted pressing defense in the second half at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton.

St. Mary's (32-0), ranked No. 3 in the nation by Rivals.com, advanced to face No. 1 Sacred Heart Cathedral-San Francisco in a much-anticipated final

Advertisement

# ContraCostaTimes

.com

## (800) 598-4637

## Subscribe today!

[www.contracostatimes.com/subscriberservices](http://www.contracostatimes.com/subscriberservices)



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™