

## [New Cal-Hi Sports Bay Area Top 20 Rankings](#)

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The boys were to be featured this week but a new Lady Yellowjacket stole the headlines. Watch Cal-Hi Sports Bay Area for highlights, features and more on Sunday at 7 p.m. on YourTV 20, San Francisco with co-hosts Robert Braunstein and Amy Calderone. Replays throughout the week on Comcast SportsNet throughout Northern California.

*By Harold Abend, Special to CalHiSports.com*

We promised to hit the road for boys' basketball, and last week we did finally keep our promise.

It started Tuesday night in Richmond at Salesian, where the fans at courtside, the benches, the scorers table and the seat they gave yours truly next to it, all practically touch the lines of play.

My visit did not bring joy to the homestanding Pride, although Coach **Bill Mellis** and AD **Chad Nightingale** were gracious hosts.

On Friday, we found our way to Berkeley to see the boys take on El Cerrito when we ran into a firestorm.

Last Thursday, the Berkeley girls' team went from reeling to squealing with joy.

In a decision made by the CIF on Jan. 29, it chose to not pursue in court the decision of NCS Commissioner **Gil Lemmon** and the State CIF Board of Appeals in the case of Hercules transfer **Brittany Boyd**.

Therefore, the incoming sophomore guard became immediately eligible and was in uniform in the opening game of the girls/boys doubleheader which Berkeley won handily over El Cerrito.

Boyd, a 5-8 guard who is one of the top 10 incoming sophomores in the state, had eight points, five steals and four assists in limited action, but showed little signs of rustiness.

With Boyd and her all-around game, of shooting, ball-handling, spin moves and finishes with either hand, aggressive defense and everything you want in a young player, Berkeley is back in a very prominent role in the D I Northern California scene.

"I'm really happy to be a part of this team," Boyd told CalHiSports.com after the game. "I had to stay focused on my game and realize nobody can keep me down."

"This should never have happened. She missed 20 games," said Berkeley Coach **Gene Nakamura**, who in the 20-plus years we've known him, only sounded angrier when he felt the refs blew a critical call in the end of one state title game, and when the CIF refused to name his team state champion when Narbonne was "vacated" from the title in 1998 due to residency issues.

Be as it may, Boyd is now on the roster, and Nak, who came back to coach due to last year's coach **Cheryl Draper** needing a leave for personal reasons, has a team that can compete again at a state level.

New Mexico State-bound **Camilla Rosen** confirmed on Jan. 30 she will not return this season from a knee injury and **Airika Warren** is not on the team, but Fresno State-bound **Dominique Williams-McNac** is looking better each game after returning from a knee injury.

Boyd's presence will also help the other super-sophomore in the lineup, 6-foot Chariese Culberson, by reducing her load offensively.

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