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March 10, 2008

## Familiar names win regional titles

Chris Roemer

By the completion of the slate of girls games on Saturday, we had repeat winners in all of the three regional finals at Arco. Berkeley, Mitty, and in the day's featured presentation "The Battle of Unbeatens", the Irish of Sacred Heart Cathedral escaped with the win in epic fashion from the help of a recognizable face.

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### Berkeley coasts after early rout

The fate of the game was sealed in the first quarter. At the start of the game, the 'Jackets came out rolling finishing the quarter ahead 22-1. Although Kennedy of Sacramento would outscore them the next two periods and keep it close in the fourth, that hole was too much to overcome. Berkeley 72-53

### Monarchs advance to state title game

In a game of two evenly matched teams, the lead switched back and forth with neither team able to separate themselves from the other. That is until the fourth quarter began. Maybe it was urgency or some desperation, but whatever the case Mitty came out and controlled the final quarter, doubling its output of the previous quarters and holding St. Francis of Sacramento to a dismal two points. Mitty 51-41

### Sacred Heart keeps national title hopes alive

This was the game everyone had been waiting for since last year, all this year, all week and all day. The game pitted two of the top ranked teams in the country and two of the only remaining undefeated teams. It is believed that more people were in the stands for this game than for any other girls game in history at Arco Arena. The game between the two teams was so tight that in the end it reached a boiling point. Something had to give, something special had to happen. It was all so fitting, yet again, Tierra Rogers would rise to the occasion. With seven ticks remaining, Rogers popped into the heart of the Rams' "D", receive a feed from KIKI Moore for the game-winning score to keep the Irish's national championship and state title hopes alive. SHC 46-45

### Players of Note

**Kirsten Shimizu, 5-foot, Guard, Kennedy, 2009** - Shimizu went scoreless in the first half, but had a hand in gritty takes to the basket, some timely efficiency from the outside and at the charity stripe in the second. Standing just five feet tall, she was fearless with her penetration of the 'Jackets "D" and took advantage of the open looks she was given. She finished that half on 4-of-6 shooting, 2-for-4 from behind the arc, and 4-for-4 from the line for a total of 14 points.

**Melody Khlok, 5-foot-9, Forward, Kennedy, 2009** - Khlok typically does and did most of her work against Berkeley around 10 feet and within the parameters of the paint. Not accustomed to the outside shot or the mid-range J, Khlok took every opportunity she saw in favor of the drive. However, no slouch on the glass, she came away with a hard fought pesky nine boards.



Tierra Rogers has become accustomed to making game-winning plays for Sacred Heart

**Deja Kinsey, 5-foot-7, Wing, Kennedy, 2009** - The physical and tough-minded guard would on occasion stop and pop the jumper, but more likely than not chose to get in the lane and try to score among th4e trees. She had some success and even managed to convert against contact.

**Camilla Rosen, 6-foot, Forward, Berkeley, 2009** - Against Kennedy, Rosen was very opportunistic when she had the open look and when someone else had a better shot she gave it up. Without the ball, she did a good job of cutting and going after it on the glass to find some scores and had her hands in on a lot of positive plays for Berkeley. She doesn't exactly wow you, but just gets the job done. Camilla finished with 18 points (.500) and perfect from the free throw line in addition to six rebounds and four assists.

**Chairese Culbertson, 6-foot, Post, Berkely, 2011** - The young mild mannered beast in the middle can have her impact on the game when she awakens. Culbertson seems to carry herself so gingerly, and then all of a sudden she asserts herself coming up with a strong block or a strong finish after a rebound.

**Jazmine Perkins, 5-foot-11, Wing, Berkeley, 2008** - You never know which Jazmine is going to show up, but on this day and on this stage she was feeling it the entire game. Perkins was consistent hitting two of three from behind the arc, and flying through the lanes for

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scores. She had an impact in both halves scoring 12 and 16 points respectively. Kennedy also couldn't keep the long wiry athletic Perkins off the glass as she snatched a game high 12 rebounds.

**Airika Warren, 6-foot, Post, Berkeley, 2009** - Coming into high school, Warren was more of an athlete, but now as a junior at Berkeley she is damaging the paint where she is most comfortable, with brute force and sheer strength. Warren doesn't get much consistency with the jump shot, but when she is around the basket she is hard to stop. She used a nice little jump hook as well as power moves in the paint to get the ball in the hole.

**Hannah Stephens, 5-foot-7, Guard, Mitty, 2008** - Hannah did all that she could and then some to make sure that her team would be playing in next week's state final game, again. Stephens hit her only three point attempt, converted some tough finishes off of drives and hit some well earned free throws. She wasn't content just playing offense either as she muscled her way to come away with seven rebounds, nearly all of which came in the second half.

**Lindsay Leo, 6-foot-3, Post, Mitty, 2008** - Leo is hardly ever going to give you a substantial offensive output, but what she will do is provide a defensive presence and play hard. The times she ran hard out in front, she was rewarded. Nonetheless, most of her damage was done without the ball. Leo was actively rebounding on the glass and swatting away and altering many shots. Going to San Diego State, she is going to have to establish some sort of comfort level on the blocks and rhythm with her shot.

**Ashley Watson, 5-foot-7, Guard, Mitty, 2011** - Here we go again, another speedy athletic point guard that likes to go. Watson is quick to push the ball down the floor and her quickness allows her to draw contact when she is sent to the free throw line she is money. Not only did she look good shooting her free throws, but she connected on her only three point attempt and looked good in the process.

**Ariel Gregersen, 6-foot, Guard, St Francis, 2008** - Gregersen never seemed to get in sync or aggressively assert herself offensively into the big game. The Cal Poly-bound guard scored her only two points on a left handed drive from the top of the key. She only took six shots with nearly all of them three point attempts and never really looked to drive after her only made basket.

**Brittney Wong, 5-foot-5, Guard, St Francis, 2009** - Another diminutive guard with a huge effort, Wong was her team's lone bright spot, scoring 12 of her team's 19 second half points. She shot the ball well from the outside, hit all of her free throws and scored the rest of her points around the basket.

**Annissa Garcia, 5-foot-10, Post, St Mary's, 2010** - Garcia is your do-it all player. She plays hard, isn't afraid to throw her body around, and most importantly does the dirty stuff. Her job in that vaunted dribble drive motion offense is to work the inside and she is there to clean the misses. On defense, she is a force on the glass as she grabbed a game high 10 rebounds nine of which came in the first half.

**Alle Moreno, 5-foot-3, Guard, St Mary's, 2010** - For as small as the sophomore might be she compensates by being very crafty and clever. Moreno didn't blow defenders nor muscle around, but finagles and finds her way for shots with scoops or floaters. On one instance, she missed her own shot but caught her defender sleeping and snuck around to put the shot back in over the rim.

**Afure Jemerigbe, 5-foot-11, Wing, St Marys, 2010** - Afure got off to a slow start as she was saddled with two early fouls. She is widely known as an exceptional athlete and if her athleticism was ever on display it was the opening play of the second half. The Rams ran a play that saw Jemerigbe rise up and catch a lob for an alley oop finish. No it wasn't a dunk, but it was quite impressive. The rest of her points primarily came on her usual penetrations slicing through the defense to finish with the right hand, but she did hit her only outside attempt.

**Chelsea Gray, 5-foot-10, Guard, St Marys, 2010** - Arguably one of the best sophomore point guards in the state and most likely the country, Gray didn't have her best night shooting the basketball. She was 5-of-14 from the field and all of those makes were hard earned as they came under constant pressure. The ball was in her hands a majority of the time as Gray's number was frequently called whether she was being summoned for an isolation, breaking the press one-on-one or merely handling the ball to initiate a play. However, the long, rangy sophomore seemed to wear down during the latter stages of the game.

**Kiki Moore, 5-foot-8, Guard, SHC, 2009** - Moore is your all around complete prototypical point guard. Her strong build, deceptive athleticism and great court vision were the sole reason that the Rams chose not to press when she was in the game. She hit the right spots and attacked the gaps when necessary. Moore can find many different ways to put herself in the scoring column, and she did. Her harassing defense and strong hands were disruptive creating tips and deflections some of them leading to her own scores. She finished with a stat line that read 12 points, five rebounds and seven steals.

**Tierra Rogers, 5-foot-10, Wing, SHC, 2009** - Let's get straight to the point. Once again the hands of Tierra Rogers saved the day for the Irish. Last year in the region finals, it was her interception in the closing seconds that led to a Lauren Bell layup and the Irish victory. In the state final against Bishop Amat, it was her drive through the lane and three point play that sealed the championship. Now again, she released a soft floater in the key that found nothing but net for her team's third consecutive trip to the state final.

**Jazmine Jackson, 5-foot-9, Guard, SHC, 2008** - The most spectacular thing about Jackson's performance on Saturday was her success from the free throw line. Everytime she got fouled on the shot or on the bonus, she was money from the stripe and she made the Rams pay. Jackson was 10-for-11 for the game with most of her scores coming in the second half. Not to go unnoticed but Jackson proved that she is one of the best defenders in the region and her strength at the next level may very well be her ability to defend the perimeter. Her stellar "D" made it tough on her opposing guards all game long.

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