

SPORTS

COMPLETE SPORTS COVERAGE OF AREA SCHOOLS, RECREATION LEAGUES

Young movement at Westmont, one more time

*Prospect, Del Mar
open league play*

By DICK SPARRER

There's a sort of youth movement under way on the softball team at Westmont High School this spring.

But you won't catch veteran head coach Jon Hennig calling it a building year for his club. The Warriors were pretty young last year, and they came within a game of winning the championship in the rugged Mt. Hamilton Division of the Blossom Valley Athletic League.

Comeback all-leaguers Casey Morris, Lujane Mussadi and Melissa Ortiz, obviously all underclassmen on last year's squad, return to lead a Westmont club that features only two seniors.

Ortiz is one of them, and she returns after winning all-league second team honors as a Westmont outfielder last season. Outfielder Mariah Huckaby is the only senior on the squad this year.

Topping the list of returners are juniors Lujane Mussadi, a talented right-handed pitcher who won an all-league first team spot last spring, and Casey Morris, a catcher who was

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELINE RAMSEYER

Westmont's Cassidy Brown (22) gets the force out at second against Santa Teresa and throws on to try to complete the double play. The Warriors defeated the Saints 7-3 in this non-league game.

Collins, Frediani power Warriors past Bruins

By KEVIN SPARRER

Westmont's Jonathan Collins is a tough out, or at least he was when the Warriors faced Branham on March 10 in a Blossom Valley Athletic League Mt. Hamilton Division game at Westmont.

Collins helped drive the Warriors to a 4-0 win over the Bruins when he belted three hits, including a double, and drove in three runs.

The Warriors scored in the bottom of

the first to take an early 1-0 lead and the game went scoreless until the bottom of the fifth when Westmont rallied for three more runs.

Collins wasn't alone at the plate. Anthony Frediani also ripped two hits, with a double, and Casey Thompson smashed a pair of singles. Josh Parker knocked a single and Justin Edgar smacked out a base hit and drove in a run.

Marshall McKinnon spent the majority of the time on the mound, tossing

five innings, striking out nine and only allowing three hits. After that, Josh Jacobsen came in and was lights out for two innings. Jacobsen allowed no hits in the seven batters he faced and struck out one.

Westmont also toppled the Bruins 10-1 on March 8 with Frediani swinging the big stick this time. He blasted out three hits, including a home run, and drove in two runs. McKinnon smacked a single and a double, and Thompson cracked a homer and a single and had

three RBIs. Justin Edgar, Collins, Matt Ryand and Jacobsen all knocked singles, Ryudo Hirayama crushed a double and Lucas Erceg ripped a single and had a sacrifice fly.

Brett Solano went 6 1/3 innings on the hill, striking out seven and allowing just one hit. Devin Launcher came in for two thirds of an inning and shut down two batters, striking out one.

After defeating the Bruins twice last

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picked the division's Sophomore of the Year in 2010.

Morris, Mussadi and Ortiz were key players on a Westmont club that posted a 10-4 record to tie for second in the league with Pioneer, a game behind division champion Leigh (11-3).

The Warriors, 6-2 thus far in the non-league season, were to open the 2011 Mt. Hamilton Division campaign against those Longhorns (5-2-1) on March 15 before visiting Piedmont Hills (3-3) on March 17. Westmont heads to Carlmont High School in Belmont on March 19 for a non-league double-header against Notre Dame-Belmont, 10 a.m., and the host Scots, at 12:15 p.m.

The Warriors return to league play when they host Leland on March 22 and visit Mt. Pleasant on March 24. Both games begin at 3:30 p.m.

Westmont split a couple of decisions in the Tournament of Champions at the Salinas Sports Complex last weekend, losing 6-2 to Gilroy before beating Burlingame 6-4.

Mussadi was the winning pitcher against the Panthers, running her season record to 6-1. And her teammates made her a winner with a clutch 3-run rally in the seventh to come back from a 6-4 deficit. Morris homered and drove in three runs to lead the Warriors to the win.

Sophomore Sarah Ossello had two hits for Westmont in the loss to Gilroy.

The split in Salinas came after two non-league wins for the Warriors last week. Westmont beat Wilcox 5-1 and knocked off Santa Teresa 7-3.

The Warriors got off to a quick start against the Saints with their first seven batters reached base, leading to a four-run rally.

That was all Mussadi needed. She flipped a 4-hitter for the win over the Santa Teresa.

Ossello was 3 for 3 to lead a 10-hit attack for the Warriors and she also knocked in a couple of runs. Ortiz had two hits and scored twice, Morris had two hits with a triple and also scored and knocked one home and sophomore Rebeka Brown singled twice and drove



PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELINE RAMSEYER

Pitcher Lujane Mussadi was an all-league first team selection a year ago and returns for her junior season at Westmont.

in run.

Mussadi helped her own cause with a double and two RBIs. Huckaby scored a run and sophomore Elayne Devillier drove one home.

Mussadi had thrown a 4-hitter earlier in the week in the week in the 5-1 win over Wilcox. The Chargers scored a run in the first, but Mussadi shut them out the rest of the way while her team picked up one in the second, two in the third and two more in the fifth.

Freshman Allie Mohn singled and tripled, driving in two runs and scoring one, to lead the Westmont offense.

Westmont had opened the year with three straight wins, beating Presentation 10-2, Christopher 1-0 and Aragon 2-0, before losing 7-3 to Notre Dame-Salinas. The Aragon and Notre Dame games were part of the Tournament of Champions in Salinas.

Morris, Mohn and freshmen Cassidy Brown and Christine Kuhny each had two hits to lead the Warriors to the season-opening 10-2 win over the Panthers. Brown singled and drove in three runs and Ortiz had a hit.

Morris had three hits and drove in the game's only run in the 1-0 win over Christopher. Huckaby also singled.

Mussadi and Devillier ripped two hits apiece and Mohn dou-

bled in the 2-0 win over the Dons. Brown and Kuhny also singled.

Morris and junior Sarina Araujo each doubled and Ortiz, Huckaby, Kuhny, Mussadi, Devillier and Mohn added singles in the loss to Notre Dame.

Panthers open league

Prospect was to open play this week in the BVAL's Santa Teresa Division, hosting Oak Grove on March 15. The Panthers are back on the diamond on next week when they visit Del Mar on March 22 and head to Lincoln on March 24 for a pair of 3:30 p.m. games.

The Panthers have three wins this spring, beating Saratoga 4-2 and 8-1 and Lynbrook 6-1 in non-league play.

Amanda Llerena tossed a 4-hitter in the win over the Vikings, running her season record to 3-0.

Prospect scored a run in the top of the first, but Lynbrook tied it with a run in the third. It would be the only run Llerena would allow in the game. She blanked the Vikes over the final four frames while her teammates rallied for three in the fifth to take the lead and two insurance runs in the seventh.

Junior Hayley Schmidt ripped three hits, including a triple, and drove in two runs in the win.

Llerena returns for her ju-

nior season at Prospect. She was the 2009 Freshman of the Year in the BVAL's West Valley Division and an all-league first team pick as a sophomore in the Santa Teresa Division last spring.

Schmidt, too, is back for her junior year after winning all-league first team honors as a freshman and an all-league second team spot for the Panthers last season.

Tough start for Dons

It's been a rough start this year for the Del Mar girls softball team. The Dons have won just one of six games and have allowed double-figure run totals in each of their losses.

The lone bright spot in the preseason for the Dons was a 10-9 win over Harbor High on March 4.

Del Mar unloaded for 10 hits in the win over the Pirates with Kayla Worley, Randi Robinson and Jazmine Becerra ripped two each. Worley and Robinson each singled and doubled for the Dons and Jennifer Roeder blasted a triple. Roeder and Robinson drove in two runs apiece.

Carmen Muller, Nicole Ippolito and Jazmyne Peterson each singled for the Dons and Worley, Becerra, Ippolito and Peterson each drove in runs. Ippolito scored three times and Peterson scored twice. Worley was the winning pitcher.

Del Mar suffered five tough losses, falling 25-3 to Los Gatos, 21-0 to Leland, 11-1 to Notre Dame-San Jose, 11-1 to Woodside and 15-0 to Scotts Valley.

Worley doubled and Roeder, Robinson, Ippolito and Peterson each singled in the loss to Scotts Valley last week. A day earlier, Muller had two hits and Worley, Roeder, Robinson and Emily Lansing each singled in the loss to Woodside.

Peterson had the only Del Mar hit in the loss to Notre Dame to open play last week.

The Dons were to open Santa Teresa Division play this week against Independence and Oak Grove and will host Prospect on March 22 and visit Sobrato on March 24 in a couple of 3:30 p.m. games.