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**STRONG CONTINGENT OF SOUTH BAY TEAMS BATTLE IN STATE REGIONAL
ARCHBISHOP MITTY BOYS, PINWOOD GIRLS GET TOP SEEDINGS IN HOOP TOURNEY**

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Article Text:

The Northern California bracket of the state championship basketball tournament is littered with South Bay teams, a couple of whom are favored to advance to the state finals.

Fresh off a dominant run through the Central Coast Section tournament, the Archbishop Mitty boys are the top seed in Division II. The Monarchs (28-2) will host a second-round game Thursday at 7 p.m., and will have home games until the regional finals, March 19 at Power Balance Pavilion in Sacramento.

The Pinewood girls also earned a top seed and first-round bye; the Panthers (24-5) are the defending Division V champions. After a 14-year drought, the Pinewood boys are back in the tournament for the second straight year and have a No. 2 seed.

"The boys are getting tired of going down to state and cheering on the girls," coach Jason Peery joked. "We want to be part of the party."

Among the girls programs that have first-round byes are Palo Alto (Division I), Presentation (Division II) and Eastside Prep (Division V).

(box) While Bellarmine Prep competed in the Central Coast Conference playoffs, one of the school's best players competed for the Earthquakes in England.

Junior left back Alfie Edmonds was one of four members of the Earthquakes Academy who accompanied the senior squad during a 10-day trip to London. Edmonds, 16, and the other teens played in an exhibition against Colchester United.

"At first it was sort of shocking," Edmonds said. "I was about to go play with people I have been watching in the last year."

The experience taught Edmonds he must work hard all the time if he hopes to realize his goal of playing professionally. He'd also like to play with his friends at Bellarmine, who won the Division I title Saturday, but conflicting schedules with the academy won't let him.

"You can't do both," Edmonds said.

(box) Behind strong pitching performances, Branham won the Wayne Richards Softball Tournament.

Freshman **Tricia Smiley** threw a no-hitter in a 12-0 victory over Pajaro Valley and Kari Bittle led the way in a 4-3 win over Oak Grove. Bittle was named the top offensive player at the tournament after going 7 for 10 with three RBIs and three runs scored. Freshman Jamie Pizano had a big weekend behind the plate and drove in three runs.

(box) San Jose High's softball team got its first victory in nearly three years, beating Yerba Buena 3-2 on March 2. Katelyn Leal struck out eight in a complete-game victory, and Mercedes Martinez and Stephanie Mejia had two hits apiece.

Two days later, the Bulldogs defeated Gunderson to improve to 2-0 in league play.

(box) Los Altos finished 5-0 in Division II at the California High School Tennis Classic in Fresno, winning the tournament for the first time.

The Eagles rolled through their bracket before beating Menlo-Atherton 4-2 in the finals.

Anthony Bello led Los Altos with a 4-1 singles record. Greg Duwlet and Justin Koehler each finished 5-0 in doubles and Dhruv Madhok went 4-1 on the weekend.

(box) The Palo Alto girls and Los Gatos boys swam away with team titles at the Palo Alto Spring Invitational, which included over 400 swimmers from six schools.

The Vikings were paced by sophomore Molly Zebker, who won the 200-meter individual medley, finished second in the 100 butterfly and contributed to three winning relay teams.

The Wildcats swept the boys relays behind senior Erich Peske, who also dominated the sprint freestyle events. Los Gatos freshman Jonathan Panchak won the 200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke.

For more on high school sports, see Alex Pavlovic's After School blog at blogs.mercurynews.com/highschools. Contact him at 408-920-5899.

Memo:

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