

BORP Bulletin

BORP's mission is to improve the health, independence, and social integration of physically disabled individuals through sport, fitness and recreation programs.

A Semi-Annual Newsletter

April 2007

A Fond Farewell

Executive Director Rick Spittler writes his final letter to the "BORP Fans."

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Youth Sports

Jr. Basketball players bring home trophy from Minnesota. Christine and Antonia both headed to Univ. of AZ.

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Adult Sports

Get the latest news on all the adult sports programs: basketball, goalball, rugby, power soccer, and cycling!

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Revolution Recap



With a record number of riders & record funds raised, "Rev06" was a roaring success.

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Adventures & Outings

A full summer of adventure is in store, including a weekend trip to Tahoe for adventures in scuba, kayaking, rock climbing and more. Whatever you decide to do, sign up early!

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Contact us today.



Want to make a donation, volunteer, or participate in a program? Visit the website or see Page 2.

BORP turns 30--again

A dispute arose in BORP's crowded front office last summer. Did 2006 mark our 30th or 31st year of operation? Thirty years of hard work deserves a big party, the conversation went. The question was, did we miss the milestone? Even a cursory glance at everyone's to-do lists gave the answer: we were about to.

32 years of sport and adventure

Thus, in classic BORP fashion, we are throwing our 30th anniversary party in 2007! Never mind that, technically, the party will be in our 32nd year of operation. (Yes, we checked the files.) It's just that we've been so busy running tournaments, reaching out to new participants, and fundraising for our programs that we lost track of just how long we've been doing what we do!

BORP has grown tremendously in the last 30 years. There have been boom years and almost-bust years, but through it all BORP's participants, coaches, volunteers, and staff



BORP's 30th Anniversary Party

Tuesday, May 1st, 6:30pm

The Palace Hotel, San Francisco

have stayed focused on the mission: fostering the health and independence of individuals with physical disabilities.

The BORP Hall of Fame

In preparation for the anniversary celebration, BORP is reaching back in the files, into the collective memories of its founders, athletes, coaches, and volunteers, to identify the individuals whose contributions to the organization stand out among the rest--a challenging task, to say the least, given the

countless luminous persons who are a part of the BORP community. At the celebration in May, we'll be inducting our first-ever class into the BORP Hall of Fame. We already know that some famous BORP faces will be in attendance.

If you have someone you would like to nominate for the BORP Hall of Fame, please send us their name (and current contact information, if you have it) and a description of why they should be inducted. Please make sure your descriptions are specific, and less than 200 words.

Lavish silent auction prizes

The party will be held May 1st at The Palace Hotel in San Francisco. A wine reception and silent auction will begin at 6:30pm. Auction items include a two-night stay at a newly renovated Renaissance Castle near the Loire River in France, sports memorabilia, an iPod, a picnic and sail for six aboard a 48-foot Hallberg Rasse Sailboat, and week-long vacations in Costa Rica and San Diego. Tickets to the event are \$125. If you would like to sponsor a table, reserve your seat at the event, or inquire about the community price for this once-in-a-lifetime event, contact us today at (510) 849-4663 or info@borp.org (Please put "30th Anniversary" in the subject line.)

DEAR BORP FANS,

Like many people, BORP has been the catalyst for profound growth in my life. Since joining BORP as Executive Director in 1995, I've learned a lot, including ways to play and compete in which my disability is not a factor.

I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful community. Our participants are a constant source of inspiration, taking everything we throw at them and wanting more. The BORP staff is truly the most talented, creative, fun and proactive group of people that I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Our board of directors has been right with us all the way, supporting our endeavors as we continue to push for more and better sports.

So it is with great difficulty that I have made the decision to move on from my position at BORP beginning May 2007. The main reason is to give me a chance to focus on passing a Title IX-inspired law that would give equal access to sports and recreation programs for individuals with disabilities. This has been a project that we at BORP have wanted to take on for years, but our responsibilities of providing day-to-day sports and recreation programs have taken precedence.

BORP's future, as well as the future of disabled sports and recreation is very bright. The Ed Roberts Campus will be coming into its own soon and with it, a BORP fitness center.

BORP is expanding its leadership role in developing sports and recreation locally, nationally, and internationally. Next summer our transportation services will expand with the addition of a medium size accessible bus to the fleet. And soon we will be celebrating a new law creating equal access to sports and recreation for all.

I look forward to recruiting each and every one of you to join us for this exciting adventure, and to working with board ad staff on a smooth transition in leadership.

Richard W. Spittler



This newsletter is available in audio (on tape) and as an electronic file (pdf). Please contact us at 510-849-4663 if you would prefer to receive it in either format.

Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program

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BORP, No Barriers Team Up for Festival

No Barriers USA's Festival 2007 will be held in Squaw Valley, CA this June 28-July 2. Some of the clinics are sure to fill up quickly, so if you are interested in attending, be sure to register now!

The most ambitious Adventures & Outings trip this summer will be the weekend trip to Tahoe for No Barriers USA's Festival 2007. Like BORP, No Barriers is a Bay-Area-based non-profit whose goal is to demonstrate that individuals with disabilities can live full, active, healthy lives.

This year's No Barriers Festival runs from June 28-July 2 in Squaw Valley. It includes a symposium, speaker and film nights, and an equipment fair where vendors will demonstrate their state-of-the-art adaptive equipment. The highlight of the event, however, will be the large slate of interactive clinics, where attendees can try out a variety of adaptive outdoor sports, including mountain biking, kayaking, rock climbing, scuba, road cycling, hiking, and more.

The BORP fleet of cycles will be on display--and in use--at the road cycling clinic, and we hope to have a strong showing from the BORP community at both the cycling clinic and the Festival as a whole. We are planning to reserve 7-8 spots for BORP participants at the Festival, but if you are interested in a specific workshop, it's a good idea to register soon, as some (such as rock climbing) fill up quickly. Additionally, the current registration fee of \$50 goes up to \$125 on May 15th.

If think you are interested in attending the festival and trying out a new outdoor sport, please contact Lori. We are still working out transportation and lodging details. At the moment, we anticipate that total cost for the weekend (Friday-Sunday, including early registration, transportation, lodging and food) will be \$200-300. As always, we are working on a way to get the cost down. Scholarships and payment plans are available, so do let Lori know if you are interested.

A Summer Full of Adventures & Outings

By the time June 30th comes around, Lori and the A&O crew will have coordinated and run 72 outings this fiscal year (July 2006 through June 2007). Even more amazingly, they were forced to cancel 23 planned trips due to lack of transportation, which means they had planned 95 outings in 365 days! Whew, talk about adventure! Not surprisingly, this summer is jam packed.

The adventure seemingly never slows down for Lori Gray, A&O Coordinator. She has once again filled the calendar with exciting opportunities for the BORP community to get out of the house and enjoy the California summer!

Contact Lori promptly if you are interested in any of the trips below. Schedule is subject to change.

May 6th: El Cerrito Speakeasy. Lunch & a movie.

May 13th: Annual Mother's Day Hike at Point Reyes along Bear Valley Trail

May 20th: BORP's 30th Anniversary BBQ. Location TBD.

May 23rd: Capitol Action Day. This FREE trip to Sacramento is a unique way to learn about and get involved in the political processes that impact our lives!

May 31st: Scharffenberger Chocolate Factory Tour (and chocolate sampling...)

June 2nd: Breakfast in Berkeley. Location TBD. \$2 program fee, plus meal

June 2nd & 3rd: Superfest. An award-winning film festival featuring movies made by individuals with disabilities or about disability issues. Movies are audio described.

June 3rd: Sailing, with either BAADS or Treasure Island Sailing Center

June 10th: Berkeley Thai Temple Brunch. A rich cultural experience, and fantastic food. More details to follow.

June 17th: Hike at Lake Chabot

June 24th: Alameda County Fair

June 29-July 1: No Barriers Festival 2007

Call A&O's Hotline for Details

Because A&O trips fill up long before the sign-up deadlines, and because the schedule is subject to change (yes, even last-minute change) be sure to call the hotline at 510-849-4663 x980 for more detailed and up-to-date information on all of the A&O trips mentioned in this newsletter. The hotline's recorded message includes cost, a brief description of the trip, and whether or not the trip is full.

A&O Calendar Availability

In order to save money on printing and postage (which allows us to offer lower cost trips to more participants) we are currently sending a printed version of the complete A&O calendar only to those who request it.

If you are not already receiving the calendar but would like to, please contact the office (510-849-4663) and let us know which format you would prefer: Braille, type or print.

The A&O calendar is also available electronically. To receive the calendar in that format, send an email to LoriBorpOutings@yahoo.com. Please put "Request A&O Calendar" in the subject line, and be sure to include your name and email in the message. You will be added to the distribution list, and will receive the calendar electronically each time it is published.

Your Feedback Welcome

If you have an idea for an adventure you wish BORP would lead, or if it's been a while since we offered your favorite outing, let us know! We'll see what we can do to include your ideas.

We Moved!

Luckily, we didn't have to go far. BORP's new office is still on Bancroft, and closer to the Bike House.

Our new address is on page 2.



Goalball Looks Toward Tournament Play

Regional and National tournaments are next challenge for BORP's goalball athletes.

As the temperatures heat up for the summer, so does the competition for BORP's goalball players.

The team heads to Salt Lake City, Utah May 4-5 for the Western Regional Tournament, which is hosted by the Utah Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired.

Then, BORP's players will fly to St. Augustine, Florida to compete in the national tournament May 31-June 2. The tournament will feature men's and women's teams from across the country, with over 150 athletes and coaches expected to be in attendance.

BORP's team, which includes elite-level players, practices in Berkeley every Wednesday 7-9pm. If you are interested in volunteering, the team could use your support at practices. Contact Jonathan Newman for more information.

All Stars Steal Show at UC Berkeley

February featured an exhibition game, and March, a strong tournament showing. Now, the team heads to Reno.

BORP's All Stars stole the half-time show on February 22 at UC Berkeley. Well, okay, they were the show.

In what has become a nearly annual event, the adult team played an exhibition game during one of Cal's women's basketball games. This year, Cal

Bears fans and a few USC fans too, had a chance to witness a fast-paced, physical game of wheelchair basketball.

BORP's adult team also had a strong showing at their March tournament, from which they emerged with a 3-1 record.

The All Stars next tournament will be April 14-15, in Reno, Nevada.

New players interested in joining the team, should contact Jonathan Newman via email (jonathan@borp.org) or or phone (510-849-4663 x304). Practices are held in Berkeley on Thursdays from 7-9pm. Spectators should stay tuned to the BORP website for more information about tournament play, or other opportunities to catch these players in action.

Rugby Program On Hold Until New Gym is Found

Revived team's practices temporarily suspended as team looks for another practice facility. Still, new players and volunteers should contact Jonathan Newman.

In the wake of the release of the award-winning documentary, "Murderball," BORP's quad rugby program underwent a revival of sorts. And a small group of BORP players began to converge again every week at a Berkeley gym, to test each other in a physically demanding game that makes many spectators flinch and utter phrases like, "Oooh, owwww."

Today, however, the team's practices are suspended indefinitely, though not for lack of players or passion for the game. Simply, the team needs a new gymnasium.

After several unsettling evening incidents near their practice facility, the players said they no longer felt safe arriving and leaving the gym at night. Thus began what has turned out to be a long search for another space for the team to hold practices.

With relatively few gymnasiums in the area, and many, many sports teams, finding a facility anywhere in the region

with available gym time is a challenge. The team is looking for a space in the East Bay that is in a safe neighborhood, has accessible restrooms, and would be available for rent in the evening.

If anyone has a lead on where the team can find such a space, they should contact Jonathan Newman, Adult Programs Coordinator.

Quad rugby could use a few additional volunteers when practices resume. Anyone interested in volunteering should also contact Jonathan. New players are always welcome.



BORP Co-hosts USA Power Soccer Camp

Two of BORP's Power Soccer players were selected for the USA Power Soccer National Team, led by Head Coach Chris Finn. BORP's Adult Programs Coordinator, Jonathan Newman is the team's technical advisor.

The 12 best power soccer players in the nation came to the East Bay last week, for a training camp as part of their preparation for the upcoming World Cup to be held in Tokyo, Japan, October 8-13, 2007.

BORP power soccer players Jessica Lehman and Corbett O'Toole were named to this squad of elite athletes some weeks ago, following a rigorous selection process.

The Team USA training camp was held March 29-31st at the Silliman Center in Newark. It included an exhibition game that was open to the public.

"All the players stepped up and improved at the camp, said Head Coach Chris Finn. "I saw glimpses of what I want the end result to be."

The camp also generated some media coverage for the little-known, but fast-growing sport, including a story aired on Univision's 6pm news the Monday following the camp.

BORP's representation on the national team underscores the strength of its local program. Both of BORP's Division I and Division II teams are operating at capacity, and are nearing the end of their competitive seasons.

According to Finn, BORP's Division I team is "playing some of their best soccer this season," despite having a record of four tied games and one loss. They will be competing in the Division I Regional Tournament on May 5th in San Jose.

Meanwhile, BORP's Division II team is undefeated this year. Their Regional Tournament will be in Berkeley on May 19th.

Both teams will then travel to Indianapolis, IN for the National Championships June 7-9th. The Team USA players will remain in Indianapolis for a day of training camp. Team USA will also hold a 4-day camp later this summer in Minneapolis.

Both BORP teams are actively fundraising. Card sharks who are interested in joining the poker tournament fundraiser on April 28th should contact Chris Finn.

In addition, Finn, Lehman, O'Toole, and Jonathan Newman must fund their own participation in the World Cup this fall. All are still actively seeking sponsors for their trips. If you would like to help these athletes and coaches participate in a truly ground-breaking sporting event, you can make a donation through their team's website: www.powersoccerteamusa.org. Or you can send a donation to BORP, with the words "Soccer -Team USA" in the memo line.

Anyone interested in volunteering at a power soccer practice (held every Saturday from 2:30-7pm at James Kenney Gym in Berkeley) should also contact Chris Finn via email: urable@yahoo.com.

2007 Cycling Schedule

Please Note: This is a partial schedule. Please be sure to check the website for ride details, as well as changes to the schedule. Always contact the cycling program if you plan to attend any of these events, no later than the Tuesday prior to the ride.

April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26:
Ride from the Bike House. Volunteers arrive 8:30am; ride begins at 9:00am

May 13: Away ride-Tiburon.

May 20: BORP Anniversary "Play Day."
Location TBA.

June 2: Revolution Kick-off Party

June 3: Tandem Training.

June 10: Away ride-Moraga/Lafayette



Cycle Holland, and support BORP!

A few spaces are left on this cycling-adventure with Black Sheep Adventures. A portion of every participants' fee will be donated back to BORP.

It's official. BORP's cycling program is going to Holland, June 25-30, 2007. Join BORP Board President Kristi Grotting on an unforgettable, European bicycling vacation in The Netherlands, a country with 10,000 kilometers of well-marked bike paths! You'll cycle past working windmills, castles, canals & colorful gardens.

The trip price includes: a \$200 donation to BORP in your name, 5 nights lodging, 14 of 16 meals, hybrid bike rental, van support, transportation during the trip, and more. For more information, or to book your trip, call toll free 866-OH-SHEEP (866-647-4337). Double-occupancy: \$2595 each; Single occupancy: add \$395.



Cycling Welcomes New Coordinator to New (Old) Bike House

The 2007 season began with Volunteer Training on March 24th. Seeing the program through to its grand finale at The Revolution in October is BORP's new Cycling Coordinator, Greg Milano (above).

The year 2006 was a year of challenges for the cycling program. Amazingly, despite it all, the numbers alone tell an amazing story: 175 participants in the cycling program, and 143 volunteers.

We have continued to receive donations for purchasing/maintaining bikes and for construction at the "Bike House," which has seen better days. Thank you to everyone who has donated time or money. We're also excited that the new office is only two short blocks from Bike House!

While the riders have taken the last few months off, staff and volunteers have been hard at work planning for the 2007 season, which began with Volunteer Training on March 24th. Please contact us, if you are interested in volunteering this year.

When rides begin again in early May, Tandem, Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced rides will be offered weekly. There are some "away" rides planned, and some social events, too! The season will end with a big celebration at The Revolution on Saturday, October 6th.

Be sure to call the office or check the website for the full ride schedule. If you are not already receiving email updates on the cycling program, and would like to, please let us know.

A Revolution for the Record Books



In attendance at this year's Revolution were world-class competitive handcyclists Alejandro Albor (above), Monica Bascio, and Matt Updike, as well as United States Handcycling Federation Executive Director, Ian Lawless. (Photo Credit: John Todd, Sports Images International)

Revolution 2006 was a record-breaking event for BORP, by virtually every measure. We had the most riders ever: sixty-nine 100-mile riders, seventy-one 60-mile riders, eighty-one 25-mile riders, and thirty-seven trail riders. All together we rode 13,555 miles.

We consumed 18 cases of Clif shots and energy bars. We ate 12 boxes of bananas. We drank 150 gallons of GU₂O, and quite possibly an entire barrel of wine.

At the end of it all, the riders collectively raised an incredible \$159,405, netting over \$109,000 to support BORP's sport and adventure programs. Indeed, Revolution 2006 was a ride for the BORP record books.

Thank you to all the riders, donors, and volunteers whose contributions made Revolution 2006 a wildly successful showcase of what BORP is all about: simultaneously pushing our limits, re-



Save the Date! The 5th annual Revolution will be held Saturday, October 6th, 2007.

Look for details on: www.borp.org.

defining what we're capable of, and, yes, partying it up!

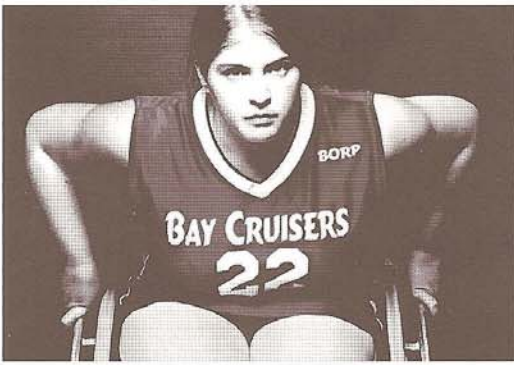
We introduced the team fundraising concept this year. Riders formed teams, with team captains, and lo and behold, we had a competition on our hands. In what turned out to be a close race that came down to the wire, the ALCO-POT Riders, raising over \$14,000, just beat out the Sphinx Graphics Team for the Top Team Fundraising Prize. Sphinx Graphics brought in nearly \$13,000. Both teams won prizes donated by Healing Adventures: a white-water rafting trip on the North Fork of the American River, and a sea-kayaking trip to Brooks Island.

The top individual fundraiser was John Ormsby, who raised \$4,549. As a result of his hard work, he'll be enjoying a weekend cycling trip in Sonoma County, courtesy of Black Sheep Adventures.

Thanks also to the many sponsors of Revolution 2006: Touchstone Climbing & Fitness, ClifBar, Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC), McGuire & Hester, McCann World Group, Liftech, Freedom Concepts, Sphinx Graphics, City Cycle, Wells Fargo, Starbucks, and Trentadue.

BORP staff, board and volunteers are already hard at work planning Revolution 2007, which will be held Saturday, October 6th, 2007 at Trentadue Winery. Stay tuned to the BORP website for registration details.

Whether your rallying cry is "Viva la revolucion!" or "Ride, Party, Ride, Party, Ride Party," now is the time to start rallying your 2007 teams, because the revolution is rolling on.



Mentoring Program Seeks Volunteers

As BORG's new Transitions Coordinator, one of Carol Wahpepah's highest priorities has been to create a mentoring program, which is seeking volunteers.

Despite the Bay Cruisers' successes on the court, BORG coaches and staff are most proud of what our youth participants have accomplished off the field of play. In the last decade, virtually all of our high school players have graduated from high school and gone on to college, employment, or both.

In an effort to keep this outstanding track record going and to bring more structure to something BORG has always done, we're starting a mentoring program.

This is an exciting opportunity for you to get involved in a young person's life. Mentors will be asked to commit to at least two outings per month with their mentee, with the goal of teaching life skills, and creating access to a new world of ideas and experiences. They will receive training and ongoing support in preparation for this important role.

If you think you have what it takes to help a young person develop personal, interpersonal, and self-advocacy skills, contact Carol Wahpepah, BORG Transitions Coordinator: carol@borp.org or 510-849-4663 x308).

At the celebratory banquet following the tournament, several of the the Bay Cruisers received awards for academic prowess.

Christine Burke was named to the "First Team All-Academic" in recognition of both her academic and athletic successes in high school. Mark Booth and Jorge Sanchez also received academic awards. Congratulations to all the Bay Cruisers for a successful season on and off the court!

Christine & Antonia headed for U of AZ

"We'll all miss Christine & Antonia, but we know that they'll come back smarter and better than ever!"

--Coach Tim Orr.

Christine and Antonia are keeping BORG's streak alive. In the last decade virtually every single high-school athlete in the BORG youth program has graduated high school, and the vast majority are pursuing higher education, working, or both. (Federal statistics show that 28% of high school students with disabilities drop out before graduation.) Both ladies will be enrolled in classes at the University of Arizona by the fall.

Antonia is already in Arizona, having enrolled in spring semester classes, which began in January. She is getting some of her general requirements out of the way, while she decides on a major. Antonia applied for and received several academic scholarships.

Christine has been a BORG athlete since 1999. She has played many sports, including basketball, tennis, track & field, and swimming. She will graduate from San Ramon Valley High School at the end of this academic year. She has been offered a basketball scholarship at U of A, and will begin classes in the fall. (Arizona is one of the few universities in the country which offers wheelchair basketball scholarships.)

While we'll miss seeing them every week, we're very proud of these ladies, and know they'll find great success and adventure in college!

BORG team, players win big in Minnesota, Berkeley

With the 2006 holiday season fast approaching, Minnesota seemed a long way to go just to get some tournament play, but the trip was worth it for a strong BORG squad, which dominated the event.

In January, BORG hosted a Prep/JV Tournament in Berkeley. At the end of an action-packed two days, BORG's JV team won their division, and the Prep team took 2nd place.

Despite that success, the highlight of the weekend turned out to be a spontaneous all-girl JV game between BORG and Spokane. (There are rarely enough girls to field an entire team.) In the 8-minute contest, which was played between scheduled games, BORG's girls handily defeated the ladies from Spokane. Nice work, girls!

BORG hosted the West Coast Conference championships at UC Berkeley in February. Four Varsity teams and four JV teams from Spokane, Seattle, Denver, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Berkeley played a weekend full of hard-fought games.

BORG's young Varsity team faced stiff competition from older, more experienced teams at the National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in mid-March. Only the top 16 teams from around the country are invited to play in this annual tournament, which was held at Oklahoma State University.

Saturday, April 21st

ROLL 'N' SHOOT

A basketball tournament
to benefit the BORP Bay Cruisers

Contact Tim Orr to form or join a team, volunteer at the event, or make a donation!



James

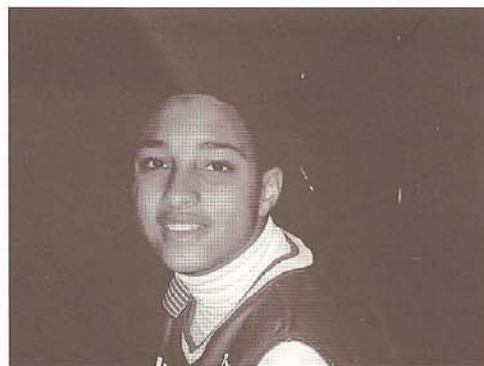
Age: 12

Hometown: San Jose

Sport: Basketball

Position: Point Guard

Season Highlights: Because of his outstanding play in the Prep-Team tournament in Berkeley this January, James was named MVP. Not only is he a stand-out Prep player, but James is also the youngest player on BORP's Varsity squad.



Sabrina

Age: 13

Hometown: Mill Valley

Sport: Basketball

Position: Point Guard, Forward, Post

Season Highlights: Sabrina's talents were apparent all over the court this season, as she was a stand-out, reliable player for the girls' teams. She accomplished the remarkable feat of playing at three levels in just one season: Prep, JV and Varsity.

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