

SPORTS

High School Girls' Golf Five Titans Qualify for CIF Individuals



Five athletes from the San Marino High School varsity girls' golf team posted solid finishes at the Pacific League finals to qualify for CIF-Southern Section Individual Regionals. Cameron McCrary, Vivian Sun, Alex Chen, Bella Setio and Ada Wong moved on to the CIF tournament, which took place in Oxnard on Monday.



Photo courtesy Eric Danielson

San Marino forward Alex Cate verbally committed to Kenyon College.

Local Basketball Player Commits to Play in College

San Marino High School varsity boys' basketball coach Mihail Papadopoulos preaches a certain mantra to all of his players in the program.

"It's earned, not given," he said. "We want them to earn it. It's not something that can be asked for and no one is entitled to it. You have to earn it."

Alex Cate heeded his coach's slogan and put in the work during the offseason to achieve a goal he's dreamed of since joining the Titans. The senior forward verbally committed to Kenyon College to continue his career competing in Division III men's basketball.

"He always wanted to play basketball in college," said Papadopoulos. "I'm just very proud of Alex. I'm proud of what he stands for. He represents our program and all of the values we try to integrate into the program. He's such a hard-working, humble young man and he comes from a great family."

"He made it happen," added Papadopoulos. "He put in a tre-

mendous amount of hours."

Cate's work ethic began producing results late last year going into the offseason, and that gave the 6-foot, 4-inch forward confidence going into the winter season.

"He's finally realizing he's one of the better players on the court," Papadopoulos said. "He's playing like it now. In the past, he was growing into his body and physicality, but his experiences have affirmed his skill sets. I think, at some point, players start to believe and have confidence in their abilities. He's at that point, and he's an even better leader."

At Kenyon, which is in Gambier, Ohio, Cate will compete in the North Atlantic Coast Conference. He joins a squad that finished last season with a 7-18 record.

Notable alumni from Kenyon College include former President Rutherford B. Hayes, University of Texas men's basketball head coach Shaka Smart and Academy Award-winning actor Paul Newman.

— Oscar Areliz

High School Football



Photo courtesy Raymond Quan

The Titans shut out South Pasadena, 35-0, to win the 61st installment of the Crowley Cup. Players celebrating with the trophy include (front) Chaz Davis. Middle row: Akbar Mahmood, Mark Uriarte, Aiden Santino, Joey Wagner, Patrick Crowley, Jack Edwards and Sean Sung. Standing: Quentin Dunkel, Nick Pirzada, Carson Glazier, JP Shohfi, Adrian Licon, Max Abughazaleh, Jackson Diaz, Mark Wicke and Joey Elliot.

San Marino Blanks Rival South Pas to Reclaim Crowley Cup

By Nick Ostiller
The Outlook

At this point in the high school football season, there have been enough snaps, runs and passes for teams to game-plan for each other by watching tape of previous contests. When the San Marino High School varsity football team invaded South Pasadena High School last Friday in a battle of undefeated squads, the host Tigers were not about to let Titans star receiver JP Shohfi beat them as he had beaten nearly every other opponent this season.

But against talented teams like San Marino, taking away one weapon usually opens up another, and that's precisely what happened during the 61st installment of the Crowley Cup matchup. The Titans made the necessary adjustments — shifting their offensive focus to the ground and letting running back Michael Chan take the reins — en route to a 35-0 road victory.

"What we do is we try to do what teams give us," said San Marino head coach Mike Hobbie. "If you look at that game, they dropped a lot of people into coverage and they only left five in the box. We like five in the box. That's fine. We can run the ball, too. They gave it, we took it. Michael is a great runner. He has great vision."

The Titans (8-0 overall record, 3-0 in league) will look to make in nine in a row when they host La Cañada High School this Friday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m.

GROUND POUND

With Shohfi facing tight coverage from the outset, it quickly became clear that San Marino would need to find other ways to

advance the ball against its Rio Hondo League rival. The Titans were forced to punt on their first drive after two straight incomplete passes, a rare occurrence for such a high-octane aerial attack.

When San Marino got the ball back, senior quarterback Carson Glazier looked for No. 2 receiver Aiden Santino instead. The fellow senior, who would later leave the game with a sprained ankle, reeled in a pass after a brief bobble and took off for 52-yard gain. That catch brought the Titans to the 13-yard line and Chan did the rest, taking the ball up the gut on the very next snap to give San Marino an early 7-0 lead.

Chan found the end zone again halfway through the third quarter. His 4-yard run capped a nine-play drive that included five other carries of his own and increased the Titans' lead to 28-0. Chan then completed the hat trick in the fourth quarter with a 10-yard

touchdown run at the 10:34 mark.

"It was awesome," said Chan, who finished with career highs in carries (23) and yards (153). "I loved it, especially against a team like South Pas, our rivals. I'm just so happy right now. We did such a good job. The O-line again did a great job. It all starts with them. I couldn't've had such a good game without them."

Chan's 153 yards against South Pasadena accounted for 70% of his varsity total from a season ago.

San Marino turned to one of its pet packages near the goal line late in the second quarter. After a 10-play drive brought the Titans to the 3-yard line, Hobbie inserted backup quarterback Mark Wicke into the game. Although Chan lined up in the backfield, Wicke kept the ball and pushed his way into the end zone to put the team up 21-0.

"Mark's a big body. He's a strong body," said Hobbie. "He's like the

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Rank	Team (League)	Record
1.	Covina Charter Oak (Hacienda).....	7-1
2.	SAN MARINO (Rio Hondo)	8-0
3.	Fontana Summit (Sunkist)	8-0
4.	Glendora (Palomares)	7-1
5.	Ontario Colony (Mt. Baldy).....	5-3
6.	Claremont (Palomares)	7-1
7.	Ontario Chaffey (Mt. Baldy)	7-1
8T.	Pomona Diamond Ranch (Hacienda).....	6-2
8T.	La Verne Bonita (Palomares).....	6-2
10.	Fontana Kaiser (Sunkist)	5-3



Photo courtesy Raymond Quan

Michael Chan (21) set career highs in carries (23) and yards (153) against the Tigers on Friday.

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fullback in our offense that we need when we want those short yards. He's going to be hard to stop and he gives us two runners in the backfield, so you don't know whether Mike or Mark is going to carry the ball. We can use a little bit of misdirection and then hit them with a good hard [run], so it's a good one-two punch."

San Marino scored its other touchdown the usual way, when Glazier found Shohfi for an 8-yard pass early in the second quarter.

SECOND SHUTOUT

It was the second game this year in which San Marino held an opponent scoreless. The team's first shutout occurred back on Sept. 11, a 63-0 win over Montebello Schurr High School. Asserting their defensive will early, the Titans stopped South Pasadena on downs on the Tigers' first drive of the game. South Pasadena (7-1, 2-1) managed just one first down in the opening quarter.

Trailing 21-0 late in the second quarter, South Pasadena had an opportunity to dent the scoreboard when senior linebacker Anthony Bakhshi intercepted Glazier's pass deep in San Marino territory. But the Titans' defense held strong and forced the Tigers to settle for a field goal attempt, which was blocked by senior Patrick Crowley.

San Marino's defense continued to apply pressure following halftime, and the farthest South Pasadena was able to advance in the third quarter was 6 yards past midfield. By then, the Tigers had inserted a new quarterback into the game in an attempt to jumpstart the offense, but the change offered few solutions. With 2:17 remaining in the third quarter, Wicke intercepted Adam Arellano's pass while playing linebacker.

RIO HONDO LEAGUE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

	League	Overall
SAN MARINO	3-0	8-0
South Pasadena	2-1	7-1
Monrovia	2-1	5-3
La Cañada	2-1	4-4
Temple City	0-3	2-6
Blair	0-3	0-8

"It was certainly fun getting that pick, being swarmed by my teammates at the end," Wicke said. "But it's been, I think, a long time coming. That was the first time I played it right all night. I need to make that adjustment quicker so it can happen sooner in a more important occasion."

Wicke's play gave the ball back to San Marino and set up a drive that ended with one of Chan's three touchdown runs. Wicke finished tied for the team-high with 10 tackles, including three solo takedowns. Crowley had 10 as well, with six solo tackles.

"I think our defense has really stepped up this year all the way across the board," said Wicke. "It's not just one player. I think every single person's contributing. Our D-line's certainly holding their ground a lot better this year. I think we've got a more experienced linebacker corps, so that's definitely a bonus."

The Titans capped their strong defensive effort when senior linebacker Chaz Davis picked off a pass from Tigers quarterback Michael Partida, the starter who was reinserted during the fourth quarter.

CROWLEY CUP

The annual matchup between San Marino and South Pasadena known as the Crowley Cup dates back to 1955, the year SMHS was formed after its split from South Pasadena-San Marino High School. Last Friday's game was the 61st meeting and fifth straight victory for the Titans in the series.

"It's a big, big game between our two communities," said Hobbie. "A lot of these kids know each other and it's a tradition. It's been going on for a really, really long time. You can throw records out the window when teams like this meet because there's going to be so much enthusiasm and passion on the field. Guys are going to step up [who] you don't think will step up in games like this."

SMHS Principal Mary Johnson and South Pasadena Principal Janet Anderson were special guests during a pregame ceremony at the 50-yard line and bands from both schools performed at halftime.

The Titans, who celebrated on the field after the game by hoisting the gold trophy, hold a slight edge in the series with a record of 30-28. There have been three ties in Crowley Cup history.

High School Girls' Volleyball

San Marino Scores Two Big League Wins

Hugo Ayala came to San Marino High School last summer with the hope of changing the culture of the girls' volleyball program. That hope became reality last week as he guided the varsity girls' volleyball team to victories over Rio Hondo League giants La Cañada and South Pasadena.

The Titans downed the Spartans on the road, 25-14, 25-23, 24-26, 25-20, for the first time in more than 20 years.

"That was a huge win for our program," said Ayala. "I've been telling them that they've had their toes in the water. I think this is really going to help kids dive in."

San Marino (19-5-2 overall record, 4-3 in league) followed the historic victory with another over the Tigers, 28-26, 22-25, 25-22, 25-23, on Thursday.

"That was a huge match for us," Ayala said. "The girls were definitely ready to play, and the biggest thing is we stayed together the whole time. I told them [the Tigers] will get their points because they're a great team, but we'll get ours, too."

Sofia Sanchez and Keila Barra put the points on the board for San Marino against rival South Pas. Sanchez tallied 18 kills to go with 18 digs, seven blocks and two aces, and Barra finished with 15 kills and eight digs. Outside hitter Nicole Doerges recorded nine kills, nine digs and three aces; Nicole Wang added 38 assists, 18 digs and two blocks; and Melanie Leung recorded a team-high 19 digs.

After starting Rio Hondo League play with a 1-3 record, the Titans have won three consecutive matches to force a third-place tie with La Cañada.

Ayala credits the girls for finding consistency over the past two weeks. "Earlier in the season, we were occasionally great instead of consistently good," he said. "I told them, 'Hey, let's get this going more often.' They fine-tuned the consistency."

The first-year head coach admitted he was concerned about the team riding an emotional high with three matches remaining on the schedule. He turned to his mentor, Loyola

Marymount University women's volleyball coach Tom Black, for guidance.

"I sent him an email and he told me to go into practice and put the blinders on," Ayala said. "He said stop talking about play-offs and realize what your true goal is. Is your program truly getting better? How are you going to get better today?"

It's not a bad problem to have for Ayala, who has seen more confidence in the girls during tough game situations.

"The biggest thing is their owning the mindset," he said. "I told them about letting them have one, and that's it. Melanie [Leung] actually said that to me during the match. After an ace [from the opposing team], she turned to me and said, 'She gets one.' They're owning it."

The Titans traveled to Pasadena to take on Blair on Tuesday and return home today, Oct. 29, to face second-place Monrovia in a key Rio Hondo League match at 3:30 p.m.

— Oscar Areliz

High School Girls' Tennis

Titans Finish League with Perfect Record

The San Marino High School varsity girls' tennis team blanked visiting South Pasadena, 18-0, last week to close out the regular season with a perfect 8-0 record in Rio Hondo League play.

Devon Jack (6-0, 6-0), Madeleine Gandawidjaja (6-0, 6-0) and Sabrina Lieu (6-0, 6-0) each led the Titans in singles play with two set victories.

Ariana Harvey (6-1), Kayla Chen (opponent retired) and Haley Fagerberg each contributed one win.

The Titans were just as dominant in doubles play. Maddie Schmidt and Sophia comfortably swept their opponents, 6-4, 6-0, 6-2, and duos Libby Chang/Caitlyn Nguyen (7-5, 6-4, 6-4) and EmilyHsiao/Dahlys Ang (7-6, 6-3,

6-1) also contributed three set victories each.

San Marino (11-2 overall record) started Rio Hondo League tournament play on Wednesday at Love Oak Park and continues it today, Oct. 29, at noon. The round of the CIF-Southern Section Division 1 playoffs begins on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

High School Boys' Water Polo

San Marino Suffers First Setback in Rio Hondo League

The San Marino High School varsity boys' water polo team was dealt its first loss in Rio Hondo League play at the hands of visiting La Cañada, 17-14, Saturday.

The Titans (14-4 overall record, 2-1 in league) led 11-10 after three quarters of play but surrendered seven goals in the final eight minutes, an issue the team needs to work on, according to SMHS head coach Robert Zirovich.

"We have to go back to the drawing board and work on a few things," he said. "La Cañada is very beatable. We just have to go figure out how to put in a little

better effort. That fourth quarter was ugly.

"We got hurt on the counter," he added. "We had four or five point-blank offensive opportunities that we should have scored on, and La Cañada came back and scored."

Zirovich said it was a mental lapse that allowed the Spartans to rally late in the match. He told his players to start thinking about the next 30 seconds instead of winning or losing.

"When you dream all the time, you just dream. You don't work toward achieving that dream," he said.

Despite the loss, Zirovich said there were plenty of positive notes to take away from the match against a team that has dominated the Rio Hondo League for years.

"The fact that we scored 13 goals is huge," he said. "We needed some of that big game experience. It's always good to get that."

San Marino hosted Temple City in a league match on Tuesday and remains home today, Oct. 29, to take on Monrovia at 3:30 p.m.

— Oscar Areliz

High School Cross-Country

Titans Post Top 10 Finishes at Mt. SAC

The San Marino High School varsity cross-country teams competed in the prestigious annual Mt. San Antonio College Invitational in Walnut on Saturday.

The varsity boys turned in a solid performance and placed seventh in the Division 4 race with 231 points. Albany High took first place honors with 57 points.

Xavier Beck paced the Titans with a time of 16:44, placing him seventh, and Charlie Perry finished in 17:22 to take 20th place. Eric Lew placed 27th with a time

of 17:36, Cav Jue was 79th with a time of 18:46, Patricio Osegueda finished 106th with a time of 19:10, Grant Holt posted a time of 19:35 to take 122nd place and Alexander Lai was the final Titan to cross the finish line with a time of 20:16, placing him 142nd.

Olivia Harrigan turned in a stellar performance on the 3-mile course and posted a time of 19:24 to take fourth place in the Division 4 race. She helped the Titans score 193 points and finish 9th overall in a meet won by Tahoe

Truckee (86 points). Angela Wang placed 42nd for San Marino with a time of 21:13 and Olivia Ruiz finished in 21:26 to take 48th. Carlin Koch wasn't far behind to place 50th with a time of 21:33, Fiona Harrigan was 55th with a time of 21:49, Evelyn Tran was right behind her to take 56th with a time of 21:52 and Kat Chen posted a time of 21:57 to finish 59th.

The Titans will rest and prepare for the Rio Hondo League finals scheduled to take place at Lacy Park on Thursday, Nov. 5.