

Sign In Register Newsletters Part of the Bay Area News Group

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Like 6k eEdition / Subscriber Services
Mobile | Mobile Alerts | RSS

News Publications My Town Sports Business Entertainment Living Columns Opinion Help **Weekly Ad** Jobs Cars Homes Classifieds Shop

SEARCH Site Web Search by YAHOO! Walnut Creek, CA Now:43°F High:57°F Low:37°F city or zip

Advertisement

0
Recommend Send Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Share Tweet 0

Girls basketball notebook: Graduation losses haven't slowed Berkeley

By Stephanie Hammon
Contra Costa Times
Posted: 01/17/2012 07:38:38 PM PST

The Berkeley High girls basketball team graduated three players with Division I scholarships, but the Yellowjackets refused to go into rebuilding mode.

They're a bit smaller this year, but the defending Northern California Division I champions have relied on quickness, athleticism and the emergence of two new starters to win 13 of their first 14 games.

Berkeley earned a pair of solid victories over the weekend against Lincoln-Stockton and St. Ignatius, and will play another strong team, St. Mary's, at this Saturday's Campolindo Shootout. The Yellowjackets and Panthers, both state finalists a year ago, play in the top game at 6:30 p.m.

The rest of the Campolindo Shootout lineup includes Castro Valley vs. Heritage, 10:30 a.m.; Dublin vs. Alameda, noon; Campolindo vs. Anderson, 1:30 p.m.; Dougherty Valley vs. Christian Brothers-Sacramento, 3:30 p.m.; Miramonte vs. Northgate, 5 p.m. and Mission San Jose vs. El Camino-Sacramento, 8 p.m.

Though Berkeley lost its starting point guard as well as two strong and skilled post players from a 31-2 team, others have filled the void.

Arizona State-bound Elisha Davis and fellow returning starter Jasmin Guinn now share the point guard duties. The two seniors bring great speed, scoring and defense, but Berkeley coach Cheryl Draper also points to **junior Rachel Howard** and senior **Garysha Youngblood** as being critical to the Yellowjackets' success.

Howard is one of three players on

the Berkeley roster at 5-foot-10 with nobody taller. She can rebound and score both inside and outside.

"She's a calm and mature team clown and very humble," Draper said of Howard. "She not a player that boasts about her numbers, she just wants to play for her team and win."

Youngblood started as a freshman but came off the bench the past two years. She is again a starter this year and Draper gushes about her senior leadership.

"Instead of pouting, she took the last two years and kept working hard and it's shown this year," Draper said. "Her mental toughness is contagious."

Berkeley hasn't always overpowered its opponents, winning three games by less than four points and another in overtime, but its only loss on the year is to Windward-Los Angeles, the No. 3-ranked team in the nation by MaxPreps.com.

Flannery returns: McClymonds coach Dennis Flannery received good news Tuesday. Flannery, who suffered a heart attack at home on Dec. 29, was cleared by his cardiologist to return to coaching. He had not coached the team for its past five games.

"I'm headed to practice. All is good," said Flannery on Tuesday afternoon.

The Warriors (14-4) are still without Gabby Gaines, however. Gaines, a sophomore guard who averaged 17.3 points per game in McClymonds' first 15 games this season, has not played since a 45-26 loss to Hercules on Jan. 6. Oakland Athletic League commissioner Michael L. Moore said that it was due to an academic issue.

McClymonds started this season with 14 straight wins, but has lost four games in a row, including its first two OAL games of the season. Its offense has taken a hit in the losing streak. In the first 14 games, McClymonds averaged 60.3 points per game; the past four games, it has averaged 39.5 points per game.

Staff writer Phil Jensen contributed to this notebook.

VEIN SPECIALISTS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

California GRAND CASINO
Your BEST Bet in the Bay Area

HS

East Bay High School headlines

- High school roundup: Steven Evans' late plays pace De Anza boys to double-overtime win against Pinole Valley
- Tuesday's East Bay high school and community college scoreboard
- High school notebook: Losing two of three Rittman sisters hurts Granada girls soccer

East Bay Prep Corner blog

- East Bay Girls Basketball Poll - 1/17
- East Bay Boys Basketball poll -- 1/17

Follow @eastbaypreps 1,353 followers

- eastbaypreps: East Bay Girls Basketball Poll - 1/17: There has been some movement in the poll, including a switch in the secon... <http://t.co/ELWr2sFe>
- eastbaypreps: East Bay Boys Basketball poll -- 1/17 - East Bay Prep Corner - <http://t.co/o6qvdCYM>

Bay Area News Group / East Bay High School Sports on Facebook

Like 404

More High School sports

- Scoreboard | Pigskin Geek videos | Photo reprints
- Leagues: ACCAL | BSAL | BVAL | DFAL | DVAL | EBAL | HAAL | MVAL | OAL
- South Bay High Schools | After School blog

Tap In BayArea
Know more. Enjoy more.

Find: