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Girls prep of the week: Kate Bayes

By Derek Arild

Marin Independent Journal

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KATE BAYES

Sonoma Academy, Basketball, Senior

• **What she did:** The Novato resident had 22 points in the Santa Rosa school's win over Fremont Christian and scored 24 in the victory over Cardinal Newman as Sonoma Academy improved to 6-0. Bayes is averaging 20.6 points a game.

• **What she said:** "Our game against Newman was the most satisfying win (so far). They're a bigger school. We hadn't been playing up to our potential. We came out against Newman so much stronger. Everyone was contributing. It was a great team win."

• **What's next:** Sonoma Academy opens its North Central League II schedule at Tomales on Wednesday. The Coyotes are looking to build on their perfect start as they look to return to the NorCal tournament, where they lost in the first round last season. It was the farthest point reached by the team in the program's 11-year history. Bayes will play hoops next season at the University of Nebraska Omaha on a full scholarship. The same year the school will be transitioning from NCAA Division II to D-I.

• **Off the court:** Bayes has been an all-league soccer player all four years on the varsity squad. A forward on the pitch, she broke her wrist while playing but still managed to bring home the league MVP honor for the third year in a row.

• **Trivial matter:** She's a regular visitor to London where her dad Michael grew up. She has been to



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matches — her dad's favorite team — and both were Chelsea victories. She also made it a trifecta of visiting Disney locations when she recently went to Disneyland in Southern California. She's already been to Disney World in Florida and EuroDisney.

• **Coach Kevin Christensen:** "It was a huge weight off her shoulders (signing a letter of intent to Nebraska Omaha). Now she can focus on this season. She's having a great final year. Once she gets into the key, she's a really good finisher. She's complemented that by improving her outside shot."

— Derek Arild

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