

Hornets a mere roadblock

By David Hoytt

They say that offense wins games but defense wins championships.

That saying has proven true



for the San Marin Mustangs this season as an inconsistent offense has kept them in ballgames but a punishing defense has consistently aided them in staying in great position to defend their NCS 2A championship.

On October 6th, the Mustangs welcomed the Tamalpais Hawks to Mead Field for the 2002 homecoming game. A huge fan base showed up for the game as well as the homecoming festivities and they were not disappointed. From the opening drive, they throttled the Hawks and never gave an inch to complete a stellar victory, 49-0. Leading the Mustangs to prominence were seniors **Jack Rolovich** and **Cuyler Ballenger**.

Rolovich had one of his best games of the season, converting 10-12 passes (including eight in a row) for 185 yards and four touchdowns. In demonstrating incredible vision of the field, Rolovich threw those passes to four different receivers. Head coach **Chris Augusto** was happy with his QB, saying, "We're happy with the vision Jack has shown. He's come a long way." Ballenger made his contribution on defense, putting the Hawks out of the game with a touchdown on a 32-yard interception return that pushed the lead to 28-0 at the half, which was more than enough for the defense.

The Friday following a 26-7 win over the 3A Eureka Loggers, the Mustangs got a chance to play spoilers against the Justin Siena Braves, who were playing their homecoming game. In a game that seemed more like a College football setting, Mustangs scratched out a 21-14 victory.

As the game started out, the nearly 1000 people in attendance were stunned to see the Mustangs jump out to a 14-0 first quarter lead. The offense was gelling and the defense was making stops and forcing turnovers, including a **Franco Franca** interception and long return. However, the Braves had no quit in them, stymieing the Mustang offense from then on. In fact, the one chance that the Mustangs had at the end of the half, a great catch and run from fullback **Scott Dumont**, was called back

because a receiver failed to line up correctly. This would be a recurring theme as the Mustangs were penalized 21 times over the course of the game. However, the penalties couldn't outshine the defense as the Mustangs maintained

control to save the victory.

At this time, a year ago, the Mustangs were in the middle of getting geared up to face the high-powered offense and punishing defense of the Terra Linda Trojans. Everyone was excited going into this year's game but in the end the build up was far more exciting than the actual game, as the Mustangs skated past with an easy 28-7 victory. Leading the way for the victory was the offensive line, who had their best game of the season, allowing Egide to rack up a season high 184 yards to go along with 2 touchdowns. The great performance was actually a bit of a surprise as the line was missing starters **Eric Letsch** (ankle) and **Jason Pederson**, who were forced to move to defense to fill in for Letsch. However, the replacements, **Charlie Ford** and **Pughe** picked up the slack, and then some. Also stepping in was Junior **AJ Hennessy**, who shined in his new starting role. "You go as hard as you can everyday and can only hope to get noticed," he said, "It's great to get in there and show what I got."

The Mustang defense withstood another good test in Terra Linda Quarterback Jerod Pearson, who racked up 88 yards rushing, while only passing for 81. The easy win was definitely appreciated. In fact, no one knew quite how precious it would seem in only a week.

The next Saturday was clear and beautiful. The sun was shining and the temperature was comfortably around 70 degrees and the stage was set for something wonderful to happen when the Mustangs faced the hated Hornets of Novato High. The crowd, totaling somewhere in the vicinity of 1500 people, expected to see an amazing game. However, they were disappointed. Instead of witnessing a barn-burning, excitement-filled they saw a 35-7 blowout loss at the hands of Novato.

In a game filled with expectations and excitement, it was the Hornets who seemed more prepared from the beginning. On their first drive, the Mustangs drove deep into Novato territory only to have

the drive stall on a **Jason Hunter** holding penalty. From there, the Hornets led by quarterback **Andrew Strom** scored two touchdowns to take a 14-0 lead into the midway point. The Mustangs also struggled in the second half, giving up 21 quick points in the third quarter. A late fourth quarter touchdown pass to **Darryl Fisherbaugh** couldn't save the Mustangs from shame.

Currently, the Mustangs stand at 7-2 (6-1 MCAL) and are in great position going into the playoffs. Although lacking the number one seed that they had last year, they are in perfect position to claim home field advantage in at least the first round. All of the fans have been encouraged to come out to some of the games and show their Mustang pride even if it is raining a little bit. However, regardless of the outcome, one thing is for sure; it will be one heck of a show.

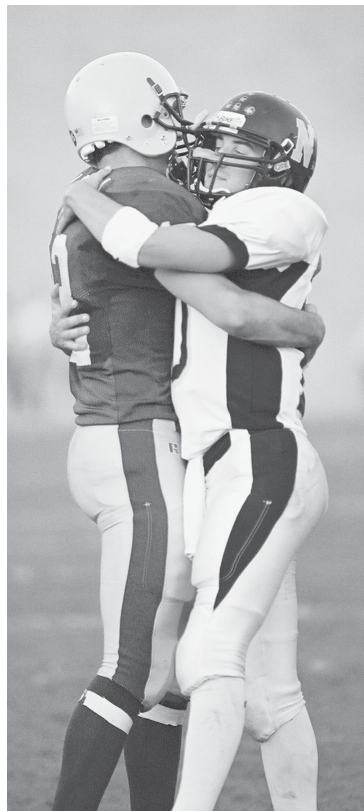


photo by Larry Hoytt

Bogeys outweigh birdies

By Niki Kidd

With the MCAL tournament on October 21, the girls' golf season came to a close in a superb fashion.

Junior **Rachel Oppenheimer** finished in second place in the tournament, and third in points for the entire season. Senior **Niki Kidd** came alive in the tournament, shooting her two low scores for the entire season for nine holes (51 and 47) over the 18 hole course at Peacock Gap.

Despite having a record that is less than stellar, the San Marin's girls' golf team still had a great year in terms of learning experience and growth. This young team is always looking towards the future, and with the graduation of only two seniors, the squad looks to improve from this year in the years to come.

The program is still in its infancy, and in only its second year it has a new coach in varsity softball aficionado Randy Willis. With the

Defense leads JV

By Colin Dietz

A defense as stingy as the Baltimore Ravens' defense in their Super Bowl season of 2000-2001. An offensive line with more holes than Swiss Cheese. The above description accurately depicts the Mustangs season.

In the first six games of the season, the Mustangs defense had not allowed more than seven points, yet the team record was only 4-2. A change in quarterback, however, seemed to rejuvenate the offense, especially in a close win against Novato. In all, with an offensive line that is "just enough" and a rookie quarterback, the Mustangs have managed to stay in games, thanks to their defense, and pull out victories to put together a respectable record.

The Mustangs pulled off a close win against Tamalpais 7-0 in week 4. The defense was the focus of the game as they managed to shut down Tam's offense. The only score of the game came on a nicely executed run by **Alonzo Hardy**. As a result of a poor game by the offensive line, **Brock Bacon** was constantly under pressure and was forced into throwing three interceptions. The Mustangs defense proved to be the strong point of the team, while the offense will be something that the coaches will have to stress if they expect to keep their winning streak alive.

The defense stepped up again in a 14-7 win over Eureka to improve their record to 4-1. **Ryan Larkin** led the way with two sacks. The first Mustang touchdown occurred when Bacon connected with **Chris Knowles** on a well-performed pass play. Bacon had a quarterback sneak for the second touchdown.

The offense proved their weaknesses once again in a 7-0 defeat to Justin Siena The Mustangs defense clamped down after

an early touchdown, but their offense was unable to pick up the slack. The offensive line for the Mustangs played a lackluster game that seemed like they had no motivation to knock off their undefeated division foe. Bacon was under constant pressure throughout the game, and the running game just wasn't enough to get the job done against a stingy defense.

A 14-0 shutout defeat against Terra Linda has destroyed any hopes of a Mustang division championship. With Bacon injured, former fullback **Matt Mauer** was forced into the quarterback role. His lack of experience and a struggling offensive line led to a downfall in offensive production for the Mustangs, now 4-3 going into the much anticipated game against Novato.

Mauer played with veteran's poise as he led the offense in a come-from-behind victory over cross-town rival Novato. The Hornets scored first on a 60-yard drive, but the ensuing kickoff was returned by Hardy for a touchdown. Another Hornet touchdown made it 14-7 at halftime.

The defense showed their superiority in shutting down the Hornet's offense for the entire second half. The Mustangs offense put together a 75-yard touchdown drive, but an unfortunate fumble by **Matt Corral** seemed to take all the momentum away. What could have been a turning point in the game was not allowed by the defense, as they stepped up and got the ball back for the offense. There was consistent back-and-forth action until the Mustangs got the ball with two minutes left in the game, down 14-7.

The offense, led by Mauer, put together a magnificent drive. The drive included a key 3rd and long 30-yard reception by **Leland Hansen** and another critical catch by **Anthony Gonzalez**. With 14 seconds left, the Mustangs had the ball on the two-yard line. They came out in a spread formation, clearing the middle for a quarterback sneak by Mauer for a touchdown. The coaches, still down 14-13, opted to go for the two-point conversion, handing the ball off to Hardy to take a 15-14 lead and solidify the victory. After the game Mauer said, "Our defense really stepped it up in the second half to allow our offense a chance to come-back. Today's game was an overall team effort; it is something we hope can continue for our remaining games."

The Mustangs finished their season with an 18-18 tie against Drake, with the offense producing three running touchdowns.

The Mustangs offense was rejuvenated since the replacement at the quarterback position. It is the Mustang defense, however, that has made up for the inconsistency of the offense in putting up points. Although unable to win the Division Championship, the Mustangs finished the season with a respectable 5-3-1 record.

With the return of the majority of its players and the continuing growth throughout the season, the Mustangs are ready for the start of the '03-'04 season next fall.

Few in number, big in heart

By Amber Shields

Despite the ever dwindling size of the cross-country team (San Marin's boys and girls team have each recently lost a team



member, Pat Deshazo and Meagan McCray), each team came out strong at the league opener on October 11.

Senior **Zoe Brown**, the team's lead runner, finished first against Justin Sienna, Drake and Terra Linda. Sophomore **Carli O'Leary** finished fourth overall, followed by sophomore **Lauren Candia** in fifth. Junior **Lisa Bandner** finished seventh and **Alison Greggor** came in eighth. San Marin defeated all three teams to begin the season with a 3-0 record.

San Marin swept again against Novato High the next week at Novato's course. Brown pulled in another first with a time of 18:47, the fifth fastest time overall for the Novato course. San Marin girls as a team recorded the second fastest team time in the course's history. Like

last season, San Marin's only loss in the league meets at this point has been to Marin Catholic. The Wildcats came out strong, finishing one, two, and three, pushing Brown into a fourth place finish.

The disappointing loss doesn't discourage the Mustangs, who look forward to another chance to race Marin Catholic at MCALs. The Mustangs reasserted their position as a dominant force at the following week's race against San Rafael and Tam. The girls beat both teams with Brown finishing first, **Courtney Dowdall** in third, O'Leary in fifth, Bandner in seventh, freshman **Briana Van Epps** in eighth, Greggor in ninth, and **Danielle Deshazo** in tenth. Candia has enjoyed the season and is looking forward to the end, "It was a fun season, but I can't say I'll be sad when it's over because it has been a challenging season and we still have a lot of work to do." San Marin will be competing in MCALs tomorrow.

The boys, still without an official team, have been putting in triumphant individual performances at the meets. Senior **Dan Byers** has been consistently leading the team with strong finishes. Byers placed 8th at the meet against Novato with a time of 18:57 and finished the next week in 10th place against Marin Catholic and Branson. Junior **Ryan Pedigo** and freshman **Roger Klein** have also been placing well in the races. Pedigo finished 18th at the Novato meet and the Marin Catholic race. Klein finished the Novato race in 19th. Candia is, "really impressed by the boys. They motivate me." The boys will also compete on the IVC course for MCALs tomorrow.

Disappointing end for water polo

By Jamie Lummis, Myra Perez and Katie Winsor

The girls water polo team ended their season with a record of 4-6. The girls finished the last game of the season with a disappointing loss of 12-9 against Marin Catholic. Despite a previous injury to her wrist, junior **Melanie McCollum** contributed seven goals.

"I tried to push the pain out of my mind. We wanted to have a strong finish to our season," said McCollum. After being down by nine goals in the first half, the Lady Mustangs made an outstanding comeback in the third and fourth quarters of the game.

In spite of a number of crushing defeats, they were not disheartened. "I can't wait for next season!" said sophomore **Krista Walker**.

With a loss of 16-10 against Marin Catholic, the boys joined the girls in their grieving. Seniors **Bret Pughe** and **Bud Norris** helped the team by scoring three goals each.

The boys finished off the league season with a record of 6-4,

but will be going on to MCALs. "I'm stoked that we'll be playing Terra Linda again," said senior **Jonah Friedman**.

Looking ahead

By Niki Kidd

High expectations followed the girls' varsity tennis squad into this year. Although the record isn't as high as some had hoped, it by no means diminishes the effort put out by these girls.

The biggest win of the season came in a 5-4 victory over eventual team MCAL champs Branson. Big doubles victories carried the underdog Mustangs to the upset victory.

The two victories of the season, as well as the individual and doubles wins that were sprinkled throughout the year, are jumping off points for next season, one in which they will have to rebuild once again. Overall, it was a positive 2002 season.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Rachel Oppenheimer

By Niki Kidd

With her putter in hand, junior Rachel Oppenheimer stares down the putt at her home course, Indian Valley. She walks to the opposite side of the ball, staring down all the angles and movements that the ball could possibly take. She takes a few practice strokes, and finally steps up to the ball. Silence overwhelms her playing partners, as she sinks the fifteen footer to give her yet another birdie.

With enough of these putts, Oppenheimer was on first team all MCAL honors this season, third overall in the league, and qualified for the NCS tournament at Roddy Ranch in Antioch, earning her respect throughout the league and the *Pony Express's* athlete of the issue.

Oppenheimer averaged a 45 over nine holes for the season, one of the tops in the league. According to Oppenheimer, her best match of the season came against Novato at home in the second half of the season. "All parts of my game came together," Oppenheimer said, "I just played really well."

Her senior playing partner had only beaming comments on Oppenheimer. "She was such an inspiration to a beginning player like myself, and I wish her all the best for next season."

She and Oppenheimer played together the entire season, forming a close golfing bond "full of fun and inside jokes," according to Oppenheimer.

In terms of goals for next season, Oppenheimer is optimistic about her chances against the rest of MCAL. "I hope to do better than this year, be one of the top in the league, and make it to NCS, where I hope to do better than I did this year." At this year's NCS championship, Oppenheimer shot a 104 at the tough Roddy Ranch course, best for all Marin County competitors.

With the drive to win (and the driver), Oppenheimer is poised to continue her success from this year into next, starting a new girls' golf tradition at San Marin.



photo by Fran Kidd

Matt Petty

By David Hoytt

Some people can be content with a spot on the swim team. It can offer a great chance to bond with teammates and have a great time. However, there are some who want more.



Matt Petty was once one of those in the pool swimming laps with the others. However, soon just swimming was no longer enough. That's when he thought of water polo. "I had done the swim team before," he said, "but I wanted to try something different and water polo seemed cool."

Now a crafty, three-year veteran as a sophomore, Petty has enjoyed an enormous amount of success and led his Mustangs to the MCAL playoffs and helped them to finish fourth in the league rankings. However, the modest star doesn't credit himself with the recent influx in wins over the past two years. "I think it was because we have a lot of kids who wanted to play," he said, speaking of the team's tenacity.

Apparently, many of the guys on the team weren't even going to play at the beginning of practice

but, rather, came out because a friend asked them to. However, once they got into the swing of things, their competitive spirit came through. "A lot of the guys wouldn't have played unless they were asked to, but once they got going they really liked it."

But, according to Petty, another factor has played into the team's success. Coach Bryan Pughe has helped to the struggling program into a fixture in the playoffs. "He knows a lot about the sport," Petty said about his coach, "He's good with people and helped us get things down."

Highlights of the season were numerous. However, two truly stand out. In a close, well-played game against Terra Linda, both teams fought down to the wire. However, the Mustangs had Petty, the great equalizer, who scored a

goal at the end of the game to win the nail-biter 7-6. Also, in a game not quite as close against Marin Academy, Petty showcased his talents once again. This time it was quantity, not quality that he showed, scoring 7 goals to lead a blowout victory.

Petty, however, isn't about to sit back and ride the kudos. Instead he plans to do much more. "I'd like to play in college," he mentioned modestly, but there are things to worry about first. With Senior workhorses **Jonah Friedman**, **Bret Pughe**, and **Greg Rosell** graduating Petty will be the focal point of the young team. But he's not worried. "It's going to be a building team next year with all of the seniors that we're losing, but we're confident." And the rest of the school can be as well, and can be sure that he and the others are up to the challenge.

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No thanks for the bird

By Susan Beresford and Bret Pughe

Asked to write a composition entitled, "What I'm thankful for on Thanksgiving," little Timothy wrote, "I am thankful that I'm not a turkey."

As we all sit down for a hearty thanksgiving meal and give thanks for all that we are blessed with in the world, no one takes the time to appreciate the poor little turkey who sacrificed himself for the good of our dinner.

Our tedious quest to find turkey appreciation failed miserably. We searched high and low for people who are grateful for the bird... besides the vegetarians... and met with little success.

Our first encounter was with senior Greg Rosell, who did no justice to our cause. "I hate Thanksgiving. I hate turkey. I have no sympathy for the birds. The atmosphere's nice, though, because I get to eat dinner with hot girls."

Junior Katherine Neihoff doesn't think highly of the turkey either. "I don't feel bad for the birds because wild turkeys come and eat all the plants by my house. I've been chased by one before—what a traumatic experience."

In reality, most people don't stop to think about where their meal came from, and how it got where it is today.

Senior Brooke Barnecut is "thankful for the long weekend... and the gravy," but doesn't have much to say about the history of her meal.

Senior Jonah Friedman, however, makes an indirect reference to the history of the turkey. "I'm thankful that Christopher Columbus came along ... because now we have a homeland."

Well, sort of—Christopher Columbus was one of the first Europeans to come to America, which later led to the Pilgrims' arrival in this beautiful country. The pilgrims, in turn, ate dinner with the Native

Americans, who brought the turkey as the main course of their meal.

Although according to the student body the turkey

key doesn't play a very crucial role as part of the meal, (despite the fact that we want it to... come on now, give thanks for the bird) there are several creative ways to use the sacred pajarito (little birdie).

For example, try tossing the carcass of the turkey into a turkey farm to intimidate next year's Thanksgiving stock. Or possibly attach the turkey to a fishing pole, slowly drive around the neighborhood in the back of a pickup and see how many dogs follow you. (If you don't own a pickup, call Bret at 555-1123... maybe he'll let you borrow his)

Finally, from a concealed location, toss the turkey (better if it is already cooked) in front of a passing car. When they stop, run out screaming that they hit your dog!

On a more serious note, there are some folks who are focused on other aspects of Thanksgiving besides the turkeys.

Staff member Francine Cunnie comments "I am thankful for so much... my health and my healthy family. That's something people take for granted. I'm also thankful that my son is not in calculus."

However, food still does play an important role in the Thanksgiving feast, with or without a turkey. Junior Zach Bachmier, a renowned vegetarian and Green Peace follower, expresses great appreciation for the vegetables. "I'm thankful for the peas and carrots."

This Thanksgiving, take some time out and count your blessings (starting with the turkey...).



Too weird to be true

Found on the Internet by Colin Dietz and Michael Lovejoy

Malaysian druggies resort to cow dung

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia – Malaysia, home to some of the world's strictest anti-drug laws, is facing a new problem. Desperate addicts are sniffing cow manure to get their fix. Addicts who are unable to buy drugs sniff gases like sulfur from fresh cow dung. Despite harsh anti-drug laws that call for death by hanging for drug traffickers, Malaysia does not have legislation covering such acts as sniffing cow dung, glue, and polystyrene.

Bulldozer hits wrong address

HOLLYWOOD, Florida – A humble family dinner was interrupted when a bulldozer operator began a demolition job of the wrong address. The operator was made aware of his mistake before any major damage had been sustained. No one was injured.

Man jailed for harassing dog

HASTINGS, Nebraska – A 21-year-old man was gesturing to police who were towing a car when he began to bark at a police dog. The dog barked back, and the man was warned not to harass Wojo any further. He refused and was arrested.

Man badly burned from lice

MADISON, Wisconsin – A man trying to rid himself of head lice doused a towel with rubbing alcohol and placed it on his head. He casually lit a cigarette, and immediately became engulfed in flames. He suffered second- and third-degree burns over 50 percent of his body.

Pair tries to steal cop van

CHICAGO, Illinois – A police officer in an undercover surveillance van was surprised when two would-be thieves attempted to steal the van. They were looking at the cars in a parking lot, and opened the door of the van only to find an officer with his weapon drawn. The two men, even more surprised, were charged with theft, attempted theft, and criminal trespass.

He just wanted biscuits

MILL VALLEY, California – A customer at KFC who ordered two extra biscuits was outraged when he received two bags of marijuana instead. He immediately returned them and demanded his biscuits. The customer unwittingly stumbled across the secret slang term for ordering the drugs and he quickly notified police.

The day off...

By Amber Shields

Labor Day, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day all are national (and school) holidays, meaning students get the day off. While most of these special days are remembered, the meaning of them is sometimes forgotten.

Labor Day, on September 2 this year, is the first holiday of the school year. Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to honor the common American worker. The first "workingman's holiday" was celebrated in New York City in 1882, and organized by the Central Labor Union. They then encouraged that the holiday be celebrated in other industrial centers. It was later adopted as a national holiday.

Veterans Day was supported after World War I was enacted by Congress on June 4, 1926. It was set to be celebrated on November 11, commemorating the end of the war on November 11, 1918 and was therefore called "Armistice Day". Many other coun-

tries, such as Canada and Australia, took the important day and made it into their own holiday also celebrated on November 11. In 1938, it was declared an official holiday. Only after World War II, was it adopted as Veteran's Day, a day to celebrate all veterans that had fought in all American wars.

Memorial Day, celebrated in May, was originally called Decoration Day because it was a day spent decorating graves of those who have died serving the United States. It began in 1868 as a holiday to observe the deaths of soldiers in the Civil War, and until after World War I, was observed on different days in the North and the South. After World War I, it was changed to recognize all soldiers who have died in service for the country.

Unlike Christmas or Chanukah, these holidays stemmed from American events and are a reflection and celebration of American culture.

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