

Sports

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REDLANDS D



KEVIN TRUDGEON

Honoring a running legend

Claudia Tolar never ran cross country or track in high school or college.

She was never extremely fast or strong on uphill climbs. She didn't have an outstanding kick at the end of races or the ability to pick off runners one by one out on the course.

Instead, she spent the majority of her time on the sidelines.

So why was she inducted into the Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) Cross Country Hall of Fame this past week?

Because what Martha Green is to cooking, what Larry Burgess is to history and what Jim Walker is to football, Claudia Tolar was and is to running in Redlands.

Any kid who attended Mariposa or Kimberly in the last 20 years undoubtedly knows Mrs. Tolar.

Having moved to Redlands in 1988, Mrs. Tolar taught kindergarten while pregnant with her second daughter Cami for half a year before jumping into teaching P.E. on a two-thirds contract that had her at every school in the district.

Terriers finish p

By KEVIN TRUDGEON
Staff Writer

CALIMESA — It may not have been on purpose, but a savvy lineup move proved beneficial for Redlands High School girls' golf coach Jennifer Classen.

With her team closing out the regular season against Redlands East Valley High School and looking to put the finishing touch on an undefeated season, Classen turned to her senior captains to bring the Terriers home.

Placing Karina Rabinowitz and Kezia Howard in the third group, Classen was rewarded with the two lowest scores of the day, 45 and 44, respectively, to help lead RHS (16-0, 12-0 Citrus Belt League) to a 241-262 victory at the Calimesa Country Club Monday.

"I didn't realize it at first but Karina and Kezia saw where I had placed them and mentioned that I used to always put them in the third group together their sophomore year," Classen said. "So they were excited to be back there and they came through for us."

Rabinowitz and Howard turned the slim eight-stroke advantage the Terriers held after the first two groups had finished into a 21-point victory, capping what they described as "the perfect senior season."

"I felt some pressure, because it was the last match of the season our senior year," Rabinowitz said. "But it was a good pressure, it made me want to play better."

Howard followed suit, posting her

best score of the year when her team needed it most.

Having pushed their first-place crosstown rivals in the first match of the season, a 253-267 loss, the Wildcats were eager to put an exclamation mark on their season with an upset victory.

Freshman Arianna Arroyo and sophomore Amanda Hodgin each posted their lowest scores of the season, with a 48 and 49, respectively, to help REV (11-5, 8-4 CBL) shoot its best team score of the year.

"We beat our previous best by several strokes so I couldn't be happier with the way the girls played," said REV head coach Sam Patalano. "The girls came out, told me they were going to play their best round of the season and they did. So I am absolutely proud of them."

Wildcats sophomore Morgan Mays posted a 54, freshman Paige Smith and senior Mary Rosano each shot scores of 55 and freshman Gabrielle Beeler finished with a 58 in the loss.

For the Terriers, who finished 2008 with a CBL championship and just one non-league loss, juniors Jennifer Moreland and Gretchen Ganther shot 48 and 51, respectively, junior Abigail Norman posted a 54 and sophomore Tiffany Guzman finished with a 55 to give RHS their lowest team score on the year as well.

"We wanted to finish undefeated this year because last year we went undefeated in league but had the one loss in a non-league match," Howard said. "So this feels great."

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Not letting the sprinklers distract Rabinowitz keeps her eye on the hole at Calimesa Country Club to help the Terriers finish off a season at Redlands East Valley with 24



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Eventually settling in as the P.E. teacher at Mariposa and Kimberly after a few years, Mrs. Tolar began encouraging kids to run as a form of exercise and a way to compete athletically.

"A lot of kids, especially at that age, don't know that running is a sport," said Mrs. Tolar, who along with her husband Ken, a former teacher and administrator with the Redlands Unified School District, had been running as a family with their daughters Kimber, Kacy and Cami over the years.

"They don't realize it's something you can do as a team and how much fun it can be. So I started getting the kids that were interested to sign up for a different event each month and it just grew from that."

With more and more kids developing an interest in running, Mrs. Tolar stumbled across an event that would become a fixture in her calendar for years to come — Mt. SAC.

"I actually was looking through a program when Kimber was running there in high school and saw that they had an elementary school race," Mrs. Tolar said. "I was shocked that I hadn't heard of it before."

Taking her daughter and a few of her friends the first year, Mrs. Tolar and the runners from Redlands brought home a plaque for finishing in the top three.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Every fall, following that first year, Mrs. Tolar and her runners made the drive out to Walnut in late October to participate in the Mt. SAC Cross Country Invitational.

The numbers grew into the hundreds, with kids from Mariposa, Kimberly, and other Redlands elementary schools, competing in the third-, fourth- and fifth-grade boys' and girls' races.

"The last few years we had six teams from Mariposa and six teams from Kimberly running," Mrs. Tolar said. "And their friends who went to other schools in Redlands saw



KEVIN TRUDGEON/Redlands Daily Facts

Although she normally does not play at the net, ACA junior Alyssa Hale showed off her hitting skills during the Eagles' 25-9, 25-6, 25-19 win over Loma Linda Academy Monday.

No problem for Eagles

By **Evan Field**
For the Daily Facts

REDLANDS — In a matchup of one of the stronger teams in the Christian League against one of the weaker ones, the Arrowhead Christian Academy girls' volleyball team showed why they sit in first place in league.

Hosting Loma Linda Academy, the Eagles rolled to routs in the first two games before coming from behind in game three, completing a three-game

sweep, 25-9, 25-6, 25-19, Monday night.

ACA (9-2, 6-1 Christian League) showed off their depth against an overmatched Loma Linda Academy team, receiving contributions throughout their entire lineup.

"It was one of those fun ones that everyone gets to play in," said ACA head coach Greg Wojczynski.

The Eagles wasted no time in the opening game, jumping out to a 5-0 lead right from the start. Following a Loma Linda

error on the first serve of the game, ACA took advantage with blocks from sophomore middle blocker Jordan Denmark and junior outside hitter Carly Campbell.

Loma Linda fought their way back into the game bringing the score to 9-7, only to be silenced by a 13-point run put on by the Eagles, with help again from Campbell, who provided ACA with 6 aces.

Game two started again in favor of ACA with the Eagles

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Whole team contributes for RHS

By **KEVIN TRUDGEON**
Staff Writer

REDLANDS — It started with a goal from senior 2-meter player Joe Barich just 1:10 into the game and by the time it was over, eight different Terriers had found the back of the cage.

Hosting Eisenhower High School in a Citrus Belt League game, the Redlands High School boys' water polo team played their entire team in an 18-goal Monday

rolled to a 9-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

But even with the score ballooning, reaching 14-1 at halftime and 16-1 to start the fourth quarter, RHS did not slack off in the water.

Knowing that big games against Yucaipa and cross-town rival Redlands East Valley await them, the Terriers used the blowout victory to work on their passing, offensive sets and making sure they had rid themselves of their sluggish ways

win over Fontana the previous week.

"There was a lot more energy today, which I liked. We kept the ball moving and just tried to make sure that we were in the appropriate areas in our offense."

With Lamb going to his bench early and often, junior 2-meter player Devan Lamb, Coach Lamb's son, finished with a team-high four goals.

Barich and Carlson each notched three, senior 2-meter defender John Paul Frehner added two and Christian



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"The last few years we had six teams from Mariposa and six teams from Kimberly running," Mrs. Tolar said. "And their friends who went to other schools in Redlands saw and wanted to do the same thing, so their schools formed teams."

The end result was "a lot of name tags for a lot of kids" and long days at the premiere cross-country

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Hosting Eisenhower High School in a Citrus Belt League game, the Redlands High School boys' water polo team played their entire team in an 18-1 rout Monday afternoon.

For RHS, the game was over in the first four minutes, when Barich and fellow senior Nick Carlson combined for the first six goals of the game as the Terriers

rolled to a 9-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

But even with the score ballooning, reaching 14-1 at halftime and 16-1 at the fourth quarter, RHS did not slack off in the water.

Knowing that big games against Yucaipa and cross-town rival Redlands East Valley await them, the Terriers used the blowout victory to work on their passing, offensive sets and making sure they had rid themselves of their sluggish ways.

"The guys were up and ready to play today, especially after what happened against Fontana," said RHS head coach Jeff Lamb, referring to the Terriers' stellar performance in a 14-7

win over Fontana the previous week.

"There was a lot more energy today, which I liked. We kept the ball moving and just tried to make sure that we were in the appropriate areas in our offense."

With Lamb going to his bench early and often, junior 2-meter player Devan Lamb, Coach Lamb's son, finished with a team-high four goals.

Barich and Carlson each notched three, senior 2-meter defender John Paul Frehner added two and Christian Rossel, Drew Chamberlain, Henry Fry, James Pessavento and Ian Ross all scored a goal in the victory.

RHS next hosts Yucaipa High School at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

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COLUMN

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meet in the country.

"I would tell the kids even before we got there that they're going to think they're at the Olympics," Mrs. Tolar said about the atmosphere of Mt. SAC. "There are thousands of kids in a bunch of different jerseys and colors. It's just a huge event."

The exposure to a top-quality cross country invitational was just part of the experience of running for Mrs. Tolar. The kids learned importance of teamwork, exercise and what it's like to be part of something.

Even now, at the Run Through Redlands, one can stand at the finish line and watch as kid after kid runs by wearing a Mariposa, Kimberly, Kingsbury or other elementary school running shirt. And all of that is because of Mrs. Tolar.

Over the years the RHS and REV cross country and track and field teams were populated with her former runners, many of whom went on to compete on the collegiate level.

But that isn't why she did it.

"It just made the job really fun for me," Mrs. Tolar said. "I enjoyed doing that and enjoyed seeing the kids have fun doing it. And it got to be such a family thing. I'd have parents come up to me and tell me that they started running with their kids when they were practicing for a meet. Or how their whole family ran in the Run Through Redlands."

For the better part of two decades the woman who credits her husband for doing all of the "heavy lifting" when it came to helping the kids' practices was a fixture in the Redlands running world.

So it does not seem odd, but rather fitting, that for the first time in the 62 years of the Mt. SAC Cross Country Invitational, a P.E. teacher was selected to the hall of fame. And it could not have happened to a more deserving person.

"I'm very honored," said Mrs. Tolar, who was unable to attend the ceremony on account of her and Ken being in Washington, celebrating their recent retirements. "I just respect Mt. SAC so much for what they do for running."

The same can be said for how Mt. SAC looks at Mrs. Tolar, claiming that she has "inspired thousands of young boys and girls by encouraging them to get involved in running," according to a press release.

Mrs. Tolar's teams tallied 15 combined team titles over the years, a feat that only gets more impressive when you find out they were competing against hundreds of other elementary schools.

No longer teaching P.E. or pinning on name tags, Mrs. Tolar said that she received a phone call last week from a couple of parents who wanted to let her know they still took teams from Mariposa and Kimberly to Mt. SAC, and came home with a few plaques of their own.

"It did my heart so good to see that they are continuing to run," Mrs. Tolar said. "I was not a runner in my upbringing, Ken was. So as our kids started growing up, we'd go to a 5k or other events as a family. And I just wanted to show other kids that it was something that they could do, both by themselves and with their families. And I had so much fun doing it over the years."

"I do love retirement but I miss the kids. When we're back in town, I definitely hope to be out at the different races and encouraging everyone."

I never ran cross country in high school, never competed for the track-and-field team. I still get winded trying to run a mile or two every morning.

But I remember being a fifth-grader at Mariposa Elementary School and meeting Mrs. Tolar and learning how about the joy of running. So from one of your former runners, let me just say thank you. You had an impact on my life, as I'm sure you did with countless others.

Wildcats finish off Ria



REV junior middle blocker Cherylain Dizon goes up for a kill during the Wildcat Rialto High School Monday afternoon.