

■ YOUTH SPORTS

Cardinals edge Fighting Illini

The Cardinals beat the Fighting Illini, 29-28, in the eighth grade Irvine Youth Basketball NJB league last week.

Chris Martinez led all scorers with 11 points.

Mihir Sirdesai and Kramer each added six points while Varun Sreekumar, Adham Matter and Aurelius Huang each contributed two points.

Solid performances by Jordan Opre and Ryan Bartlett helped in the win.

The Cardinals improved their record to 6-1.

NORTH IRVINE BRAVEHEARTS TAKE SECOND

The North Irvine Bravehearts under-11 AYSO plus boys soccer team earned second place at the Irvine Winter Classic recently.

It was the team's first club tournament.

In pool play, the Bravehearts defeated South County Premier SC White from Laguna Niguel, 3-1, and PVSC Exiles Red from Palos Verdes, 1-0.

Goals were scored by Cameron Kasey (2), Timothy Jou (1) and Chris Hume (1).

In the championship game, the Bravehearts fell to the Corona Eagles FC, 3-2.

The Bravehearts played with no substitute players.

North Irvine got two goals from Matthew Iversen in the game.

The Bravehearts also got outstanding efforts from Matthew Jou, Jacob Boiarsky, Noah Tuchman, Tyler Barlow, Adam Key, Joey Fleming, Cameron Cruse, Ogi Cosic and Isaac Martinez.

IRVINE ARSENAL BEATS ENCINITAS EXPRESS

The Irvine Arsenal sixth grade All-Net boys basketball team defeated the Encinitas Express, 59-42, in Carlsbad.

The two teams were tied for third place in the league standings going into the game.

After a slow start the Arse-



Neil Boudreau of the Irvine Arcenal maintains possession.

> PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLYN BOUDREAU

nal took over.

Encinitas controlled the first quarter, taking a 15-2 lead. Neil Boudreau scored the two points for Irvine and Erik Heins was solid on the boards.

But the Arsenal came back in the second quarter. Solid defensive work by C.J. Lomboy and Zak Baayoun led to baskets and Irvine led, 29-28, at the half.

Josh Balch and Boudreau each knocked down three-pointers and Micah Pries and Ben Roznos also scored on putbacks for the Arsenal in the third quarter.

The Arsenal dominated the fourth quarter and pulled away. Lomboy contributed by making free throws and J.T. Joens hit several jumpers.

XCELERATORS TAKE MLK CHAMPIONSHIP

The Irvine Xcelerators girls basketball club captured a rare double championship, winning both the seventh/eighth grade combination and eighth grade championship at the San Diego Sol's Martin Luther King Basketball Championship.

Irvine's seventh/eighth grade combo team defeated

Calexico, 38-31, in the title game. Natalie Oronoz lead the Xcelerators with 13 points and seven steals.

Dana Bossenmeyer had seven points and rebounds and Maddie Franklin and Kiki Ruiz added crucial points.

The eighth grade team dominated pool play, winning all four games by average of 15 points.

Irvine took the title by beating host San Diego Sol, 45-33.

It was a true team effort for the Xcelerators as all 10 players scored at least 13 points during tournament.

Kau'ilani Miki-han and Maya Brown led team by averaging nearly eight points and seven rebounds per game.

Blaysen Varnadoe averaged seven points per game and made five three-pointers. Kaitlin Nguyen and Emily Reiland led team with 15 steals each while adding almost five points per game.

The Xcelerators are a AAU pre-high school club. The team represented Irvine at the AAU National Championships last year in Florida, finishing 13th overall in Division II. > STAFF

UCI women's team tops Long Beach State, 68-61

Jade Smith-Williams poured in a career-high 33 points to lead the UC Irvine women's basketball team to a 68-61 Big West Conference victory over Long Beach State at the Bren Center Thursday.

UC Irvine's record improved to 6-13 overall and 3-4 in the Big West, while Long Beach State fell to 7-11 on the year and 3-3 in conference play. The Anteater win was only the ninth all-time against the Forty-Niners (9-47) and gave UCI two points in the Black & Blue Rivalry Series represented by Duke's of Huntington Beach.

Smith-Williams was 9 of 14 from the floor, including 5 of 9 from three-point range and 10 of 10 from the free throw line for her career and game-high 33 points.

The 33 points is the second most in the Big West Conference this season.

Forward Mikah Maly-Karros recorded her league-leading sixth double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds for UC Irvine. She scored

12 of her points in the second half.

Guard Rebecca Maessen added 13 points, five rebounds and two steals and freshman forward Jazmyne White pulled down nine rebounds to go with four points for the Anteaters.

Long Beach State was led by Karina Figueroa with 18 points.

The Anteaters beat the Forty-

Niners on the boards, 39-37 and knocked down a season-high seven three-pointers.

After the score was tied at 13-13, UCI went on a 14-5 run, which included seven points by Maessen, to open a 27-18 advantage with 5:08 left in the first half.

Long Beach State battled back, scoring nine unanswered points capped by a layup by Brett Timmons to tie the game for the fourth time at 27-27 with 1:39 remaining.

A three-pointer by Smith-Williams was followed by a free throw by Maly-Karros to give UCI the 31-27 halftime lead.

Maly-Karros hit three free-throws to give UCI a 51-38 lead with 10:33 remaining, but it was the last point the Anteaters scored for more than five minutes, allowing Long Beach State to tie the game 51-51 on three free throws by Lauren Sims with 5:52 left.

Smith-Williams stopped the drought with a pair of free throws with 5:08 to go to give UCI a 53-51 lead.

The Anteaters never trailed again, out-scoring the Forty-Niners, 15-10, to end the game.

Smith-Williams was a perfect 8 of 8 from the free throw line in the final two minutes of the game.

UCI travels to UC Riverside Saturday for a 5 p.m. game at the Student Recreation Center.

> STAFF

Lions get back on track

Tarbut V' Torah's boys basketball team avenged a one-point loss to Orangewood Academy with a 68-52 victory over Orangewood Tuesday night at Tarbut V' Torah.

"It was a great team victory," said TVT Coach Patrick Roberts.

The Lions (15-1 overall) were led by Eric Avdee, who scored 24 points. Avdee was injured and missed Saturday's night's

game in which TVT lost to Orangewood Academy at the buzzer.

But he came out ready to play Tuesday to lead TVT (14-1, 3-1) to the victory.

Zach Bruss added 21 points and Aryeh Kashdan had 13 points to lead Tarbut V' Torah.

Bradley Neutel added nine points and David Bruss had a, "great defensive game," Roberts said. > STAFF