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PALO ALTO WEEKLY

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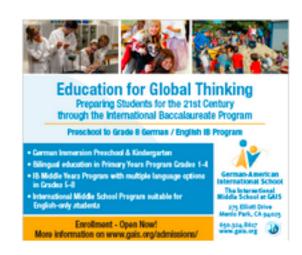
Sports Shorts

PREP ALUMNI . . . Gunn High grad (2008)
Miranda Der has been named to the
women's gymnastics team representing
the United States at the 2009

World Maccabiah Games. Founded in 1948, the Maccabiah Games are a celebration of Jewish unity, culture and heritage through world athletic competition and are held every

four years. Officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee,

the 18th World Maccabiah Games, scheduled for July 12-23, 2009, will be



the world's third-largest international athletic competition, behind only

the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games. More than 9,000 of the world's best

Jewish athletes from six continents and over 60 countries will compete at

the Games. Der competed in the gymnastics tryouts Dec. 7 at the Bart Connor Gymnastics Center in Norman, Okla. The country's best Jewish gymnasts were invited to attend, and many attended the tryouts in Norman, including recent Stanford graduate and Men's U.S. National Team member David Sender. The top six finishers in every division made the team . . . Palo Alto High grad Jeremy Lin, a junior guard on the Harvard men's basketball team, averaged 15.5 points, 5.5 assists, 4.0 rebounds and 2.5 steals in two games while shooting 50 percent from the floor (12-24), 40 percent from long range and 75 percent from the free throw line last week. Lin led Harvard with 18 points, seven assists, five rebounds, three blocked shots and three steals against Northeastern on Wednesday before scoring 13 points with four assists Saturday at George Washington.

NATIONAL CHAMP . . . The Palo Alto Lightning had one team member bring home a national championship from the National Junior Olympics cross-country finals last weekend in Richmond, Va. Julia Bounds raced to victory in the Bantam Girls division, clocking 11:34 over the 3,000-meter layout at Pole Green Park to stay undefeated this season. The top 25 finishers in each age division were awarded All-American status. The national meet featured the top 25 finishers from each regional qualifying meet. Bounds defeated 220 runners in her race. The Lightning had six others who competed in the meet, as well — Claudia Denoue, Dennis Mandutzo, Ben Zaeske, Kent Slaney, Romain Hardy and Dariya Smith. The local track and field club will starting begin track competition in February.