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PALO ALTO WEEKLY

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Sports - November 28, 2008

Sports Shorts

NOT ALL IS LOST . . . The Palo Alto Knights saw their perfect football season end in a 40-12 loss to the Galt Jr. Warriors in the National Youth Football League State Championships on Sunday in Stockton. The loss, however, did not bring an end to Palo Alto's season. The Knights are headed to Orlando, Fla., to play in the Varsity division of the Under Armour American Youth Football (AYF) National Championship, scheduled for Dec. 8-12. Palo Alto was invited to the National Championship based on its 12-1 record and its victory in the NYFL Super Bowl Championship two weeks ago. The AYF league is one of the nation's largest youth organizations and supports teams



affiliated with the NYFL. The Knights received an invitation late last week to represent the Pacific West Region. That was before Sunday's first loss of the season to the Galt Jr. Warriors in the state finals at Chavez High School in Stockton. The Knights scored on their first drive when Eric Redwood raced 42 yards to set up a 15-yard Andre Guzman pass to Michael Jorgenson for the game's first score. Galt followed with a 64-yard drive to go ahead 8-6, but the Knights then regained the lead on a 72- yard TD pass from Guzman to Jorgensen. That gave Palo Alto a 12-8 second-quarter lead. Palo Alto, however, suffered seven turnovers (four fumbles and three interceptions) in the second half and never was able to regain the lead as Galt took advantage of the Knights' mistakes and scored three more times to win the game. Despite the loss, the trip to Orlando marks the sixth opportunity in the past nine years for the Knights to play for a national championship.

PREP ALUMNI . . . Palo Alto High grad Brian Baskauskas was named the Most Valuable Player while helping the 15th-ranked Amherst College men's basketball team to the championship of the Ken Wright '53 Memorial Invitational Tournament last weekend. Baskauskas scored 30 points with seven rebounds and 11 assists in victories over MCLA (85-52) and Skidmore College (100-97). He also had 12 points in a season-opening win, getting Amherst off to a 3-0 start this season . . . Harvard junior Jeremy Lin, another Paly grad, averaged 13 points, six rebounds, five assists and 3.5 steals per game in a 1-1 week for the Crimson basketeball team with both games on the road. Lin shot 50 percent from 3-point range during the week (3-6). He scored 15 points and had game-highs of eight rebounds and six assists in an 80-69 win at New Hampshire in the season opener before adding 11 points, four rebounds, four assists and five steals in a loss at Colorado.

OF LOCAL NOTE . . . The (Palo Alto) Lightning struck 10 times, the number of qualifiers the local running club earned for the Region 14 Junior Olympics in cross country. Ten of the team's 12 competitors qualified at the USATF Junior Olympic Championships recently in Folsom. The regional meet will be held Sunday at the same site. Palo Alto's qualifiers were: Claudia Denoue, George Yoshinaga, Dennis Manduzo, Kent Slaney, Ben Zaeske, Julia Bounds, Romain Hardy, Rachel Seligson, Dariya Smith, and Katie Spence. The Region 14 Junior Olympics will send the top 20 finishers in each age bracket to the National Junior Olympics in Richmond, Va., on Dec. 13.