

# SPORTS

## Grizzlies coast through SAL foes to 10-0

BY DAN TUCKER  
GAZETTE PUBLISHER

Tuesday night Mariposa head coach Trace DeSandres chalked up his fifth straight 20-win season. But the celebration wasn't all hugs and high-fives.

The Grizzlies blew a group from Waterford that won't be confused with a good high school basketball team out of the Loyd Hobby Gymnasium, 71-37.

"To get to 20 wins again is nice," DeSandres said, "but the way we played, even in winning big, was frustrating to me."

Waterford could offer only token resistance to Mariposa's offense as the Grizzlies reeled off 16 first quarter points, and the Wildcats could muster only a paltry 2. Junior forward Drake Long paced the Grizzlies, scoring in the paint easily in his 6'7" frame. Long bucketed Mariposa's first 4 points on short range shots before Pierce Chaney snapped the net with a 3-point bomb for a 7-0 lead.

DeSandres substituted freely beginning in the second stanza, and Mariposa extended its advantage to 31-7 by the half.

The Wildcats warmed all the way up to 15 points in both the third and fourth quarters, but still couldn't make it respectable.

Senior center Cody Wichmann led all Mariposa scorers with 18 points. He pulled down 9 rebounds, and rattled the glass with a pair of monster dunks in his 9-point third quarter.

Long finished the game with 12 points, all in the first half, and hauled in 5 caroms. Jarrett Miller added 7 points and grabbed 6 rebounds, and Brandon Kinalele pumped through 7 points and snatched 6 boards, all in the second half. Junior center Kevin Shenk added 6 points and 6 rebounds.

Although it was a lopsided win, Mariposa was far from impressive. The Grizzlies were just 9 for 26 at the charity stripe, and committed 20 turnovers.

"We had a total lack of focus," DeSandres said. "You don't shoot like that if you're focused." Even though the competition level was remarkably low, DeSandres thinks his team squandered an opportunity to sharpen its execution with the tough Division IV playoffs looming two weeks ahead.

Tuesday night's win capped a marathon week for Mariposa. Last Thursday, the Grizzlies dispatched Denair, 66-55, in an SAL make-up match. Last Friday, Mariposa dumped Le Grand on the Bulldogs' home court, 57-40, and on Saturday, it downed Delhi's Hawks, 78-63, all league victories.

The most notable performance was Wichmann's 25 points against Denair, and 30 points in the win over the Bulldogs.

Mariposa hosts Delhi on Friday evening in its traditional winter homecoming contest. The game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY JILL BALLINGER

JUNIOR JUSTIN KINALELE LEAPS FOR THE LAY-UP AGAINST WATERFORD ON TUESDAY NIGHT. THE VARSITY GRIZZLIES CONTINUE TO ROLL THROUGH SOUTHERN ATHLETIC LEAGUE PLAY, AND WILL HOST DELHI FOR WINTER HOMECOMING ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

### MCHS ranked sixth

Monday morning the California Interscholastic Foundation (CIF) released its 2009-10 boys' basketball power ratings for each section, including the Sacramento Section Mariposa County High School competes in.

Mariposa's Grizzlies, now 19-3 on the season and unbeaten in Southern Athletic League play, were ranked sixth out of 36 teams.

Only the top 16 teams land slots in the upcoming section playoffs, and the top 8 earn first round home court advantage.

"I don't think it means a whole lot at this time," said Grizzlies head coach Trace DeSandres. "Right now, we're not paying any attention to it. If we even hiccup, it could change drastically for us, so we just want to concentrate on finishing the league season the way we've started."

The MCHS girls' varsity team won't be seeing the playoffs this season as it is ranked 24th in the section with just five games left in the season.

### Grapplers bow to Waterford

Early in the season, wrestling fans were stunned when Waterford's Wildcats upended perennial powerhouse Escalon in a Trans Valley League dual match.

It was no fluke.

Last Wednesday, the Wildcats humbled Mariposa's Grizzlies, 60-9, in a lopsided TVL contest. Mariposa entered the competition with a spotless 3-0 league mark.

Only two Mariposa wrestlers were successful on the mat. Justin Long (135 pounds) and Keenan Johnson (215 pounds) were the only two Grizzlies to claim wins.

No other results were reported.

## Junior varsity clobbers 'Cats to stay unbeaten

BY DAN TUCKER  
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To call Tuesday evening's junior varsity basketball game a "laugher" would be an understatement. Mariposa rolled to its 10th straight Southern Athletic League win without a defeat in beating Waterford's Wildcats by 51 points, 77-26.

Even though head JV coach Mark Abney tried to slow the pace, the Grizzlies owned the court and scored almost at will.

"I tried to get our guys to slow down and pass the ball, but they were leaving us wide open under the basket, and I told them if they give us a lay-up, take it," Abney said.

The game was a blowout as early as the first quarter as the Grizzlies vaulted to a 23-8 lead. The second period was a mirror image of the first as Mariposa poured through another 23 points and allowed Waterford just 10 for a 46-18 bulge at the intermission.

For the Wildcats, it got worse in the third quarter. Mariposa bucketed 24 points

and held the the visitors to just 3 to lead 70-21 going into the last 8 minutes.

Sophomore Wyatt Ellis paced Mariposa with 16 points, 10 rebounds, a bundle of steals, and 9 assists. Quinn Chaney dumped through 15 points and Jimmy Neri added 14 in the rout.

With wins last week over Delhi and Le Grand, Mariposa boosted its record to 20-2 on the season.

Against Delhi last Saturday, Mariposa posted a 46-33 win in the fourth meeting between the two teams. "This was a pretty defensive game," said Abney. Neri erupted for 22 points and pulled down 11 caroms while Chaney bucketed 11.

Last Friday against Le Grand, the Grizzlies prevailed, 63-41. Neri led all scorers with 21 points. Garhett Bauer hit for 8 points and had a big game on the boards, hauling in 12 rebounds. Ellis pulled down 11 boards.

Mariposa hosts Delhi, in their fifth meeting this season, on Friday in an SAL tilt beginning at 6 p.m.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY DAN TUCKER

GRIZZLY SOPHOMORE WYATT ELLIS POLISHES OFF A FAST-BREAK IN TUESDAY NIGHT'S WIN OVER WATERFORD'S WILDCATS.