

SPORTS

Lady Grizzlies battle to tie

In preseason soccer play, Mariposa's Lady Grizzlies have managed to at least tie two large school squads, while posting 1 win and 1 loss.

Monday afternoon, Mariposa deadlocked with Ceres, 1-1, in a non-league contest.

The Lady Grizzlies broke the scoring ice in the ninth minute when Milan Lasater drove home a direct kick for a 1-0 lead. Ceres answered in the 19th minute on an open shot in front of the goal, but neither team could score again in the second half.

Last Saturday, Mariposa picked up its first win of the season against Livingston's Wolves, 1-0.

Just two minutes into the game, Mariposa's Carrie Waheed ripped the ball over the goalkeeper's outstretched fingertips for a score. The Lady Grizzly defense controlled the field in the second half, but couldn't find the net again to extend the margin.

Last Thursday, Mariposa fought Los Banos to a 1-1 tie. The Tigers took an early lead in the 15th minute, but Lasater bent in a corner kick at the 26-minute mark to knot the score, 1-1. Mariposa's novice squad fell to the young Tigers, 3-0.

On Saturday Mariposa will travel to Buhach Colony in Atwater for another non-league match before launching its Southern Athletic League campaign against Le Grand at home on Thursday, March 11.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY DAN TUCKER

MARIPOSA'S SARA BIRO (No. #23) CHARGES TOWARD THE GOAL WITH A PAIR OF LIVINGSTON DEFENDERS ON HER HEELS IN LAST SATURDAY'S NON-LEAGUE MATCH AGAINST THE WOLVES. THE LADY GRIZZLIES PREVAILED, 1-0, FOR THEIR FIRST VICTORY OF THE SEASON.

MCHS golfers start 0-2

On a wet course at the Merced Country Club, Mariposa's golf team dropped its second match of the early season to Golden Valley Monday afternoon, 262-222.

Liam Fieldsted and Andrew Allen paced the Grizzlies, both posting a 47. Garhett Bauer and Tim DeSandres each shot 53, and Josh Alsup carded 62. Golden Valley's Code Parris was a medalist, recording a 40-stroke day.

Last week, Mariposa hosted Buhach Colony on the Sierra Meadows Golf Course in Ahwahnee. The Grizzlies came

out on the short end of a 256-214 score in their first match of the season.

Alsup shot a 49 to lead Mariposa. DeSandres carded a 50, followed by Fieldsted at 51. Bauer and Allen both shot 53 and Garrett Simpson's 60 wasn't counted in the team total.

The Grizzlies will host Golden Valley in a rematch next Monday.

"It's early in the season, and we're just getting warmed up," said head coach Danny Ellis. "I believe we'll be competitive when league play starts."

Grizzlies banished, 49-47

BY DAN TUCKER
GAZETTE PUBLISHER

Maybe it was erratic shooting or playoff game jitters. Possibly it was Mariposa's soft Southern Athletic League schedule, or Christian Brothers' daunting man-to-man defense. Regardless of the reason, the Falcons ended the Grizzlies' stellar season in the first round of the Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV playoffs last Wednesday night in the MCHS gym, 49-47.

"I think we played pretty well defensively, but we just couldn't hit shots," said head coach Trace DeSandres.

League MVP Cody Wichmann, a 6'5" senior bound for Fresno State's football program, was just 7 of 19 from the field, and senior starter Pierce Chaney dropped only 3 of 14 attempts.

Mariposa went in front early. With just over 2 minutes left in the first quarter, junior guard Jeremiah Baca took a feed from Frankie Peña for a lay-up to put the Grizzlies up, 11-5. The Falcons responded with a 3-point play, but still trailed, 11-8, as the period ended.

In the second stanza, Christian Brothers' in-your-face defense began taking its toll. With 2:26 left in the half, a short jumper lifted the Falcons to a 17-15 edge before a pair of

charity tosses by Chaney knotted the score at 17-17.

As the quarter ended, Christian Brothers picked starting guard Jarrett Miller's pocket for a steal and an uncontested lay-up to lead, 21-18, at the intermission.

The third period proved to be the Grizzlies' collapse. Except for solo free throws by Wichmann and Chaney, Mariposa couldn't score a field goal until midway through the quarter as the Falcons rolled up a 29-20 margin with 4:25 left.

After 6'7" junior Drake Long put back an offensive rebound, the Grizzlies trailed, 33-28, entering the final period.

Mariposa scratched and clawed its way back, and with 4:33 remaining in the game, Wichmann's monster dunk brought the Grizzlies within 2 at 37-35.

The Falcons answered with a pair of buckets and pestered Mariposa with a half-court press to hold their lead.

At 1:24, Christian Brothers held a 47-39 advantage, and Mariposa resorted to fouling to slow the clock, gambling that the Falcons would miss at the free throw line. That strategy worked, to a point, but the Grizzlies ran out of seconds to end their season at 25-4.

"They (Christian Brothers) played really good defense,"

DeSandres said. "Our kids play just as hard as it takes to win, and we went through so many weeks without a tough game that it made a difference. Christian Brothers had a dog fight every week, and we just didn't rise to the occasion."

"I think next season will be quite a bit tougher for us. DeNair and Le Grand will be better, and with Ripon Christian coming into the league, it won't be a cake walk," DeSandres added. "I think the caliber of competition in the league is getting stronger, and that will make us better, and hopefully more prepared for the playoffs."



GAZETTE PHOTO BY JILL BALLINGER

SENIOR CODY WICHMANN POWERS HIS WAY THROUGH THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS DEFENDERS DURING HIS FINAL GAME AS A GRIZZLY.

MYF holds sign ups

The Mariposa Youth Football League is holding sign-ups for the fall 2010 season on March 6, 13 and 20 and April 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All sessions will be held at the Mariposa VFW Hall.

Registration is \$100 for the first player and \$75 for each additional sibling. Parents must bring a birth certificate, insurance card and recent report card for each player or cheerleader.