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FRESHMAN FLOAT



# JUNIOR FLOAT



Touchdown



# Senior Float











King



Queen



SMILES

the

WHOLE

year



through





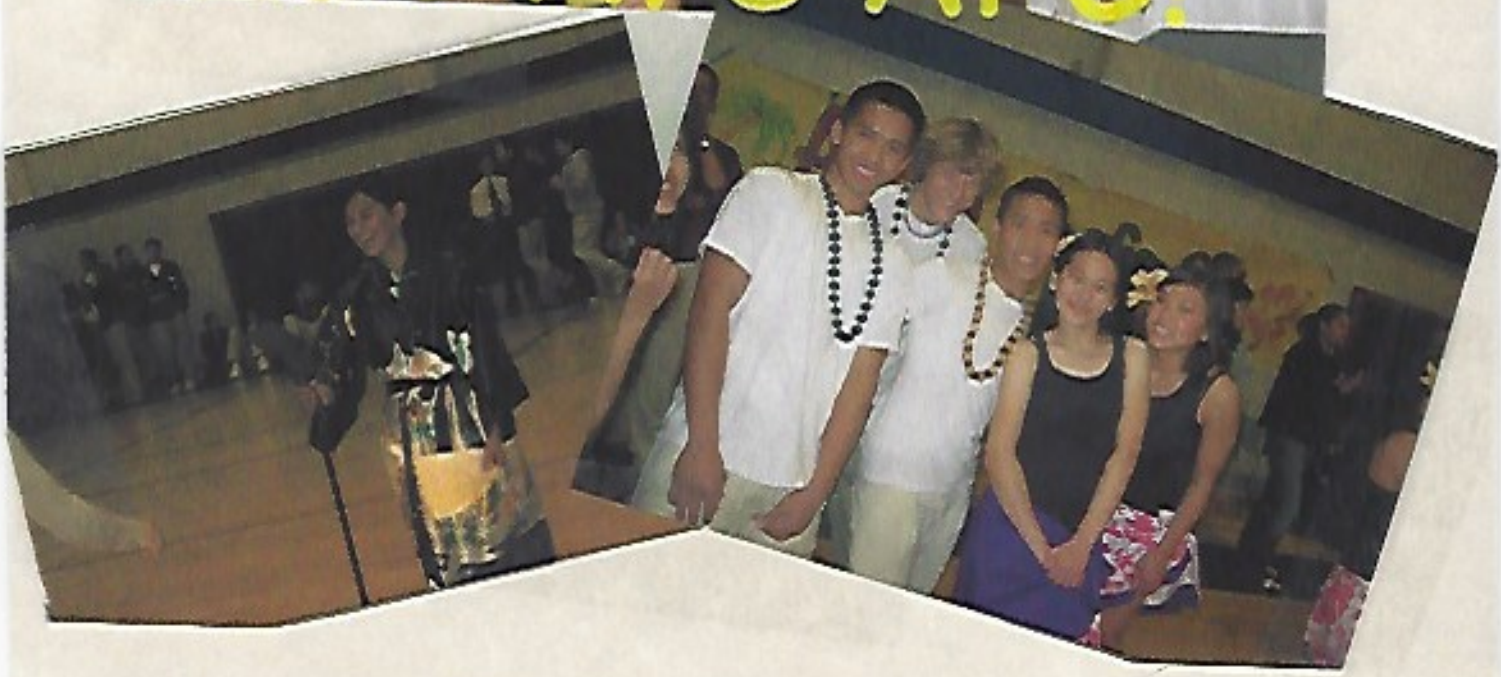
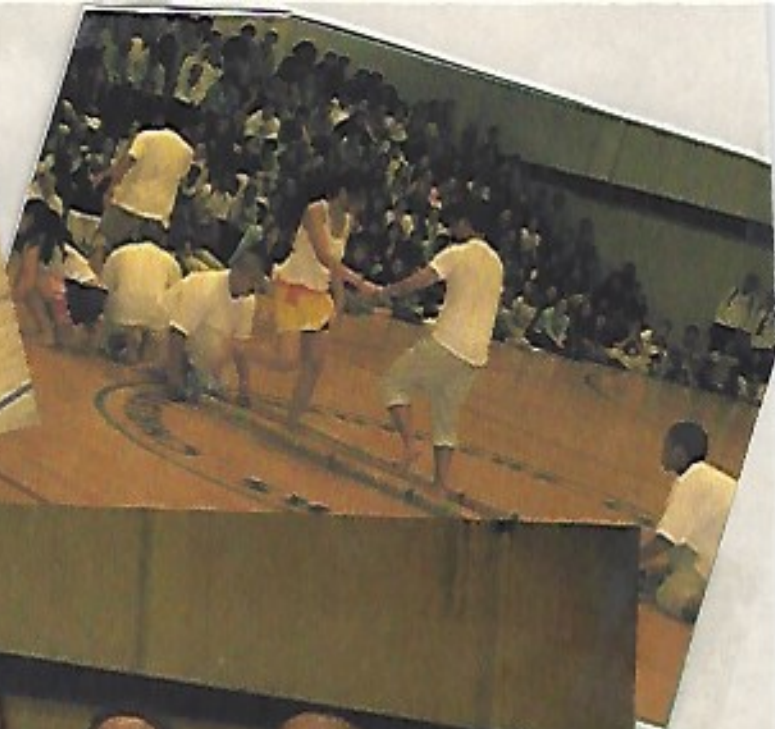




MULTI-CULTURAL

WEEK









We are the Maya Club







We are the German,  
French, Jewish, W.O.D.  
and C.L. Clubs!







We are BSU!







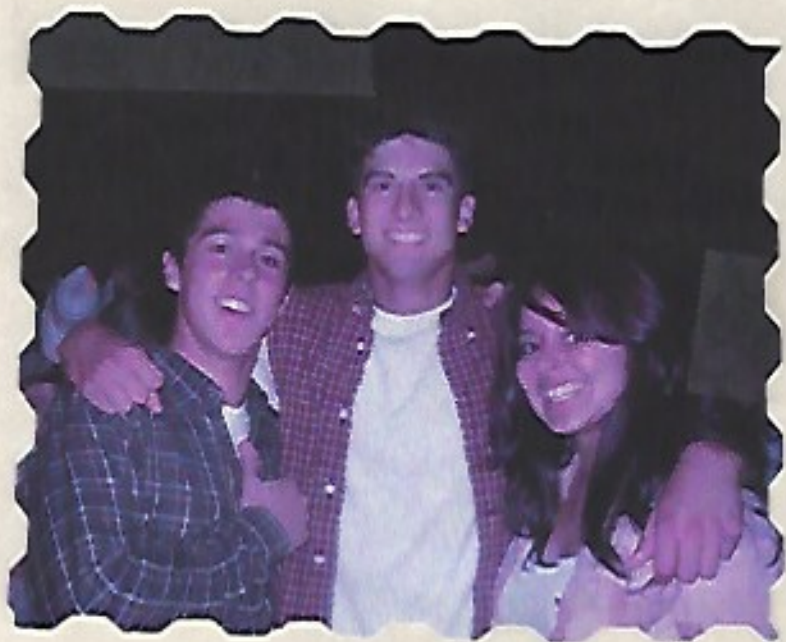
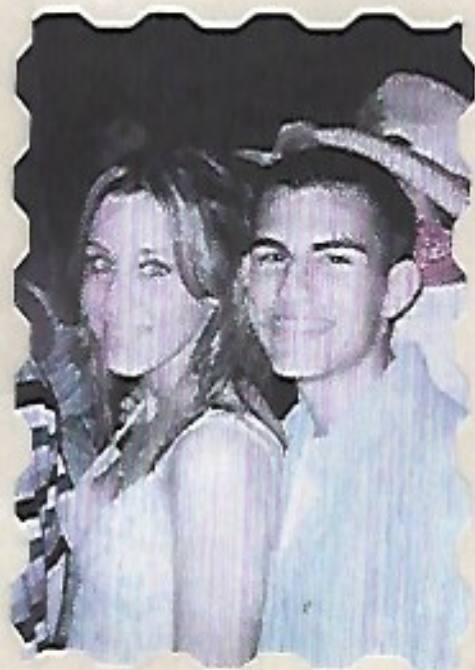
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## The Falcons' postseason run continues with a victory over Justin-Siena; Sacred Heart is next.

By John Parker  
SPECIAL TO THE BEE

The Christian Brothers High School girls volleyball team is looking less and less like a Cinderella story as the playoff victories pile up.

The Falcons' postseason run continued Tuesday night with a 25-10, 25-20, 25-22 victory over Justin-Siena in the first round of the Division IV CIF state tournament in front of a near-capacity home crowd.

Every other postseason match the Falcons have played for the past three weeks has been on the road.

"These girls never give up," Christian Brothers coach Diane Heine said. "They don't know how to give up. ... I love them."

After finishing third in the Sierra Valley Conference behind Division II Oak Ridge and Division III Union Mine, the Falcons—who were seeded 13th—downed No. 4 seed Escalon in the first round of the section playoffs and upended top-seeded Summerville, rallying back from a two-game deficit, in the semifinals.

"We face strong competition in the SVC," Heine said. "So when we play here, we have confidence."

"If you have confidence, you can always get the job done."

On Thursday, the Falcons capped the improbable section run by sweeping No. 3 seed Golden Sierra—a team the Falcons lost to twice this season—at UC Davis to claim the section crown.

"It seems like we surprise every team," senior setter Amanda Limeberger said. "We were seeded 13th, but we play like a first-place team."

Christian Brothers (24-10) appeared to stun an energetic but jittery Braves squad; Justin-Siena (29-11) gave up nine points on unforced ballhandling or net violations in the first game.

The second game was much more competitive, as no team held more than a three-point lead until Falcons freshman middle blocker Kayla Neto ripped a kill through the Braves' defense to give the home team a 19-15 edge. That was part of a 9-2 run that turned a 13-12 deficit into a commanding lead at 21-15.

Christian Brothers erased a 12-8 deficit in the third game by mounting a 10-2 run behind the strong play of senior co-captain Nicole Link, who had three kills and an ace in that span, to take an 18-14 lead.

CBS, which received the third of four seeds in the state tournament, faces No. 2 seed Sacred Heart Cathedral-San Francisco at 7 p.m. Saturday in San Francisco.

## SCHEDULE

### FOOTBALL

- Sept. 8—Christian Brothers at El Camino, 7:30 p.m.  
Sept. 9—Sacramento vs. McClatchy at Hughes Stadium, 7:30 p.m.; Modesto Christian at Capital Christian, 7:30 p.m.; Johnson at Atwater, 7:30 p.m.; Rosemead at Lodi, 7:30 p.m.  
Sept. 10—Burbank at Kennedy, 1 p.m.; Valley at Monterey Trail, 1 p.m.; Escalon vs. West Campus at Capital Christian, 1 p.m.

### BOYS SOCCER

- Sept. 8—Bella Vista at Capital Christian, 6:30 p.m.  
Sept. 9—Kearney at Franklin (Elk Grove), 4 p.m.  
Sept. 12—Corcoran at Christian Brothers, 3:30 p.m.; Aradair at Capital Christian, 6:30 p.m.  
Sept. 13—Johnson at Nevada Union, 3:30 p.m.; Franklin (Elk Grove) at Valley, 4 p.m.; Kennedy at Yuba City, 7 p.m.  
Sept. 14—Oak Camp at Burbank, 3:45 p.m.; El Camino at Sacramento, 3:45 p.m.; Capital Christian at Eugene, 4 p.m.; Christian Brothers at Possum, 6 p.m.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

- Sept. 8—McClatchy at Sacramento, 6 p.m.; Loreto at Christian Brothers, 6:30 p.m.; National West Campus, 6:30 p.m.; Visalia Christian at Capital Christian, 6:30 p.m.  
Sept. 12—Capital Christian at West Campus, 6:30 p.m.  
Sept. 13—Rio Americano at Christian Brothers, 6 p.m.  
Sept. 14—Roseville at Christian Brothers, 6 p.m.

### GIRLS GOLF

- Sept. 8—Christian Brothers at Union Mine, 3 p.m.

## Christian Brothers pulls off another upset by sweeping No. 2 seed Golden Sierra.

By Joshua Warn  
and John Parker  
SPECIAL TO THE BEE

Christian Brothers might have come in the Division IV Sac-Joquin Section girls volleyball tournament as the 13th seed, but the Falcons left as section champions.

Just two nights after rallying to win after trailing No. 1 seed Summerville two games none, Christian Brothers (23-10) dominated defending champion and No. 2 seed Golden Sierra (28-8). The Falcons swept the best-five series 25-17, 25-12, 25-21.

"These girls have so much heart," Christian Brothers coach Diane Heine said. "I knew they were good."

The victory at UC Davis' Pavilion on Thursday completed an improbable run through the playoffs for the team that finished third in the Sierra Valley Conference.

Despite being heavy underdogs, Christian Brothers quickly took control of the tempo of the championship match.

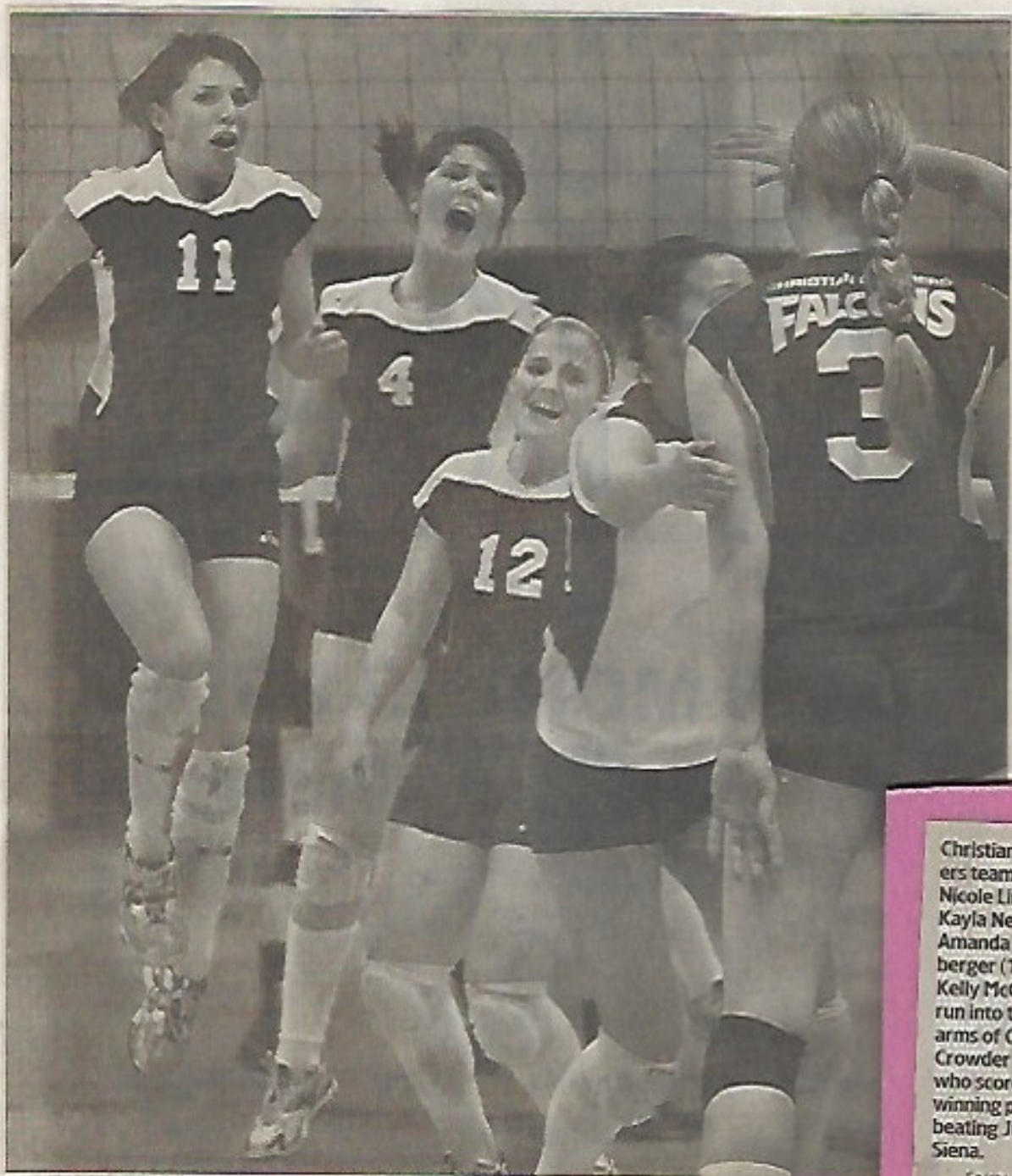
The Falcons moved together as a blur, seizing otherwise sure scoring chances from Golden Sierra and building early, insurmountable leads in the first two games.

Captain Nicole Link led the Falcons with 11 kills, and Cara Crowder had 10.



# Christian Brothers

## keeps winning



Christian Brothers teammates Nicole Link (11), Kayla Neto (4), Amanda Limeberger (12) and Kelly McGrane run into the arms of Cara Crowder (3), who scored the winning point in beating Justin-Siena.

Sacramento Bee/  
Paul Kragaki Jr.



# first home GAME



GO  
TEAM





# Looking for some home cooking

Christian Brothers and Sac High will play on campus this season.

By Jason Jones  
BEE STAFF WRITER

Football players from Christian Brothers and Sacramento high schools will walk from their own locker rooms or home games this season.

It's a change from playing at the area community colleges that they've called home.

Christian Brothers will play home games on campus on four Saturday afternoons and one Friday afternoon, while Sacramento will play on campus twice on a Thursday, once on a Friday and twice on a Saturday.

Both programs will save money by not renting buses and facilities and keeping concession profits. The biggest start-up costs will be bleachers.

In the long run, both schools are looking for charged crowds and a positive atmosphere for the players.

"I think it's going to be a huge boost," Sac High coach and athletic director Keith Brown said. "I'm not even sure they know how much they're going to enjoy it."

The Dragons have called Hughes stadium home for years. This is likely the first season Sac High has played at home, although Brown isn't positive.

"That's my understanding," Brown said. "There's been such a long history

I don't want to talk out of turn."

The Dragons first home game will be a 5 p.m. nonleague game Sept. 15 against Bartlett, Alaska. The Dragons plan to rent portable lights for a Sept. 23 game against Hiram Johnson and a Sept. 29

game against Rio Americano, then play p.m. games Oct. 8 against El Camino and Oct. 29 against Burbank.

Christian Brothers has played at American River College in recent years but as a member of the Sierra Valley Conference, where all its opponents have home stadiums, administrators and coaches have seen the advantages of a home field atmosphere.

Athletic director Jill Bennett could not pinpoint the last time the Falcons played on campus, but as far as she is concerned, it's a positive move. She said anticipation is building throughout the school for the Falcons' first home game Sept. 17 against McClatchy.

"They're getting more and more excited," Bennett said. "You can just feel the energy mounting."

In addition to McClatchy, the Falcons will play on campus against Ponderosa on Oct. 8, El Dorado on Oct. 29, Cordova on Nov. 5 and Union Mine on Nov. 11 under first-year coach Andre Johansen.

At Sac High, Brown said it was important to provide an electric atmosphere for players. That can be hard to come by at Hughes, which seats more than 22,000.

Last spring during the basketball playoffs, the Oak Park community came out en masse and filled the gymnasium. Brown would like the same atmosphere for football games, something he realizes Capital Athletic League rivals Casa Roble, Bella Vista, El Camino and Del Campo enjoy by playing at home.

"That's what we're hoping for," Brown said. "There was a real festive excitement for the basketball playoffs."

Bennett said the idea for games on campus began last year when then-assistant coach Vance Mueller asked why the team never played at home.

That started talks of how to make it happen. Now it's time to see how the community reacts to having the Falcons play on Saturday afternoons.

Bennett said she believes the plan can be a success.

"I think if we get them out to one game, they'll be hooked," she said.

■ ■ ■

The Bee's Jason Jones can be reached at (916) 321-1139 or [jjones@sacbee.com](mailto:jjones@sacbee.com).

7/8

By Bill Paterson  
BEE STAFF WRITER

With Oak Ridge, Cordova, Galt, Union Mine and Ponderosa, the Sierra Valley Conference is the king of Division II leagues.

The Trojans are three-time defending section champions, but an undefeated league season isn't a guarantee.

Rosemont plays its first varsity season in the meat grinder but will be realigned to the Metro Conference next season.

## PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Oak Ridge
2. Cordova
3. Galt
4. Union Mine
5. Ponderosa
6. Christian Brothers
7. El Dorado
8. Rosemont

## Christian Brothers

2004 record 1-9, 0-6

Coach Andre Johansen (first year)

Top returnees: TB-CB Anthony Molina (5-9, 180, Sr.); QB-CB Curtis Rauliantis (5-11, 175, Sr.); LB-FB David Bonomi (5-10, 200, Sr.); FB-LB Jake Jablonski (6-0, 200, Sr.); TE-LB Mike Macaluso (5-11, 210, Sr.)

Key losses: All-leaguers RB-DB Rashad DuPaty; RB-DB Chris Vassel; OT Ryan Boemer

Prospects: TB Steven Christian (5-11, 170, So.); OL-DL Nick Sullivan (6-0, 200, Jr.); OL-DL Leo Vellutni (6-2, 225, Jr.); TE-LB Joe Ezaki (6-0, 195, Jr.); WR-FS Joe Malm (5-10, 180, Sr.)

Outlook: Johansen steps in for ex-Oakland Raiders player Vance Mueller, who had to relinquish the position before coaching a game when he took a job with the NFL team. "They lacked a lot of leadership," Johansen said of his players. "We think we've changed all that. We expect to compete for a title."

Schedule (7:30 p.m. unless noted): Sept. 8 at El Camino; Sept. 17 McClatchy, 1 p.m.; Sept. 24 Jesuit at Hughes Stadium, 7 p.m.; Sept. 30 at Oak Ridge; Oct. 8 Ponderosa, 1 p.m.; Oct. 14 at Rosemont; Oct. 21 at Galt; Oct. 29 El Dorado, 1 p.m.; Nov. 5 Cordova, 1 p.m.; Nov. 11 Union Mine, 1 p.m.



# HOLY BOWL







# Touchdown

## CBS, Jesuit play to a tie in Holy Bowl

BEE SPORTS STAFF

Quarterback Curtis Raulinaitis had a hand in three Christian Brothers High School scores, helping the Falcons earn a 19-19 Holy Bowl tie with Jesuit on Saturday night at Hughes Stadium.

Raulinaitis passed 30 yards to Joe Malm with eight minutes left in the game for the final score. Isreal Ynez kicked the extra point.

Raulinaitis passed 31 yards to Chris Bollinger in the second quarter, after the Falcons trailed 13-0. With Christian Brothers trailing 19-6 later in the period, Raulinaitis ran eight yards for a touchdown. He finished with 184 yards of total offense.

Jesuit receiver Evan Reuter had 70 yards on seven receptions, including an eight-yard touchdown catch from Tyler Lanthrip in the first quarter.

Jason Law gave Jesuit a 13-0 lead when he returned a fumble 43 yards for a score.

### Jesuit vs. Christian Brothers Sat., Sept. 24, Hughes Stadium

Although the game isn't as competitive as in the past, the Holy Bowl still draws a huge group of students and alumni.

Jesuit is the consistently strong program under veteran coach Dan Carmazzi. CBS is on its third coach in less than a year, but Andre Johansen hopes to turn things around for the Falcons.



## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEWS

### FIRST ROUND

**in other Division IV action:**  
**Christian Brothers 3, Summerville 2** - The Falcons rallied from two games down to knock off the No. 1 seed 22-25, 23-25, 25-17, 25-23, 15-7. Christian Brothers' Cara Crowder had 19 kills and 12 digs, and teammate Brittany Woodard had 14 kills and five blocks.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

# Five questions to ponder before kickoff

By Bill Paterson  
BEE STAFF WRITER

When the high school football playoffs kick off tonight, it will mark the end of the Coquille Section's five-division format. Because of continuing growth, the section will expand to seven divisions next season after a major realignment. That means more schools and more games in, depending on the point, either a watered-down or more-competitive postseason.

In this farewell-to-five tribute, here are five questions to ponder.

**1 Can the Eagles prove golden despite the absence of their best player?** Del Oro has not been a Division II section final to Oak Ridge - and has been The Bee's top-ranked team for nine of 10 weeks. This season, the Golden Eagles don't have to worry about the Trojans, who missed the playoffs, but they will face plenty of tough challengers, beginning tonight with Christian Brothers, in trying to win their first section title since 1997. Still, with quarterback-safety Dan Hart leading an efficient offense and a sure-tackling defense, coach Casey Taylor's bunch appears to have enough firepower to overcome the loss of its best player, Boise State-bound tight end-linebacker Ben Chandler, who suffered a knee injury Oct. 14 in a 7-0 Sierra Foothill League victory over Rocklin.

Del Oro has not been a Division II section final to Oak Ridge - and has been The Bee's top-ranked team for nine of 10 weeks. This season, the Golden Eagles don't have to worry about the Trojans, who missed the playoffs, but they will face plenty of tough challengers, beginning tonight with Christian Brothers, in trying to win their first section title since 1997. Still, with quarterback-safety Dan Hart leading an efficient offense and a sure-tackling defense, coach Casey Taylor's bunch appears to have enough firepower to overcome the loss of its best player, Boise State-bound tight end-linebacker Ben Chandler, who suffered a knee injury Oct. 14 in a 7-0 Sierra Foothill League victory over Rocklin.

## Playoffs: Del Campo unranked, but Cougars are quite capable

► FROM PAGE C1

with a one-point loss to Sheldon in the regular-season finale. If Grant and NU can win their first two games, it will mean a rematch for the longtime rivals, who will be realigned into different leagues next season.

**3 With Cordova's James Montgomery and Oak Ridge's Chandler Clemons out of the playoffs, who are the players to watch?** Laguna Creek's Jeremy Ross, blessed with 4.39 speed in the 40-yard dash, is this area's version of USC's Reggie Bush. Although slowed by injuries early in the season, Del Campo's 6-foot-2, 223-pound running back, Donald Butler, is proving a load for the Cougars with 15 touchdowns in the last five weeks. Bear River's Kevin Grimes leads the state in scoring (254 points) in addition to rushing for 1,629 yards and playing full-time at linebacker. Union Mine tight end Dallin Rogers has good genes - his father played in the NFL - nice hands and nearly

1,000 receiving yards. Del Oro running back-kicker Nick Huppe has scored 337 points in two seasons and can deliver a big hit, too, as a linebacker.

**4 Who are these guys?** Nobody expected Christian Brothers, 1-9 in 2004, to reach the postseason, especially after a 26-20 loss Oct. 21 to Galt dropped the Falcons to 2-2 in the Sierra Valley Conference. But under first-year coach Andre Johansen, the Falcons beat El Dorado, Cordova and SVC champion Union Mine and then won a coin flip over Cordova and Oak Ridge for the league's second playoff berth.

The Falcons have thrived offensively behind quarterback Curtis Raulinaitis, who has nearly 2,000 combined rushing and passing yards, and an opportunistic defense anchored by linebacker Dave Bonomi that has produced 21 sacks, 19 interceptions, eight fumble recoveries and two blocked punts.

**5 Can an unranked team play for one of the larger division**

### 3 CHRISTIAN BROTHERS VS. NO. 1 DEL ORO

#### 7 p.m. at Del Oro

Del Oro's playoff experience and a winning record give the host Golden Eagles a big edge. Coach Casey Taylor's team has won 22 of its last 23 games to last season. The loss to Oak Ridge in the Division II section final, 34-27. The Falcons, however, are playing with a lot of momentum. Led by quarterback Curtis Raulinaitis, they have won five of their last six, including the last one. They closed the regular season with a 27-14 victory over Valley Conference champion Mine



NAMES  
AND NEWS

# 'Better' Falcons now in the hunt

By Jason Jones  
BEE STAFF WRITER

The Christian Brothers High School baseball team's mission this season could be summed up with one word: improvement.

The Falcons finished the 2005 season 12-16, 10-8 in the Sierra Valley Conference.

The league record left CBS tied for third in the SVC and out of the playoffs. CBS is off to a 7-4 (4-1) record at the start of this week.

The Falcons lost 2-1 to defending league champion Oak Ridge last Thursday for their first SVC loss.

The message from that game was simple.

"We have to get better," said coach Joe Gill. "Keep getting better."

And as Gill looks for progress from the Falcons, he has two good starting points.

Senior infielder Curtis Raulnaitis is off to a solid start.

He leads the Falcons with a .462 batting average. He's also been an aggressive runner with nine stolen bases.

"He'll end up playing Division I (college baseball)," Gill said of Raulnaitis. "He's a real good player."

Another solid performer this season has been senior infielder/pitcher Cory Valine.

A four-year varsity player, Valine has hit .300 for the Falcons and had 18 strikeouts as a pitcher.

"Cory's been very good," Gill said. "He's already signed a letter of intent with San Jose State to play baseball." The duo gives CBS two veterans to lean on as the team makes its push for a playoff spot.

"They're good kids, and they play hard," Gill said. "They're going to keep going on."

What the Falcons need is that same level from more players to help CBS to continue getting better.

"That's what we're kind of looking for," Gill said. "Guys to step up and help us out."

Only the top two teams from the SVC qualify for the postseason. Oak Ridge and Ponderosa figure to be the biggest obstacles preventing the Falcons from making the playoffs.

Gill didn't discount an improving squad such as Union Mine, the likes of Cordova or a young Rosemont team.

"Hopefully, we're in there," Gill said of the playoffs. "It's going to be a brawl before its over."

The key, of course, is the overall improvement Gill is looking for from the squad.

"We've got to get some guys to step up and help us out offensively," Gill said. "Then generally everyone has to get better. We've got a pretty competitive league."









# Seniors find school to be balancing act

By Moriah Balingit  
and Doug Rutsch  
BEE STAFF WRITERS

One student is battling cancer as he starts his last year in McClatchy High School's rigorous college-prep program.

Another, about to begin her last year at Christian Brothers High School, volunteers with hearing-impaired children and shares her experiences with a disability.

And a third student, a senior at John F. Kennedy High School, will be a leader in the Marine Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program as she juggles four Advanced Placement courses.

Sacramento City Unified School District is packed with outstanding seniors. These featured "rising stars" are three examples of students balancing scholarly work, volunteering and school leadership roles.

► STARS, Page G2

## RISING STARS

Name: Jessica Metzen  
School: Christian Brothers High  
Age: 17



Jessica Metzen

Senior Jessica Metzen doesn't want to save the world. She'd be happy to simply see others feel more comfortable in it.

The Christian Brothers student said she wants to be a speech pathologist and help those with hearing problems overcome speech impediments.

"I would be helping children or older people who become speech- and hearing-impaired get their voice back," she said.

The 17-year-old has volunteered extensively with Children's Choice for Hearing and Talking, where she assists speech pathologists and audiologists in helping hearing-impaired children improve their speaking skills.

"These children are being put in a mainstream school system," Metzen said. "I want to just help them feel accepted by their peers when they go to school."

Metzen remembers what it's like to be singled out for a physical impairment. She was born with one leg slightly longer than the other. By middle school, she had grown so rapidly that she had poor physical coordination.

"People teased me, but in a way, it made me stronger," she said.


Metzen didn't allow her peers' teasing to get to her. She now jogs 20 miles a week, a routine she said helped her physical coordination tremendously. Her experience in middle school also helped her empathize with the children she helps.

"Because of what I went through, I am sensitive to those who are teased," she said.

Besides volunteering, this high-energy teenager has managed to keep a 3.5 grade-point average, play flute in the Honors Band and serve as a coordinator for Students Reaching Out, a student-run drug-prevention program. And she's left those middle school naysayers far behind. She moves her slender, 5-foot-6-inch frame with confidence and grace.



# UNIFORMS:



a lot better this year because the girls  
't trying to look extremely adorable."  
Brittany Johnson, 15, Christian Brothers High School ▶

▶ FROM PAGE E1  
percent) who say schools should  
control what kids wear.

Public schools, such as those  
in Elk Grove, and private  
schools, such as Christian Brothers  
High School in Oak Park,  
have seen it all.

Christian Brothers amended  
its uniform policy last year and  
again this year. In 2004, the  
Catholic school began requiring  
all students who wear polo shirts  
to buy CB monogrammed polos  
at the school bookstore because  
the girls' shirts were too tight-  
fitting.

This year, Steve Barsanti,  
dean of students, says the school  
instituted a couple of more sub-  
tle changes.

"For health and safety rea-  
sons, we are not allowing stu-  
dents to wear flip-flops or san-  
dals," he says. "This is particu-  
larly important in science labs  
where something could get  
spilled."

Barsanti says the school now  
does not allow skirts or dresses.  
Girls can still wear shorts to their  
knees, capris or long pants.

"The skirts and dresses (on  
liturgy days) became a bit of a  
problem," he says, "because  
students were pushing the lim-  
its. They were too short."



# PERFECT MATCH

Local and school productions join to keep the Guild Theatre alive by solving its stage plight

## PLAY DETAILS

Christian Brothers High School's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" opens tonight at 7:30 at the Guild Theatre, 2828 35th St.

The next seven showings are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

2 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 a.m. April 6, 7, 8, and 2 p.m. April 9.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Buy tickets at the school's main office at 4315

Marin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For details, call (916) 733-3600.

By Ralph Montano  
BEE STAFF WRITER

When Ryan Ritter entered the stage of the Guild Theatre last week, he had a few butterflies in his stomach.

The 18-year-old senior is playing the lead role in Christian Brothers High School's production of "Fiddler on the Roof," which debuts tonight.

"Yeah, I was a little nervous," said the tall, blond student, who sports a beard that's starting to fill in. He and other classmates were given permission to go unshaved for the production.

"I love it," Ritter said of the beard. "I don't want to get rid of it - ever."

He was growing into his character, Tevye, in other ways.

"I identify with his reluctance to change. He's reluctant to go along with it, even though it is inevitable," Ritter said. "I kind of feel the same way to a smaller extent because this is my last year in high school."

In a way, the high school production is symbolic of what has happened to the 91-year-old brick theater.

A dramatic change came in 2003 with a \$1 million renovation. Despite the change, the challenge remains to fill the 200 seats regularly.

This year will be the second that Christian Brothers enters into a partner-



Adam Boles, 17, one of the students taking the lead role of Tevye, sings with one of the musical's two casts.

ship with St. HOPE Academy, which manages the theater, for musical and theatrical productions.

Lois Mills, director of special projects with St. HOPE Academy, said relationships with area groups are growing at the Guild and are helping the landmark at 2828 35th St. - and community theater - stay alive.

The theater currently plays host to a variety of regular groups - everything from artists' receptions to screening films from India (known as "Bollywood" films) to a local dance troupe. "It is definitely not dormant," Mills said.

But there also is room for growth. Mills said. "We are doing rentals to a lot of groups in the community. (But) there is the potential for it to be even busier."

This year, St. HOPE plans to hire a director to maintain and manage the facility.

"Everyone who goes to the venue enjoys it," Mills said. "From the front row to the last row in the balcony - every seat is great."

Kevin Haag, director of visual and



Julian Castano, 17, runs through a dance routine during rehearsal. The California Musical Theatre has provided costumes and choreography for "Fiddler."

performing arts at Christian Brothers High School, said the school rents the theater at a reasonable rate from St. HOPE.

The Christian Brothers campus is about 50 years old, and its theater is too small to support the students' needs, Haag said.

"Sixty-five percent of our students



**“We like it when people from the neighborhood come out and watch us. We hope more people will come here and see that Oak Park is a good neighborhood, and it has a great theater.”**

**Loretta Kenney**

director of Christian Brothers High School's production of "Fiddler on the Roof"



SacramentoBoyz.com

Christian Brothers High School students rehearse a dance for "Fiddler on the Roof," opening tonight at the Guild Theatre. The school's theater is too small for the production.



**“Everyone who goes to the venue enjoys it. From the front row to the last row in the balcony - every seat is great.”**

Lori Mills, director of special projects with St. HOPE Academy

# Theatre: Site has a history of struggles

► FROM PAGE H1  
are part of the visual and performing arts program,” Haag said.

When the school started looking for somewhere else to host events, the Guild Theatre sprang to mind.

The school has had a long-standing partnership with Oak Park and St. HOPE Academy. Christian Brothers students tutor at the academy and also hold annual street cleanups in Oak Park.

Haag said having such a grand venue is “inspiring,” much more grand than performing in a school gymnasium.

Briana Wilborn, a 16-year-old sophomore, agreed. “It kind of gives us a professional feeling,” she said. “We’re not at school in class, anymore. We’re in the Guild.”

According to the Web site Cinema Treasures ([www.cinematreasures.org](http://www.cinematreasures.org)), theaters have been struggling to survive at the 35th Street site since 1903. The Oak Park Theatre was the first to open and lasted only four years.

In 1915, the site was either redesigned or rebuilt entirely to open as the Victor Theatre. That lasted 11 years. In 1931, the New Oak Park Theatre opened and operated until 1947.

It was first called the Guild Theatre in 1952. It again fell into a state of disrepair until being rescued by St. HOPE.

Christian Brothers’ first musical production at the theater was the musical “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.”

That was followed by Agatha Christie’s “The Hollow.”

But neither production compares to “Fiddler on the Roof,” director Loretta Kenney said.

The musical has been double-cast because so many students wanted to take part in the production. The students will take turns performing during the “Fiddler” run.

Having a double cast means the musical will not be eligible for regional theater awards, Kenney said.

“But we made the decision that our goal is education. We wanted to give a lot of kids a chance to sing some solos.”

Students will not only be on the stage but also will provide the music. For this project, the school found support from the California Musical Theatre, which provided costumes and choreography.

Kenney said working inside the Guild presents some set design and building challenges.

“There’s no wing space, and your entire set basically has to be broken down to fit through double doors,” Kenney said.

Kenney said large audiences would be a boost for students.

“We like it when people from the neighborhood come out and watch us,” Kenney said. “We hope more people will come here and see that Oak Park is a good neighborhood, and it has a great theater.”

■ ■ ■

The Bee’s Ralph Montano can be reached at (916) 321-1159 or [rmontano@sacbee.com](mailto:rmontano@sacbee.com).



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## THE SPOTLIGHT



Will Armstrong

### 'Fiddler on the Roof'

Christian Brothers High School presents the musical "Fiddler on the Roof," featuring, from left, Katie Tucker, Kelsey Thompson-Briggs and Ryan Ritter. Performances are at 7:30 today through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday (last show) at the Guild Theatre, 2828 35th St., Sacramento. Tickets are \$7 general and \$5 for students. (916) 733-3600.

### Around the schools

Students in Catholic high schools in the greater Sacramento region are eligible to apply for \$1,000 scholarships from the Asian Pacific State Employees Association Foundation. Scholarships are awarded to students who plan to attend a college, university, vocational school or community college in the 2006-07 academic year. The application deadline is Feb. 24. A 200-word essay and transcript are required. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.apseafoundation.org](http://www.apseafoundation.org).

**KBFT Studios at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento** has been selected as the number one nationally-ranked news broadcast by Student Television Network. More than 300 high schools competed for this award. Christian Brothers students Katie Nunez and Colin Nygren, who received first place awards in the high school news anchor category, and David Anderson, who received an honorable mention, were honored at the Student Television Network convention held Feb. 1-4.

**Christian Brothers' vocal jazz ensemble** will perform as part of an evening of classical music Feb. 18 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis. For more information call Kevin Haag at the high school at (916) 733-3600, ext. 1064.



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