

Former Loretto athletes benefit CBS, St. Francis

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Annie Peabody remembers the sun-drenched afternoons stretched out on the lawn; Ashley Noda the flip-flops; and Shannon Louthier the tight bond between students and teachers.

All have fond memories of life and times at Loretto High School, the Arden Arcade-area, all-girls parochial school that closed last June because of declining enrollment and a worsening economy.

Administrators, teachers, coaches and students scattered to new jobs, schools and teams throughout the area.

Peabody and Noda, like most of the 280 Loretto transfers, enrolled at Christian Brothers and St. Francis, respectively, the two area parochial schools that accept female students. Louthier chose to attend Rio Americano, a public school not far from her old campus.

"Most opted to continue their Catholic educations," said Brian Seymour, Loretto's athletic director for 17 years, now a corporate manager for a West Sacramento emergency services firm.

"Most of the older students chose Christian Brothers while the young students tended to go to St. Francis."

The Christian Brothers sports program was the biggest beneficiary in numbers, experience and talent.

With former Loretto players contributing, the Falcons won a fifth consecutive Sac-Joaquin Section volleyball title and were CIF NorCal cham-



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Kim Fazio (13) and Sarah Biondi (2) were two of four former Loretto players to make a Christian Brothers team that repeated its section and NorCal volleyball titles.

pions; the golf team reached the Nor-Cal playoffs for the first time; and the soccer team, 5-6-1 in 2009, won the Sierra Valley Conference championship with a 9-1-2 mark.

"They've been an unbelievable addition," said CBS athletic director Jill Bennett. "The competition has been healthy. While some players didn't make their squads, which was tough on everybody, it's overall been a positive."

Peabody said going from an all-girls school to a coed campus for her senior year tested her comfort zone, but not

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WHERE'D THEY GO?

Some 280 students had to find new schools when Loretto closed its doors last June. Most wound up at Christian Brothers and St. Francis.

Christian Brothers

Enrollment: 1,020

Total transfers: 128

■ Seniors: 53

■ Juniors: 53

■ Sophomores: 22

St. Francis

Enrollment: 1,124

Total transfers: 78

■ Seniors: 10

■ Juniors: 37

■ Sophomores: 31

—Source: Chr. Brothers, St. Francis

ON PAGE C2: East Nicolaus High School's John Kukuruda has thrown four consecutive no-hitters.

PREP VOLLEYBALL NOTES

Falcons hoping to soar with ex-Loretto players

By JOHN PARKER
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While there were no winners when Loretto High School closed following the 2008-09 academic year, another of Sacramento's private Catholic schools certainly benefited from the dispersal of the school's student-athletes.

Christian Brothers, a Division IV state finalist in volleyball in 2008, picked up seven players from Loretto's program and, in the process, addressed a big need at middle blocker.

Kayla Neto, The Bee's Player of the Year in 2008 now starting at Cal State Fullerton, was the Falcons' lone senior last year, and her graduation left a 6-foot-3 hole.

Enter 6-4 senior Megan Anders, who has started on the varsity since her freshman year at Loretto.

Joining Anders on the Falcons' varsity are setter Sara Biondi, libero Annie Peabody and outside hitter Kim Fazio.

"I was happy when I found out they were coming here," coach Jeff Deter said.

While Anders isn't expected to join the starting lineup until later in the season - she broke two vertebrae in her back playing for a Deter-coached club team in April - it appears the added depth has the Falcons headed to the state tournament again.

"I wanted the best opportunity to win," Biondi said. "I definitely I think I can help them make it back (to state)."

Deter's dilemma is what to do at setter. Returning is last year's first-team All-Metro setter, Kelly Pelz, who has received an equal amount of repetitions with Biondi, a 2008 All-Capital Athletic League selection.

The Falcons have options. Deter could run a 5-1 offense (one setter who sets all the way around the rotation) or a 6-2 (two setters who set only

THE BEE'S TOP 15

(Records through Monday)

School	Rec.	Pts
1. Oak Ridge	5-0	2
2. St. Francis	9-1	3
3. Chr. Brothers	4-1	1
4. Nevada Union	7-1	4
5. Del Oro	7-2	5
6. Union Mine	1-0	6
7. Rocklin	6-1	7
8. Ponderosa	0-3	8
9. Granite Bay	0-2	9
10. Rio Americano	3-4	15
11. Placer	0-0	11
12. Roseville	4-0	12
13. Colfax	0-0	13
14. Golden Sierra	2-1	14
15. Davis	1-4	10