



Sports Report

Rich Klier, '58,

Having graduated and taught at Castlemont (I coached basketball, gymnastics, and football), I was curious about the status of sports at the Castle today, given all the changes at the school. I recently met with Johnny Lorigo, Castlemont's athletic director for these past 15 years. Johnny and I talked about last year, and the upcoming year. Sports is really about a lot more than winning. Having a talent to excel in a sport, or just enjoying the sport, can be a special part of growing up. The challenge of competing, the camaraderie of training together, the emotions of success or failure, being part of a team effort, and everything else that is part of the experience is a big deal, though it often isn't emphasized.

I encourage alums to help find coaches for tennis and girls volleyball. If you know some people with time on their hands and an interest and ability to coach tennis or girls volleyball, pass the word to me and I'll pass it on to Mr. Lorigo. Call me with sports news at (925) 935-7258 rfklier@comcast.net

- Baseball:** More players this year; coach Lloyd Johnson is expecting an improvement over last year's third place finish.
- Basketball:** We were OAL champs in both boys and girls basketball. The coming season promises to be strong again. Boys varsity coach Gerald Pleasant and girls varsity coach Mathew Lane expect to be competing for the OAL dominance again.
- Cross Country:** Although we've had some great middle distance runners over the years, cross country has never been one of our strengths. Last year we had four boys and one girl compete and finished fourth out of four teams. Nola Turnage, part of the *Students Run Oakland* running club, is the new cross country coach. There are high hopes for great improvement this season.
- Football:** Castlemont has always been a football school. Last year our varsity was fourth and the JVs were second. With big turnouts for the team and a strong JV team, Coach Amin Denny expects to contend for the OAL Championship.
- Golf:** We had 11 golfers last year. Coach Gary Ingram expects up to 20 for this year.
- Soccer:** Coaches George Hoxie (boys) and Felix Garcia (girls), expect a big turnout for soccer. Last year, 70 tried out for 20 spots on the boys team.
- Softball:** 18 girls turned out for the softball team and a big turnout is expected again.
- Swimming:** Under coach Paul Chapelle and Dave Fairfield, Castlemont's swimming teams were champions. Coach Daphne Banash will try to build a program that had only one swimmer last year.
- Track:** The history of Castlemont track has been boom or bust. Back in my years, we fought Fremont to avoid being last. Under Coach Garedakis, ~~Knights~~ fought Mack for the championship. But last year, only ten boys and one girl competed. This year should be a building year.
- Tennis and Volleyball:** Last year there were no coaches. If we don't get a coach, we won't compete this year.

Save the Date!!! January 27, 2007 for the next Castlemont Alumni General Membership Meeting. Details will follow (or 925 461-1381)

Want a cool Castlemont visor? Want a great ~~Knights~~ pin? Visors are \$10, pins are \$5, or join the CHSAA and get one for free! Contact CHSAA for more info.

Reunion News

Greg Hickey, '56

The Class of 1961 will celebrate its 45th reunion at Scott's in Oakland, Saturday, November 4th. Call Judi Victor Persons (925-946-1755) email castlemont1961@yahoo.com

My Class celebrated 50 years at a dinner in Pleasanton on September 16, and as we were arriving, the Class of '46 was just finishing a reunion lunch. The 180 from my class, and 60 from '46, showed a lot of Castle school spirit!!!

Can we publicize your reunion? Do you have news and photos from a recent event? Let me know, and we'll include it in the next Crier!! Greg's contacts: 925 461-1381 or whizman@prodigy.net

Castlemont Gym Floor Named for David Shigematsu

Through the initiative of Athletic Director Johnny Lorigo, and with the support of School Board member Alice Spearman, '69, a resolution was adopted by State Administrator Kim Statham to name the gymnasium court after highly decorated basketball coach David T. Shigematsu.

"I want the kids and community to understand Coach Shigematsu's legacy as basketball coach and educator," said Mr. Lorigo.

Coach Shigematsu, a native Oaklander, graduated from Oakland High in 1958. His career as an educator began at Havenscourt in 1963, and he became the ~~Knights~~ JV coach in 1967. Coach S, as he was affectionately known, became Varsity coach the following year, and coached until 1981, winning seven OAL championships. He received numerous coaching award, including state Coach of the year in 1979. He taught and coached at Castlemont until 1986.

Reggie Green, '73, came to the board meeting to speak in favor of the resolution. Reggie is currently a successful real estate broker, and a frequent speaker at Castlemont career days. He spoke passionately about the impact of Coach S. on his life, and on the lives of all the basketball players he coached. He shared with us an incident when he was not focused on working hard as a student or as an athlete. Pulling out a shoebox from a cabinet, he shared with Reggie the contents: two letters of interest from colleges for a earlier Castlemont basketball star.

"Will you be satisfied with only two letters, Reggie?" Reggie recalled vividly that Coach S spoke to him. That moment turned Reggie around, good enough was no longer an option, and he successfully completed high school as a scholar athlete, lettering in basketball at Seattle University.

Coach Shigematsu passed away in 1987. Johnny Lorigo and the Shigematsu family are planning a celebration event to commemorate the naming of the basketball court for November 17. Email Johnny for the details

Farewell to Lloyd Duck, Jr, 48
David Heagerty, '45

Distinguished Castlemont High School alum Lloyd Lewis Duck, Jr. passed away in Placerville after courageously battling cholangiocarcinoma. Lloyd was an outstanding athlete at Castlemont High, lettering twice each in both baseball and football and graduating in June 1948. Lloyd served as a combat infantryman in Korea where he received decorations for bravery and the Purple Heart for wounds in action. Lloyd worked successfully in sales management in Southern California for 35 years, retiring and relocating to Placerville in 1993. Lloyd planned and executed annual reunions over the past 10 years for former Castlemont High athletes and friends. The November 2005 event drew more than 100 ~~Knights~~ of Ol'. He will be greatly missed by those privileged to know him



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Time to Renew your Membership?

If you are a current member, please do renew now! It's only \$25 a year, and you will receive in the mail a token of our appreciation, a brand new, CHSAA pin.

Better yet! Become a life member! Get a membership form from: Kim-Dung Nguyen:

castlemontalumni@yahoo.com

The President's Report

Thuy Nguyen, '93 President

On Saturday, February 25, 2006, more than 65 Knights gathered at Francesco's for the 3rd Annual General Membership Meeting.

As President, I first briefed the association on past activities: Old School picnic, holiday gifts for teachers and staff, and Career Day. The highlight of the day came when former Principal Lee Nell

Jennings donated a \$1,000 in honor of her father to our Impact Fund. We also discussed how to find the owner of a class ring found in Vietnam. We then had a blast with the College Bowl trivia conducted by former teacher, Linda Halpern. Three teams competed- the "Dream Team," the "We Deliver Team," and the "Cheerleading Team" (equipped with pompoms!).

The following Knights were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame: Muriel Hand, '50 (Distinguished Knight in Shining Armor Alumni) Shannon Reeves (Community Svc. Alumni) Greg Hickey, '56 (Gold Key Alumni) Geraldine Laws, frmr tchr (Sports Hall of Fame Alumni)

Luncheon speaker Josue Hernandez, a junior at Castlemont, shared his experiences at the Castle through a Johnny Carson-like interview conducted by Gary Yee. Josue will be featured on Wendy Tokuda's Rising Above the Stars 2007 scholars on KRON ch 4.

While the annual luncheon was a huge success, we had to cancel this year's Career Day due to low alumni turnout. Career Day is an incredible opportunity for alumni to connect with students at the Castle and inspire them to dream of possibilities. The Board brainstormed what we could do to increase turnout and improve coordination with the schools. We realized that we would need to plan more in advance and encourage non-alumni to participate. Please consider participating next year and ask your friends to join us as well.

Lastly, I invite alumni to help out with association activities. We have an outstanding group of officers and board members who volunteer significant time and money to make things happen. We need more helping hands! Please contact me if you want to learn more about how you can contribute.

I hope to see you at the next luncheon, a general membership meeting scheduled on Saturday January 27!



A Knight from Louisiana

Gary Yee, '62

Last summer, Louisiana suffered an unimaginable disaster: Hurricane Katrina. Most of us watched in horror as New Orleans residents tried to escape the rising waters. Courtney Miles was there in the midst of it, and his story of heroism and his journey to California and to Castlemont were recently the subject of a feature article in the San Francisco Chronicle. I want to give you the short version here, but of course, you can read the whole article, written by Lisa Hix for the Sunday August 27 issue, at (www.sfgate.com- search for Katrina and Castlemont).

Courtney played on a championship high school basketball team in New Orleans, but he also had a very tough life, wiith only his grandmother to care for him. She was away during Katrina, and Courtney was left with no food or money. He only had his neighbors to look out for him during the hurricane, but when the levee broke, everyone was desperate to flee. Courtney managed to find a yellow school bus, and he jump started it, drove back to his neighborhood, and after several trips, picked up nearly 400 neighbors and strangers and drove them to safety in Lafayette, LA.

His stay in Lafayette was difficult, but his coach managed to hook him up with an old friend in Oakland, Gil Dorsey-Wagner, and he enrolled at Castlemont. Eventually he found his grandfather, who also lives in East Oakland. He studied hard, played point guard on the Castlemont varsity team which won the OAL championship, passed the high school exit exam, and started classes at City College of San Francisco.

He really hopes to return to Louisiana one day, but until then, he shared with Hix, ... "it's a blessing for me to be out here and keep a straight head. I can get all focused, I'm not distracted. And I feel like the people of Oakland have opened their hands and hearts for me. So it was liek Katrina was hurting me, but it was the best thing that ever happened to me.!"

Courtney: you are a hero, and we are glad that you came to Castlemont!!!

