

WNBA PLAYOFFS

Monarchs fall to Silver Stars in West opener

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Becky Hammon made six 3-pointers and scored 30 points to give the San Antonio Silver Stars a 85-78 victory over the Sacramento Monarchs in the opener of the WNBA's Western Conference playoffs on Thursday night.

Game 2 of the best-of-three series is Saturday in San Antonio. The Silver Stars posted a league-best 24-10 record in the regular season and were 15-2 at home.

The Silver Stars played well down the stretch, winning their final five regular-

season games to hold off Seattle and capture the Western Conference title.

The game was a contrast to last year's first-round meeting when the Monarchs beat San Antonio 86-65 at home in Game 1. The Silver Stars rallied to win the series with two victories on their floor, including a two-point victory in Game 3.

After struggling early, Sophia Young got going in the second half and finished with 17 points and eight rebounds. Vickie Johnson had 17 points and eight assists for the Silver Stars, who led by 22 in the third quarter. Erin

Buescher scored 10 points and Ann Wauters had eight.

Ticha Penicheiro scored 19 points and had seven assists for Sacramento. Nicole Powell scored 16 points and Crystal Kelly had 12. Bothered by the defense of Johnson, Kara Lawson attempted only five shots and finished with seven points.

Hammon, a veteran guard who was criticized for playing on the Russian Olympic team at the Beijing Games, was the difference Thursday. She made her first six 3-point attempts and shot 9-of-14 overall.

The Monarchs chipped

away at the lead and got to 72-65 on a rare 3-pointer by Penicheiro with 3:31 remaining. Sacramento made it 82-78 with a 3-pointer by Lawson with 22 seconds left, but Johnson made three late free throws to secure the victory.

Hammon sparked the Silver Stars early. The All-Star made three 3 pointers and had 13 points by the midway point in the first half, helping San Antonio establish a 38-21 lead. The Silver Stars jumped ahead despite Young going scoreless in the first 17 minutes.

LIBERTY 72, SUN 63

NEW YORK — Shameka Christon scored 19 points, Cathrine Kraayeveld had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and the New York Liberty beat the Connecticut Sun in the opener of their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

Janel McCarville added 13 points for New York, which closed the regular season with three losses in four games.

Tamika Whitmore scored 16 points and Asjha Jones had 11 for Connecticut, which continued its late-season slump and fell for the fourth time in five games.

The best-of-three series moves to Connecticut for Game 2 on Saturday. A decisive game would be Monday night in Connecticut, if necessary.

The Liberty built a 15-point lead in

the first quarter, but allowed the Sun to get within three in the third before pulling away in the fourth.

Jones scored six points in Connecticut's 8-0 run sandwiched around half-time to pull the Sun to 42-37 1:14 into the third quarter. Whitmore had a three-point play with 6:09 left in the third, and Lindsay Whalen hit a free throw 40 seconds later to cut the deficit to 46-43.

However, Christon made a jumper, Erlana Larkins put in a layup and Ashley Battle added a 3 to push the Liberty's lead back to 10 with 2:49 left in the quarter. Christon's 3 gave New York a 65-52 lead with 3:55 left.

Jones and Whalen had consecutive three-point plays to cut the Sun's deficit to seven with 3:10 left in the game, but that was as close as they got.

YOUTH FOOTBALL REPORT

DAILY REPUBLIC STAFF

Solano Warriors

Solano Warriors Starters 33, North Sacramento Pacers 0: At Armiijo High's Brownlee Field, the Starters division won the first game of the day to extend the team's winning streak to 17 games dating back to last season. Jaden Key ran the ball for four touchdowns of 62, 12, 22 and 71 yards. Dewayne Dixon Jr. managed two scores with a 79-yard run and a 6-yard reception from quarterback Isaiah Randle. Two extra point conversions were run in by Israel White and one by Randle. Key led the defense with 5.5 tackles and a fumble recovery. Juwan Tanner, Kyler Schwab and Juan Carlos Zapata each recorded three tack-

les. Donald White Jr. recorded 2.5 tackles and a quarterback sack, while White, Jonathan Gray, Amariya Thompson and Edward Russell III each made two tackles. Dixon Jr. also intercepted a pass.

Solano Warriors Rookies 33, North Sacramento Pacers 0: The Warriors offense was on fire, scoring seven touchdowns (the game became a scrimmage after the Warriors reached 33 points, no other points counting after that point). Kesean Graham rushed for a 10-yard score while Tre'Shaun Lofton ran for a score of 30 yards. Damonte Moore ran for touchdowns of 37 and 43 yards and Jemaunri Baulch sprinted into the end zone for touchdowns of 4, 60, and 50 yards. Joseph Harrison crossed the goal

line for two extra point conversions by way of receptions from Graham, while Rishod Abraham added a rushing extra point as well. On defense, Daerion Spencer led all tacklers with 7.5. Graham made 3.5 tackles while Lofton and Sandee Matol Jr. each turned in 2.5. The swarming Warriors defense saw Malon Johnson, Harrison, Donald Wade Jr., Abraham, Kyree Scott, Bailey, and Isaiah Thomas each make two tackles on the day.

Solano Warriors Junior Varsity 7, North Sacramento Pacers 6: Tamarco Richard scored the only Warrior touchdown by way of a 3-yard scamper with Adarius Pickett converting the extra-point try. Defensively, Michael Arendondo and Tony Terry III each chalked up

four tackles with Jevon Sanford and Andre Lewis each turning in three tackles. Richard, Branden Whitaker, Chris Bruner, Issac Thomas, and James Chatman each recorded two Pacer tackles. Terry III also brought down the Pacer quarterback for a sack while Pickett plucked the ball out of the air for an interception. D'Vaughn Hill stole the football from the Pacer offense, recovering a fumble.

Solano Warriors Varsity 32, North Sacramento Pacers 12: Aaron Bragg rushed for two touchdowns of 10 and 36 yards and converted an extra point as well. Chante Brewer ran the ball 13 yards for a Warrior touchdown with Jamie Terrell catching a Curtis Goins pass in the end zone for the extra point.

Defensively, Jonathan Teal had a huge day with two fumble recoveries — both in the Pacer end zone — resulting in Warrior touchdowns. Goins also led all tacklers with 4.5, while Anthony Ladd, Bragg and Sean Gray each recorded three. Brewer, Kye Campbell-Jones, Derek Wise Jr., Joseph Thomas, Armani Diles and Justin Medina each recorded two Pacer tackles. Ladd caught the Pacer QB for a sack, while Bragg intercepted a pass.

All Warriors teams are undefeated in 2008 with 4-0 records.

Fairfield Falcons

FAIRFIELD — The Fairfield Falcons have completed three weeks of their

2008 season, splitting games between Oak Grove of San Jose and the Vacaville Bengals, and playing the Tri-City Ravens and Vallejo Raiders.

The lone team with a winning record is the Junior Pee Wees, who are 2-0-1. The Mitey Mites also have a victory and are 1-2, while the Pee Wees and Midgets are 0-3.

In last week's games with the Vallejo Raiders at Mare Island, Junior Pee Wees prevailed 28-6, while coming out on the short end were the Mitey Mites (13-6), Pees (13-6) and Midgets (14-6). No individual statistics were submitted.

The Falcons hold their season opener and homecoming at Schaefer Stadium on Saturday against the San Francisco Jr. 49ers.

YOUTH SOCCER REPORT

DAILY REPUBLIC STAFF

Solano Soccer Club

U-9 BOYS DIVISION 1

Solano Real Madrid 3, Sonoma 1: The Real Madrid boys won their first league game of the season. Alan Reyna-Velazquez scored the first goal with an assist from forward player Gregory Soria. Daniel Reyes scored two goals as midfielder, helping both the defense and offense. The defense held strong with great saves from goalie Gonzalo Garcia and Andres Lara's strong play.

The game was played in honor of Matt Garcia and the boys wore black arm bands in his honor.

U-13 BOYS

Solano Sporting 3, River City Boca 3: Adolfo Ledesma scored the only goal in the first half, giving the Sporting a lead going into the final half. River City came out strong in the second half, scoring twice before Sporting's Nathan McKeever took a long shot that deflected off a Boca defender into the net. With the game tied, Enrique Martinez put Sporting in the lead again, scoring with a header. A foul called on a Sporting player gave Boca the opportunity to tie up the game before the final whistle blew.

The Less brothers, Jacob and Jason, had strong performances on the offense effort.

U-16 BOYS

Tracy Chivas 3, Vipers 2: Jesus Reynoso scored an early goal and for most of the first half, the Vipers' defense and midfield kept the strong Tracy Chivas offense at bay. Tracy Chivas scored a well manufactured goal three minutes before the end of the first half, tying the game at 1-1. Tracy Chivas scored two more goals almost at the beginning of the second half. The Vipers never gave up and stepped up their attack until Marco Alvarez scored a second goal for the Vipers. Robert Urena and Jesse Mejia took shots on goal from outside the 18-yard box, but the goal posts blocked them.

U-13 GIRLS

Solano Strikers 4, Folsom Lightning 1: The Strikers developed 16 offensive attacks on goal resulting in four scores, while giving up only one shot on their net, which was the Lightning's only goal. The team play and passing of the Strikers was too much for the Lightning to handle.

Solano Strikers 2, Elk Grove 0: Solano developed 15 great offensive plays on goal during this game, finishing two of them, though one of them hit the cross bar, two more hit the left post and the Elk Grove keeper made a couple of great plays on two more shots.

U-16 GIRLS

Solano United 2, Land Park 0: United was led by goals from Irene Padilla and Aja Erskine. Another strong defensive performance was put in by United in only allowing two shots on goal the entire game. Brianna Allatore, Veronica Castro and Suly Pelayo all played well for United.

U-17 GIRLS

Solano Kaos 5, Woodland Mad Dogs United 0: In first-half action, Brianna Ortega scored on an assist from Katie Whan and Alyssa Orme scored on an assist from Ortega. Shelly Perez had a nice goal on a free kick from 25 yards

out, finding the far corner. In the second half, Orme scored again on an assist from Ortega and Whan scored on an assist from Tyler Hoffman. The defense, led by Erika Kelsh and Ashley Mangini, did a great job holding off Woodland, which only had one scoring opportunity.

FSYSL Soccer

U-6 GIRLS

Fighting Daisies vs. Little Karnaleons: Cierra Lucero and Naomii Manning both scored goals for the Fighting Daisies. Sairy Cerino and Arianna Manning both played great defense all game.

Hummingbirds vs. Flying Fairies: Brooke Wells played strong defense, stopping several Fairy drives in the mud. Jade Calpo and Hannah Barnes led the 'Birds' big comeback, working together on steals that led to big goals. Ella Shennan inspired the Hummingbirds on offense and hustled back on defense to preserve a tie with the Fairies.

For the Flying Fairies, Jordan Gutierrez drove the ball down the field several times, putting the Hummingbird defense to work. Aedyn Gravely made four goals and just missed a fifth. Allison Cutting got in some great kicks while keeping the Hummingbirds from scoring. Ahiani Santos stole the ball from the Hummingbirds and kicked it toward the Flying Fairies goal many times.

Black Pearls vs. Cheetahs: Kylie Quinn led the Black Pearls offense and scored two goals. Aavrey McDonald hustled on both offense and defense. Briahna Nipper continued to show her ball-handling skills and speed. Aubrey Bennett made a key defensive play and kept the Cheetahs away from a potential goal.

U-6 BOYS

Wolf Pack vs Land Sharks: Up against an impressive defense, Nathaniel Biggs of the Pack demonstrated solid dribbling skills through Land Shark territory. Matthew Navarro kept the defensive line strong by frequently stopping Land Shark advances. Assisting Matthew on defense was Benjamin Graham, who put forth a great effort in kicking the ball to his teammates. During the second half, Conner Bock broke through the defense, scoring a goal for the Wolfpack.

U-7 GIRLS

Unicorns 5, White Tigers 2: The Unicorns had another great attack led by Keana Flynn, who scored several goals to contribute to the victory. Nadia Neid-effer was amazing as goalie, stopping several White Tiger shots, while Madison Montgomery also had a fantastic game as goalie by helping to limit the White Tigers to two goals.

Heartbreakers 1, White Lilies 1: With the combination of outstanding teamwork and the efforts of goalies Hayley Goss-Johnson, Madison Metcho and Jessica Wheeler, the Heartbreakers only allowed one goal. Regan Peterson scored for the Heartbreakers.

U-7 BOYS

Tigers 3, Rockets 3: The Tigers came out strong with Alec Merodio taking control and scoring the first goal of the game. Utilizing all of his offensive skills, Alex Moreno charged the goal numerous times before scoring a goal in the third quarter. Hudson Reece displayed intense ability on both defense

and offense, scoring the final Tiger goal of the game. Also leading the attack for the Rockets was Nicholas Strong, who stole and assisted teammates.

Jaguars 1, Hawks 0: On offense, Ian Peixoto showed his powerful leg strength when he scored the only goal of the game for the Jaguars. After being kicked in the nose, Nicholas Funke charged his way through the defenders and had some great passes and shots on goal. The Jaguars' defense was strong as Santino Chavez blocked several attempts on goal and demonstrated his great teamwork. Helping his team with several take aways, Dante Ciarebellini exhibited great footwork and helped assist his team achieve the victory.

Cheetahs 5, Bombers 2: Peyton Montiel-Villegas displayed great speed in scoring one goal for the Bombers. Alejandro Folgheraiter was solid on offense, scoring a goal and stopping many attempted goals as goalie. Christian Cambridge demonstrated great defensive abilities along with the impressive playing of Jack Nygard, keeping the Cheetahs from the goal and his fabulous footwork attempting to score.

U-8 GIRLS

Red Hawks 5, Hot Shots 0: Grace Curry made a superb sliding kick for a goal for the Red Hawks that was assisted by Hannah Arabaraghi. Caitlyn Helweg played superior defense in goal, stopping several shot attempts. Tatyana Berrios dribbled the ball downfield to score another goal for the Hawks.

U-8 BOYS

Revolution 4, Cobras 1: Landon Mispagel started the 2008 season with a hat trick to lead the Revolution to their first victory. Austin Parlett found himself in front of the goal and finished with a solid shot to the far post. Jacob Peppard controlled the midfield with his ball control and stopped the Cobras' attack with superb defense.

U-9 GIRLS

Dragonflies 3, Blue Dolphins 2: The Dragonflies played a challenging game with Sophia Moreno playing goalie for the first time. She did not let one ball get by her. Aman Bajwa showed great teamwork and made the only goal in the first half. Leah Kimble used her great footwork and made the second goal of the game, early in the second half. Not slowing down the entire game, Savannah Sears drove the ball in for the winning goal.

Cheetah Girls 0, Foxy Footers 0: The Cheetah girls defense of Teri Martin, Abrejah Jordan and goalie Emily Mauk was key in ensuring there were no goals scored by the Foxy Footers.

Foxy Footer Isabella Medeiros wowed the crowd with her fancy footwork as a forward. Isabel Fondersmith played defense and applied pressure to the opposing team throughout the first half. Sierra Warner was superb as a defender as well. Isabella Schneider was a real go-getter the entire game. Marisa Ornelas moved aggressively as a forward. Keirsten Anderson payed good in goal.

U-10 GIRLS

Grasshoppers 3, Phoenix 1: Marissa Ibarra booted in the only goal for the Phoenix with Ariana Martinez providing a lot of offensive pressure. Maria-Isabel Hernandez and Ericka Aguilar were excellent on defense.

Go Goal Girls vs. Soccer Bugs: Second-half goalie Rachel Carlson didn't al-

low the Bugs to bite, keeping them scoreless. Ivy Lonergan played very aggressively on offense, scoring her first career goal. Kendall Horton also slammed in a goal for the Go Goal Girls. On defense, Paige Baker blasted several balls down field with her power and aggressiveness, while Peyton Emery scored two goals.

U-10 BOYS

Sharks 2, Blackhawks 2: The Sharks played an exciting game with Andrew Lucas and Patrick Dolan each booting in a goal. Austin Masters and Amahri Walters held the opposition back and kept kicking the ball up field to aid the offense.

Sharks 2, Sonics 1: The Sharks played an aggressive game with Patrick Dolan scoring first and Julian Angel blasting in the second. Chase Gillespie was strong on defense and Austin Elder was not scored upon as goalie.

Barracudas 2, Scorpions 1: Midway through the second half, left wing Arthur Tuttle drove to the goal and beat the keeper to tie the match. Moments later, he slammed the eventual game-winner off the keeper's outstretched hands with just two minutes to play. Keeper Logan Urricelqui stopped a stinging attack by several Scorpions, allowing just one goal in the first half. He made several key plays to blunt attacks during the second half. Fullback Jeremy Parish made a sliding tackle to stop a breakout, helping to preserve keeper Matthew Larson's second-half shutout.

Stallions 5, Cobras 5: In a very evenly played match, Alex Ballard scored two goals to help the Stallions in their tie game, while Stephan Ackerman really stepped up for the defense in the second half to keep the score tied.

Vipers 3, Li Monsters 3: Ormaid Babrakzal scored two goals and came close to scoring more with his dynamic boot. Jaime Olmos did great at midfield, keeping the ball on the offensive side of the field. Jacob Rolfe made several impressive saves in goal while Christopher Milde played aggressive defense, always stopping the ball on the Vipers' attacks.

Fireballs 4, Blackhawks 1: Forward Gabriel Zepeda came on strong and set the tone for the game, scoring the first Fireballs' goal early in the first half. The second half showed forward Kaiden Coleman's great footwork as he took the ball to the goal. Midfielder Justin Eccles showed his speed as he kicked in the third goal of the game. Midfielder Ryan Frid never gave up, showing his determination and ability as he kicked in his first goal for the Fireballs.

The Blackhawks were able to hold off the Fireballs for the first half of the game due to Tyree Wallace's diligence as keeper and Tyler Chang's great work in offense and defense. Shane Miller executed great offense and defense maneuvers. Ricky Haber showed great effort in a quick running game.

U-12 GIRLS

Lasers 5, Honeybees 1: The first half was tied 1-1 with Kourtney Sweeney scoring for the Honeybees. She was supported on offense by Elyce Dixon. Marissa Shankles worked in tandem with Bianca Cortez in defending several shots on goal by the aggressive Laser offense.

Pink Panthers 5, Blazers 2: Facing a tough defense from the Pink Panthers during the first half, Lauren Rogers gracefully executed a well-placed kick

that resulted in the Blazers' first goal. Equally as impressive was Brittany Musiello on defense, blocking several kicks and aggressively defending Blazer territory. Reagan Graham valiantly offered great assistance on defense that allowed the Pink Panthers only one goal during the second half. Toward the end of the game, Carissa Talbert bulldozed through the Pink Panther's defensive wall, scoring the Blazer's second goal.

Stars 3, Lady Tigers 2: Kayla Brown and Skyler Morgan played great defense for the Stars. Sydney Immel had an awesome save. Montana Polette scored two goals to seal the win.

Cecilia Pichardo maneuvered the ball nicely down the field and scored twice for Lady Champs. Aileen Perez and Briana Torres both did a great job on defense while Francesca Blake stopped many goal attempts as goalie.

Orange Crush 5, Tomadoes 1: Kylee Gilbert kept the pressure on the defense and also scored for the Tomadoes, while Kate Gillman ran hard and made many great passes. Jayda San Gabriel worked hard and made several great stops to lead the defense. Jazmine Denis made many stops at fullback and did great at goalie even after taking a hit to the face with the ball.

U-12 BOYS

Bulldogs 4, Wolves 2: Tyler Whitted scored all four goals for the Bulldogs. Joshua Lopez and Braden Remington did a great job in keeping up the offensive pressure on the Wolves' defense throughout the game. Richard Palmer had a good performance as keeper, holding the Wolves to zero goals in the first half. Cameron Remington had an outstanding defensive performance and even made a great save as fullback.

Lions 3, Fire 2: Lions defender Jeremy Collum was focused and aggressive, passing the ball up the field. Goalie Jacob Lavezzo had many tremendous stops, giving the Lions the edge. Ebon Turner showed his talents of speed and great ball control. Goals were scored by forwards Drake Delorefice, Tommy Weisz and Amini Kappapa.

The Fire opened the season with great plays by Lorenzo Lara and Tyler Thoming at their forward positions. They both made the first goals of the season. Elijah Saavedra played awesome on defense and there was excellent midfield play by Bailey Anderson.

Thunderbirds 3, Vipers 2: Forward Juan Haro showed his ball handling skills as he scored both goals for the Vipers. Midfielder Juan Cardenas played hard, showing great defensive effort as well as offensive ability to move the ball down the field. After playing offense in the first half, Tyler Frid switched to defense for the second, showing strength at holding back the offensive runs at the goal. Defender Kasey Willes also showed toughness as he worked hard to stop several goal attempts by the Thunderbirds.

Sharks 6, Scorpions 0: The Sharks played an aggressive game with Oscar Fraire and Chris Kalafatis scoring two goals each. Connor Rees and Danry Dinges also each blasted in a goal for the Sharks.

Scorpions 7, Eagles 4: Anthony Juarez scored a hat trick for the Eagles on an assist by Michael Velasquez. Bryan Cortez played a tough defense with Parker Oldham stopping plenty of shots in goal.

U-14 GIRLS

Wizards 4, Soccer Angels 0: Alyson Dinges of the Soccer Angels played a superb game at midfielder, displaying good ball control and admirable teamwork with strategic passing. Lauren Seabrooks was instrumental as part of the defensive line with her powerful kicks to send the ball out of harms way. Also on defense, Cecilia Rubio challenged the opponents with determination to protect the goal. Allie LaRonge played with perseverance on midfield to keep possession of the ball and created attacking opportunities.

Diamonds 8, Hurricanes 1: Hailey Silva did a great job scoring the only goal for the Hurricanes, while Caroline Newell and Meghan Morinec showed great team effort, helping Caitlin Anderson defend our goal against many failed attempts.

Extremes 6, Hurricanes 1: Kaily Capp and Klara Reece played excellent defense against a tough team, while Casey Krome got a work out stopping many goals. Caitlin Anderson booted in a great penalty shot to give the Hurricanes a goal.

Diamonds 5, Shooting Stars 0: Karen Chavez played great in the midfield, pushing and maneuvering the ball up field and scoring on a penalty shot. Kasey Ryan and Leslie Guzman played excellent offensive games as forwards, while Maria Cruz stayed aggressive in trying to get her second score of the year.

U-15 BOYS

Elites 2, Falcons 1: Forward Gerardo Perez played a great game, scoring the only goal for the Falcons. Ralph Kirker showed great speed in the second half as a forward, while Nick Mockovciak had a very strong game and was fantastic once again as a defender.

U-19 GIRLS

Rebels 3, Thunderbolts 0: Jessica Ly of the Thunderbolts played an outstanding game in goal with numerous saves and displayed great speed as a striker. Simone Pratt was a force to contend with as part of the defensive line with her tenacity and powerful kicks. Also on defense, Bryelle McRay challenged opponents with great determination to protect the goal and created opportunities for the T-Birds' attack. Nija Foster played hard on defense as she charged on the field with persistence and did not back down to opponents.

Heartbreakers 6, Tigers 2: Wendy Weller scored four of the Heartbreakers' goals, one coming on a penalty kick, and Jynelle McGinnes set up another goal with a textbook assist to lead the Heartbreakers' offensive charge. Sweeper Megan McLean and fullback Ammani Chilton led the second half defensive stand as they shut down a spirited Tiger offense after the break.

Wild Things 1, Capitols 0: Rudy Duran scored the game's only goal for the Wild Things 19 minutes into the first half with skillful ball control. Kristin Russell won 50-50 balls with sprints and steals, turning defensive plays into chip-shot attacks up the touchline. Emma Roberts cleared with a humongous header and made a save near goal during the second half. RaeAnna Gibbons provided fantastic support to the goalkeeper throughout the game, blasting the ball away from the goal box on attacks to quell goal-scoring drives and help clinch the win. Natalia Garcia proved to be a formidable attacking force in midfield, setting up passes to the frontline.