

BC track and field competes in second all-comers meet

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

After competing in the Antelope Valley College All-Comers meet on Feb. 4 at AVC Bakersfield College, coach David Frickel talked about the team, their improvements over the previous week at the same venue and where the team was at going forward to its next scheduled competition.

"We're going to train real hard this week because we don't have a meet next week, and train real hard through the week and taper off next week to get ready for the meet on the 17th," said Frickel.

"It's going to be eight way, we're having four schools from So Cal, and probably four out of the north. We'll get a chance to see some schools that we normally don't get to go against, we don't get to see Nor. Cal. schools until the state meet."

The meet on Feb. 17 is to take place at BC, and the following week will provide the Renegades their first chance to compete in the conference at Citrus College on Feb. 24.

"The conference relays at Citrus College, that's the first introduction to competition within the conference," he said. And he spoke about some of the top

schools.

"Glendale's always tough, Moorpark usually has a pretty good program," Frickel said about some of the top schools in the conference. "Each year it changes a little bit in reference to who has what, so I don't know, we'll get out on the 24th when we get together as a conference. We'll kind of see where people have their strengths and weaknesses within the conference."

Frickel also talked about some of the progression that was made over the previous meet back at AVC on Feb. 4.

"Sarena [Underwood] had a nice drop in the 100 meters,

Chris Schwartz had a nice double on the 1500 and 3000, Keenan [Colditz] had a nice double on the 1500 and 3000 for the men. Those are probably the highlights of the day as far as what we had going," he said.

Frickel said the turnout of competition was more complete than the week before.

"It was a little different with people there, a few more bodies there this week, so it was probably a little bit better with the number of people that showed up at the meet." Also mentioning the weather as a continuing factor, he added, "A little bit better than the week before, but still we

had at different points a pretty good gust of wind that day, so that's a tough venue when you go there, it blows, it usually has some wind. So yeah, it affects the times, the kids, when they come down the home stretch and they're getting hammered in the face with the wind, so you can't really ask for too much."

The improvement in performances acknowledged by coach Frickel at the AVC event was reflected in the following results: For the BC women, Underwood placed fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.75. Elizabeth Sanchez took first place in the 800 meter run with a time

of 2:29.73. Amanda Smith won the shot put with a distance of 8.59m, and also won the discus throw with 26.73m, and Breann Goodmon finished first in the hammer throw with a 37.71m mark.

On the BC men side, Oe'Sha Schoclet finished second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.81, and Dashawn Meadows took first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.06. Schwartz won the 1500 meter run in 4:09.64, and also won the 3000 in 9:05.92. Colditz finished second in the 1500 with a time of 4:15.08, and third in the 3000 with a time of 9:29.15.

Knockin' it out of the park

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

For the Bakersfield College softball team, no athlete has made more of an impact in her team's early-season success than sophomore catcher Kara Frankhouser.

Through the first seven games, Frankhouser has compiled the following stats, batting average .500, runs scored 10, hits 11, doubles 4, home runs 5, runs batted in 19, base on balls 6. Also of note, in 22 at bats, she has not struck out.

BC coach Sandi Taylor reminds Frankhouser that streaks come and go, but consistency and work ethic go a long way in determining overall success as an individual, and also as a team. "Our streaks are only as good as how long they last, and so that's really behind us," Taylor said.

"We close the door and move on to what our streak is tomorrow, so staying humble and continuing to work and get better, but besides getting better, going further and farther."

In reference to what Frankhouser has accomplished at the plate, the coach mentions the tried and true one pitch at a time theory. "If you're hitting like Kara, it's got to be one pitch at a time for sure."

When asked on what type of hitter she considered herself to be, Frankhouser had this to offer, "I consider myself a contact hitter with power. I have confidence in myself, and I would hope the coaches have the confidence in me that you could put me in a situation and expect me to put the ball somewhere."

"So I do consider myself more of a contact hitter, I can put the ball where I want it or where we need it, and I think that is my raw strength. I think the home runs kind of come along with that. I want to be known more as a player that gets on base."

The game of softball is a game of fractions in



Renegades sophomore catcher Kara Frankhouser has five home runs in just seven games for the Bakersfield College softball team.

"Softball is more than just who you're playing for and your competition, I think it's more just how much fun you're having."

—Kara Frankhouser, catcher

Frankhouser's mind.

"The game really is also a game of inches, I mean an inch tells you if you're safe or out, an inch tells you if it's a home run or if it's in the ball field."

"So I think keeping that in mind too, keeps that excitement in the game," said Frankhouser. "If I miss the pitch by an inch, I can ground out to the pitcher. If I hit it an inch more, I can hit it over the fence. I think that kind of excitement keeps it from being expected."

Coming out of North High School in Bakersfield,

Frankhouser had many choices on where to continue her education, and she made BC her choice by following advice given to her by her parents.

"BC was more of a heart thing, I have parents that kind of always raised me to follow my heart, to not just make a choice because I think it's what's right."

"They've always just told me to listen to what my hearts telling me."

While discussing the many choices she was presented with, she added, "I had opportunities out of BC, but I came here not on a whim, but more just on a 'I'm going to try it and see how I do.' And I fell in love with it."

"I love that human aspect, and the athletic aspect. I tell people all the time that BC was the best choice I ever made."

She went on to mention that a lot of her friends from high school ended up going to very desirable schools and programs all around the country, but for her "Softball is more than just who you're playing for and your competition, I think it's more just how much fun you're having."

I think my experience here is way more advanced than I ever would have had somewhere else.

"Personally, I clicked, I clicked with the coaches, I clicked with the program," she said.

Renegades softball wins 3 of last 4 games

By Meisha McMurray
Reporter

Bakersfield College softball hosted a doubleheader against Fresno College and Antelope Valley on Feb. 4 winning 8-5 and 8-0.

On Feb. 9, they had another doubleheader against Sierra College and College of Sequoias, losing 5-2 and winning 14-6. All four of those teams beat BC a year ago.

Julie Estep pitched a complete game against Fresno City College.

"The game we played against Fresno was very solid," said BC softball Coach Sandi Taylor.

Kaila Williams pitched a complete game win against Antelope Valley. According to Taylor, Williams did a great job pitching.

"In the Antelope Valley game we almost had a perfect outing. They couldn't get anything going," said Taylor.

Estep pitched a complete game in a loss against Sierra College.

"Sierra College is one of the top two or three teams in the north so they're very talented."

During that game we couldn't seem to get any momentum going. We didn't play poorly we just didn't get to execute as crisply as we needed to," said Taylor.

"In the game against COS, I was real proud of the girls. We were up 7-0, they came and fought back making it 7-6."

And then we exploded for seven more runs offensively and beat them 14-6 in five innings.

I was proud of their tenacity in this game," she said.

"So I feel like were starting to get in a little bit of a groove."

It would help if we could just relax a little on defensive, just play, not be so robotic, and get into the rhythm of the game," she said.

With the help of six returning sophomores, they know the game and how to play it.

"The best thing about the returning sophomores is that they haven't missed a beat and picked up where we left off at. Been on top of their game," said Taylor.

BC tennis gets shutout to kick off the long season

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College men's tennis team was beaten 5-4 in matches against Sierra College on Feb. 5 at BC.

On Feb. 2 in Fresno, the men's team was shutout 9-0 in matches versus Fresno City College. In six singles matches, the BC men were able to win a combined total of only 17 games (72-17), and in the doubles, the men won only three games in three matches (24-3). The FCC squad was led by top-seeded Andre Almeida (from Brazil), as he defeated Adrian Magallanes of BC by a 6-0, 6-0 blanking.

The top-seeded duo of Almeida and Christian Fisher defeated Adrian Magallanes and Aaron Hernandez from BC by an 8-1 score in the men's doubles.

On the women's side, the Renegades fared a little better, winning two matches and losing seven.

After the matches against Fresno, BC Tennis coach Teri Lynott discussed the state of both the men and women squads.

Speaking in reference to the FCC men's team, Lynott said, "Their number one player that played us yesterday, he's number one in northern California."

While also mentioning that FCC has six men ranked in the top 10 in pre-season rankings for players in Northern California, she also discussed how strong their team is.

"They have a lot of foreign players on their team, we showed a lot of heart out there, but they were definitely the better team yesterday, a lot of talent, and probably played a lot more tennis than we have in our lifetime, that's for sure."

Lynott went on to mention that all of the



Renegade Joshua Thomas returns a volley during a doubles match against Sierra College on Feb. 5 at Bakersfield College.

matches played so far are merely tune-ups for the real season, the conference season.

"All of these matches are pre-season matches, we don't start our conference till the 23rd of February," she said.

Lynott also talked about how her team puts forth a lot of effort and works extra hard to improve their games.

They have three-hour practices throughout the week, and many of them spend extra time on their own, before and after practices, while also playing and practicing on weekends as well.

The team plays its next match on Feb. 17-18 in the Modesto Invitational at Modesto College.

Swimming team takes second in WSC relays

By Nestor G. Fernandez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College swim team started their season on Friday, Feb. 10 in the WSC John Joseph Relays at L.A. Valley College. The meet featured teams within their conference, and going into it, coach Charlie Pike considered this meet to be a low-key type of event, and a chance to see how his team is developing.

The coach discussed the results of their first competition.

"It was a mixed medley relay, one of our better relays."

That's when you combine both four boys and four girls," said Pike.

The pairings for BC combined Jordyn Hammett/Matthew Prasser (Breast Stroke), Brandelyn Storms/Joshua Delarosa (Back Stroke), Catherine Lugo/Ryan Farrer (Butterfly), and Franchesca Wyatt/Jake Reed (Freestyle).

The coach stated that the meet featured men and women pairings in each stroke and that they took second place overall for the relays, "It was one of our stronger relays. Our men's medley relays was also second, and so it was a pretty solid per-

formance." The men's second place team consisted of Matthew Prasser (Breast Stroke), Joshua Delarosa (Back Stroke), Ryan Farrer (Butterfly) and Jake Reed (Freestyle).

"Our girls 800 free relays, which each girl swims a 200 free, was another strong performance, they were second in that one, second to Ventura."

The girls squad was made up of Jordyn Hammett, Daniela Miramontes, Brandelyn Storms and Franchesca Wyatt.

The strength of the Ventura team was well recognized by coach Pike.

"Ventura won most of the relays, they're pretty stacked again this year."

They're contending for a state title every year usually. Our girls beat them last year in the state meet, this year I don't know if we'll be able to pull that off. I think they'll probably beat us at depth in conference, but we have a good shot at state, see how we finish up."

The BC meet against College of Sequoias on Feb. 17 was canceled due to transportation issues.

In its place, the Renegades will feature an intra-squad meet at BC.

Basketball team is honored with banner

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College honored the 1977-78 state championship men's basketball team by unveiling the banner that they will be hanging in the Gil Bishop Sports Center.

The banner unveiling was during halftime of the men's basketball game against L.A. Valley on Feb. 8. The banner was given to the team to keep and they will hang another banner in the gym to honor the team.

Former BC coach Ralph

Krafve, who was the head coach of the team, commented on the team being honored.

"It feels good that the team is being remembered and I enjoy seeing all the old guys. It's fun to come back for something this nice and to see all the guys and that they've all done well. That's good to see because they're all good guys."

"There are too many memories, but I remember playing only six guys and during the season we had a four-game stretch, so that was incredible," he said. Krafve took over as head coach

of BC in 1973, after coaching for 13 years at East Bakersfield High School.

During the 1977-78 season, the Renegades won the conference championship and the state championship with a record of 33-2.

That's still the best all-time record in BC.

"The honor is nice, but seeing all the players is what is really nice," said assistant coach Mark Hutson.

"This brings back memories of the team and what they did on the court. Although I was only

an assistant coach here, when I coached at [Bakersfield High School] we played games here, so I have a lot of fond memories," he said.

Hutson was a player and an assistant coach at BC, and he holds the record for most wins in the Central Section in high school basketball with 500.

Dean Jones, who was the starting point guard of the team and ended up being the state junior college player of the year, commented on the team being honored.

"It's a great feeling. We've had

reunions before, but it's special to be honored here in this gym. I remember a lot of tough sweaty days here, Coach really pushed us really hard here. Coach really instilled some lifelong lessons in me and we've become really close friends.

"It's also good to see all the guys," he said.

"We see each other once in a while, but it's good to be back here and joke around about who turned the ball over in the state championship game," he said.

"I had a lot of fond memories here, but if I had to pick one that

I remember the most is when we won the state championship game at Long Beach. I remember a lot of people from BC making the trip over there and it was just a great feeling playing in front of them."

Along with winning the junior college player of the year he also won all-metro first team honors.

He averaged 15.7 points per game and nine assists per game during the season.

He's still holds the record for assists in a season (316) and holds the record for all-time assists at BC with 515 assists.

BC Renegade returns home

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

For some people, basketball is just a sport or a way to have fun with some friends, but for Bakersfield College men's basketball player Conroy Lester, it's a way to remember his brother and express himself.

"It means a lot to me because I've been playing it my whole life and it's the way I express myself," said Lester. "My brother was the one who got me into basketball."

"He influenced me and he always motivated me to push hard. He helped me to prepare for any situation on the court and off of the court."

"When he passed away it affected me a lot because I know he would want me to work harder at everything I do and that gave me that motivation to do that. Every time I go out on the court I try to thank him for everything by trying my hardest."

Lester is originally from Bakersfield and graduated from Foothill High.

After graduating from Foothill he went to Santa Rosa Junior College for a year and was redshirted.

Things didn't work out like he thought they would at Santa Rosa after being redshirted.

"When I got redshirted I didn't

even want to go to class or anything," he said. "I wasn't focused on school and basketball. I wasn't ready for the college life, and I was still used to my high school habits, so I went back home because I realized that it wasn't going to work out there. My parents helped me to get motivated by telling me to just keep trying my hardest."

Lester is now a freshman forward for the BC team, but his transition from not playing organized basketball to playing on the BC team wasn't that smooth.

"I wasn't in basketball condition to start the season, but as the year progressed I got in shape, my role changed and coach started to want me to be more aggressive offensively," he said.

In January Lester was named BC's male athlete of the month by averaging 17 points and 10 rebounds per game.

"It was a lot of hard work and it paid off for me, and it was because of the support my family and friends gave me."

Now Lester is currently the starting forward for the Renegades and leads all BC players in scoring with 15 points and eight rebounds per game against Western State Conference opponents.

"Coming back home was what I needed, and it's an honor for me to play at BC in front of my friends and family," he said.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Renegades freshman forward Conroy Lester attempts to push through three Cougar defenders on his way to the hoop during Bakersfield College's Feb. 4 game against College of the Canyons in Valencia, Calif.

MEN'S: Season started off promising

Continued from Page 1

Despite the key injury to Morrison, BC got to a quick start going 2-1 in a tournament at Cuesta and finished second place at the Thanksgiving Renegades Classic.

They entered Western State Conference play with a 6-8 record, but from then on things just started to get a lot worse.

The four areas just became more blatant in conference play because the games were a lot closer. They also had some close games when they just weren't able to make clutch free throws.

"We need to be more physical on defense because I think defense and rebounding has been our Achilles heel," said Hughes. "We also need to start to make our free throws."

Their inconsistency on the defensive end really hurt them this year and it held them from putting together more than a two-game winning-streak.

"This season has been very up-and-down, and we just can't seem to put consistent victories back-to-back."

They've had some bad losses, but they've lost some close games that could've gone either way. Six of their 16 losses they've lost by five points or less, including both games against the number two team in the state, Citrus.

"We've had some tough losses. A few plays here and there and the games might have been different entirely," he said.

Probably a moment that signified their season was when they lost to L.A. Valley 67-65 in overtime on Feb. 8.

BC had a three point lead with



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Renegade guard Jon Baird moves the ball during the game against the College of the Canyons Cougars on Feb. 4.

22 seconds left and L.A. Valley had to foul, but the Renegades turned the ball over which led to the Monarchs making a three-pointer to send the game into overtime. In overtime the Monarchs took a commanding six-point lead with 45 seconds left. BC got within two, but couldn't make a last second shot.

Hughes added that the bright spot is they lost a lot of close games with a freshmen dominated team.

"We should have everyone back barring injury or grades.

I think our freshmen improved greatly during the year, and should give them confidence going into sophomore year.

The team has struggled to get consistent wins, but they've had some big games through the season from players like freshman forward Conroy Lester, who's leads the team in scoring with 12 points and five rebounds per game, but his numbers are higher in conference play with 15 points and eight rebounds per game.

Their final game of the year will be at West L.A. on Feb. 18.

LADY'GADES: Women still going strong

Continued from Page 1

"I thought everyone has done great this year because we've had many troubles and tribulations, but we never quit," she said.

BC started the season with 4-1 record, but they hit a speed bump during the winter break. During the break they were only able to post a 6-6 record and a 10-7 overall record. Then they started their conference schedule and got back to their winning ways.

"I'm just impressed by my kids. This year is so exciting because it's coming down to the last game of the season," said Dahl. "Even when we've had injuries our bench has come in and stepped up. There's no let down when the subs come in, and that's why we're the epitome of team basketball."

A moment that signifies the camaraderie is during the game against L.A. Valley when BC let the Cougars get back in the game, and Dahl called a timeout.

"I challenged them to pick it up, and I said 'There's no tomorrow, there is only today' and they took care of it," she said.

"I'm happy the way they have been working hard and the fact that we're in first makes it even better. We play as a team, we give it our all and no matter what we never give up. This season has been phenomenal and we're an exciting team to watch. As long as we just continue to play hard and take every game at a time we will be fine."

If BC wins their final game at West L.A. on Feb. 18, then they will win the conference title even if Canyons wins.



PHOTOS BY MARTIN CHANG / THE RIP

Above: Citrus guard Sarah Rebibo defends Bakersfield forward Gabi Morales during the game on Feb. 11. Below: Bakersfield guard Haley Huntington attempts to keep the ball from Citrus guard Kenya Thomas.



Family roots invade BC baseball

By Zak S. Cowan
Editor in Chief

At the end of this season, starting pitcher Tyler Painton will have options, to say the least. He will have his Associate's degree and one more year of eligibility if he decides to continue playing at Bakersfield College.

For most, the decision to move on might be instantaneous, but for Tyler, he has a unique situation in that he is at the top of the pitching rotation for his father's team.

BC coach Tim Painton, glowingly proud of his son's accomplishments both on and off the baseball diamond, is also in a unique position.

Tim, coming from a pitching background, has had a chance to pass on his knowledge of the game to his son more so than ever before.

"It's been a very positive thing, and hopefully it continues along those lines and he continues to grow as a player," Tim said of his son.

"I think there has been a player-coach relationship that we've never had in the past, and I think that's been beneficial."

Tyler has been on a tear in his first season with the Renegades.

He has struck out 11 batters and has an ERA of 0.75 through his first two starts.

He has also been BC's designated hitter when not on the

mount, batting .364 with three RBIs and a home run.

Tyler played at the University of San Diego last year on a full-ride scholarship but got injured in the middle of the season and decided to come back to BC where, he says, it is a better environment.

"I decided to come back here and get my feet back on the ground," Tyler said.

Tyler's relationship with his father on the field is completely different than that off the field.

"We keep it pretty separate," Tyler said.

"Baseball is here and ... family and everything else is at home. It's like two different worlds really."

The fact that Tyler acknowledges this divide isn't a coincidence, as his father has managed this intentionally.

"I've really tried to separate baseball from family," Tim said. "You really have to do that. We try and leave baseball at the field and not discuss it at home and try and be a family."

But just because the two worlds are separate, doesn't mean that they don't directly influence the other.

Tyler said that being around his father so much more has had a positive impact on their relationship.

"We probably weren't as close as before," Tyler said. "Part of the reason before was he was



MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

Tyler Painton and coach Tim Painton take a moment after the game against Golden West to have a father-son moment on Feb. 11.

always here doing his stuff, and now I'm here, too, and we're together."

The extended interaction between the two has also allowed Tim to get to know his son even more than an average father would.

"I think more so than anything else ... I've got to see work ethic that I was hoping he would have," Tim said of his son, adding that he has also witnessed his son's tremendous love for the game of baseball.

Despite the added dimension

of their relationship, Tim and Tyler both deny that, when in the clubhouse, there is any special treatment.

"From a baseball standpoint I treat all of our players exactly the same," Tim said.

"[Tyler] gets treated just as any other player would. I think with most of our players, because of the amount of time we spend together - and it's basically a year-round program - I think I develop really good relationships with all of our players."

Tyler concurs that no special treatment exists.

"A line hasn't been crossed yet, and hopefully it doesn't," Tyler said.

This isn't the first time a BC coach has coached his son.

One of the more recent cases took place when football coach Jeff Chudy coached his son, Bryce, back in 2007.

That year Chudy was named Coach of the Year and led the Renegades to a 12-1 record, winning the Western State Conference.

Tim holds a strong belief that a father should allow his son to make certain life choices on his own, with the game of baseball being no different.

"At a young age, you don't know if baseball's going to become a passion for them," Tim said.

"And I never wanted to direct him in a direction of having to play baseball."

But Tyler did indeed decide to make baseball a major part of his life, and he doesn't plan on that changing any time soon.

"I want to continue playing baseball, or at least being involved with baseball as long as I can," Tyler said of his aspirations after BC.

"So whether it's playing at the next level in college, playing professionally, or even coaching at some point, I just want to stay involved."

Baseball roundup

egades would add three more runs before the Lasers would get on the board.

Feb. 8
BC: 15 Hancock: 14
MVP: BC's second baseman Mike Spingola with 6 RBIs, batting 5-6 from the plate.

Key moment: Down 12-4 in the top of the fifth inning, the Renegades came storming back, scoring three runs in the fifth, two in the sixth, two in the seventh, and four in the eighth, to slimly earn the victory.

Feb. 10
BC: 7 Hartnell: 1
MVP: BC's Painton (2-0) with six innings played, four hits and six strikeouts.

Key moment: After six innings of a close game, BC's offense sealed the victory when shortstop Brent Peterson hit an RBI triple and Spingola singled to right field to put the Renegades up 4-1, sealing the victory.

Feb. 11
Golden West: 3 BC: 2
MVP: Golden West's first baseman William Shaw who batted 2-3 with two RBIs.

Key moment: After a fourth-inning rally by the Renegades to go up 2-1, Golden West came back with an offensive surge of their own, scoring one run in the sixth and seventh innings each, to knock down BC to a 4-1 record.

Feb. 14
*Allan Hancock at Bakersfield College
*At the time this publication was printed, this game had yet to be played. Check therip.com for up-to-date coverage.

Bakersfield College's baseball team has gotten off to a great start to the season, winning their first four games before falling to Golden West College 3-2 on Feb. 11. At the time of printing for this publication, the Renegades were 4-1 with a Feb. 14 matchup scheduled against Allan Hancock. Check therip.com for updated results and extended coverage of the team.

Feb. 3
BC: 2 Golden West: 0
MVP: BC's SP Tyler Painton (2-0) with six innings played, three hits and zero earned runs.

Key moment: After first baseman Blayne Ontiveros hit an RBI single in the first inning, freshman Jordan Turner hit a home run in the bottom of the seventh inning to put the Renegades up 2-0.

Feb. 4
BC: 13 Irvine Valley: 2
MVP: BC's SP Brad Lindsley (1-1) with six innings played, six hits and zero earned runs.

Key moment: BC's offense ignited early, scoring four runs in the second inning and six in the third. The deficit was too much to overcome for Irvine Valley, and the Ren-

Men's golf takes its lumps in first conference tournament

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College men's golf team had a tough start in the Western State Conference mini-tournament and ended up in seventh place out of seven teams.

The WSC mini-tournament was on Feb. 6. Canyons took first place with a score of 399 and BC had 414.

Although BC fell to seventh

place, only 14 strokes separated them from first place, and only five strokes separated the first place team from the fifth place team.

"Our conference is really competitive, and maybe if we made some shots here and there we would've placed higher," said BC coach Bill Kalivas.

Kalivas commented on the team's performance.

"We have an all-freshmen

team, so it's going to take some time," he said. "We had a good strategy, things just didn't go our way. I like how there is good competition between our players and everyone competing with each other is going to help us to get better as a team. I would like to see us improve on shot making and that will help us out a lot."

Kalivas also commented what the difference is between this

year's all-freshmen team to last year's team.

"Well, I think this year collectively as a whole they're working hard as a team and making sure they talk about the team strategy," he said. "Last year we had more individual talents, but it made it harder to come up with a team strategy."

He added that he's been really impressed with Jack Henneberry and Neil Bautista,

who both are from Centennial High School. Matt Deford, Travis Millwee, Brandon Pinuelas, Max Schmidt, Carlos Fernandez and Kevin Antongiovanni are some of the other golfers he's been impressed with.

"I think over the last couple weeks they've progressed well," he said.

BC's next golf match will be the WSC meet at Rio Bravo Country Club on Feb. 27.

Column

Super Lintendo: all hype or real deal?

RIPPING SPORTS | Taking on every sports issue. No one's safe.

It's not insanity, it's Linsanity. Jeremy Lin of the New York Knicks has taken over the sports

world. He has scored 20 points or more for five games straight, and before that he scored a total of 76 points for his career. At first I wasn't

sure about him because the first three games weren't against the best competition, but after seeing him go shot for shot with Kobe Bryant, I started to believe the hype.

It's incredible that he was an undrafted point guard. When he went to the basketball powerhouse Harvard University, so you know he's smart, but he's also got athleticism and skill to go along with that. The best thing about him, though, is he's humble and it's all about the team, and with all these egotistic players that act like divas, that's good to see. Although he's a Knick, he's someone everyone should pay attention to. That means you too, Kobe.

Historic Milestones

There were two basketball players that reached new scoring milestones this past week. Those players were Bryant and Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce.

Bryant surpassed his former-Lakers teammate Shaquille O'Neal to be the fifth all-time scorer in league history. Bryant has been known as this era's closest thing to Michael Jordan, and he's already known as one of the greatest ever, not only in Lakers history, but in the league's history.

You have no idea how much it hurt me to say that as a Celtic fan, so it was much better to see my favorite player, Paul Pierce, surpass Larry Bird for second place in all-time Celtics scoring leaders. Getting his only championship ring against the Los Angeles Lakers cemented his legacy as a Celtic and outplaying this era's greatest player in Bryant is a bonus. Pierce is definitely a hall of famer, and is in the pantheon of great players that the Celtics have had right behind Bill Russell, John Havlicek and Larry Bird.

Who owns L.A.?

With the Lakers having an average season to say the least, and the Clippers being relevant for the first time in about 30 years, are the Lakers now the "other" L.A. team?

Sorry Clippers, as long as Bryant is in a Lakers uniform it won't happen. Even then, it will take 15 championships before L.A. becomes Clippertown.

Behind Chris Paul and Blake Griffin, it looks like they have the foundation for a dynasty in the making, but I doubt that L.A. will ever be Clippertown. The team can always move to a different city. Seattle is a great sports town; San Diego is a great location or how about Bakersfield? Bakersfield Clippers has a nice ring to it.

Mid-Season MVP

Just two years ago the talk was that Kevin Durant would be the NBA's next superstar, and leading the Thunder to the league's best record, it's a no-brainer that he's the MVP so far to this point. Sure, you will have names like Chris Paul, LeBron James and Kobe Bryant thrown out there, but Durant has been more important to his team than James or Paul, and the Thunder have a much better record than the Lakers. There's no player more deserving of the MVP award than the "Durantula" Kevin Durant.

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The Orchestra awaits Ronald Kean's arrival for their Feb. 4 performance of "Albert Herring" at Cal State Bakersfield.

Cal State Bakersfield hosts comic opera

By Martin Chang
Opinions Editor

When the various musical talents came together to perform the comedy opera "Albert Herring" at Cal State Bakersfield for students and faculty alike, it was one of the most challenging and rewarding musical undertakings for all involved.

Ronald Kean, the choir director at Bakersfield College, conducted the music with his wife Peggy Sears, who was the director and producer of the performance.

Kean said, "Between the middle of December 'til the performance, I studied [the score] six to eight hours a day. The players told me it was the hardest thing they've ever done."

David Ortiz, a recent CSUB graduate and player of the lead role, said, "It was difficult. I've never had an experience like this. It was so difficult having an accompaniment that doesn't help you out with the melody. After every single rehearsal, it beats you up. If you don't go home crying sometimes [you haven't put the work in.]"

Sears said that preparing for the performance was "delightful and tortuous. It was a ton of work, and a lot of detail, and it used every part of everybody's

brain. We were exhausted at the end of every rehearsal."

For Robert Hamilton, a CSUB student who played the brash said, he found the challenge "exciting." He said, "I get to become somebody new. I take it on full force."

Hamilton particularly enjoys the process of becoming and playing a character. He said, "I love when I first get my role, and then I read my description of who my character is, and I have to figure out a way of becoming this character. My character was kind of macho, a ladies man. That was out of character for me. I'm not usually like that in regular life, so that was really fun."

Ortiz agrees. He said, "The acting [is the most fun]. Once we get the character down, just becoming the character itself, the blocking, the walking onstage, it just becomes you, and you have become the character for it to work."

Both Hamilton and Ortiz said that the thing that made this music stand out was the composer Benjamin Britten. Ortiz said he is "out there" both in terms of style and challenge.

Sears said on the subject of Britten, "It's a very funny show. It's very universal. Britten is very dramatic. People laugh at just when the harp and flute

plays at the beginning of an aria. Because just the orchestration was cute, you knew what was coming. It's like movie music."

The challenge of the performance brought the musicians together. Hamilton said, "the most fun for me was getting together with all my new cast members, and working out this challenging opera together, and then coming together with the final product and perform it for the audience."

Kean also felt this feeling of camaraderie while he conducted and trained the musicians.

Kean said, "The wonderful thing about it is, it was so difficult that every single player was pulling for everybody else. You could just feel it. We had such camaraderie with each other and with me to them because I understood how difficult it was.

"Every now and then you would hear 'oh I'm sorry I missed that' and I would say 'don't apologize, we'll fix it next time around,' because I know how difficult it was and everyone tried their best."

At the end of the final chord of the last night, I tapped my hands to applaud and they did the same back to me.

"So it was a wonderful marriage of conductor and orchestra and with the singers the same way. We all felt wonderful towards each other. It was a big team effort."

"So it was a wonderful marriage of conductor and orchestra and with the singers the same way."

—Ronald Kean, BC choir director



From left, Robert Hamilton, Jessica Trevino, and David Ortiz run through a scene in the Cal State Bakersfield's "Albert Herring."



The main cast of "Albert Herring" sings through one of their scenes in the Cal State Bakersfield's "Albert Herring."

Life adventures told through poetry

By Gregory D. Cook
Reporter

Stepping into Henry Morales' East Bakersfield home is somewhat like walking into a museum. The photos of him in the military in the 1960s, on the Bakersfield College track club in the 1970s, and carrying the Olympic torch in 1996, along with an AA degree from Bakersfield College, numerous thank you letters and accolades from various government agencies, including at least five U.S. presidents, all serve to impart the message of how a life can be turned around for the better.

And it's a message that Morales, a 69-year-old self-proclaimed "King of Poetry," is nowhere near done passing on.

Morales started writing poetry in 1976.

"Before that I was an alcoholic," he said. "I used to get thrown in jail for disturbing the peace, got thrown out of bars, and I almost got divorced. I had a bad life."

Morales described that life, quoting from his first poem. "I used to pop the can open and drink it down. Two hours later I was painting the town. I'd hop from bar to bar, searching for a reality that wasn't too far."

The breaking point came one night when he almost died from an overdose of alcohol.

"They had to take me away in an ambulance," he remembered. "I had a bad experience."

Morales and his wife looked to the church for help.

"She was going to church before me and started praying for



Mementos from Henry Morales' experiences in the Army, his time at Bakersfield College and carrying the Olympic torch are displayed on the counter of his Bakersfield home.

me," he said. "I didn't know prayer worked, but I guess it did."

"I gave my heart to the Lord, and in 1976, I got a brand new mind," he said. "Everything became new. I could think better and that's when the talent started coming out."

His first poems were taken directly from the experiences of his life.

"I've got one called 'Don't Drop Out,'" Morales said.

"I had to go pick cotton, grapes and peas," he quoted. "It got so hot. All I wanted was a breeze. That one is for high schoolers, but it's really about me."

Morales dropped out of East Bakersfield High School during 11th grade and went to work in the fields, as he explains in the poem.

"I dropped out in my junior year, I didn't listen to anyone, just drinking my beer."

A driving force behind Morales' poetry is the message. "There's a message in there, a message to the world; a challenge," he said.

"I write about sports, school and education and against drugs. I want people to have better lives."

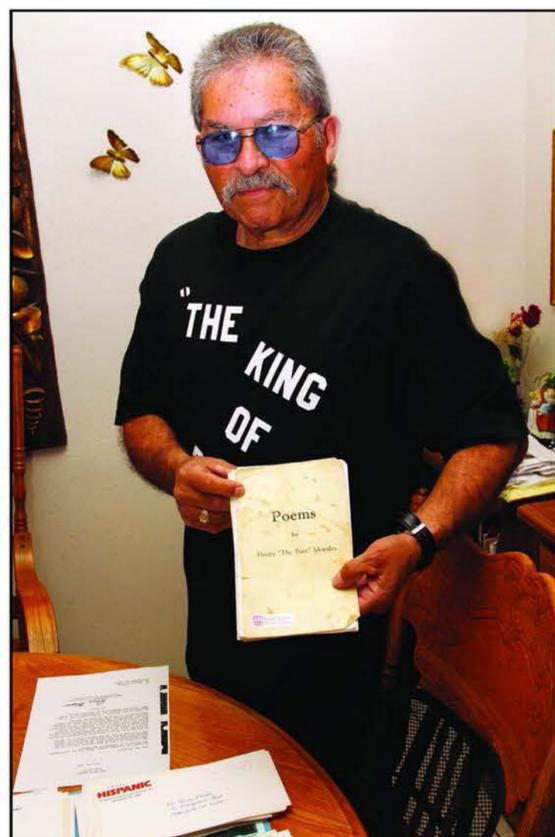
One group of people that are close to Morales' heart are the men and women who have served

and are still serving in America's armed services, and he writes and sends poems to veterans associations and troops.

"I'm a veteran, and I'm able to see the way they do," he said. "It's about encouraging them and showing them someone cares, and hopefully they can see themselves in my poems."

Four of Morales' poems are on display in the Bakersfield College Veteran's Resource Center.

But Morales doesn't just send his poems out to veterans. He also sends them to schools, city and state officials, inmates of correctional facilities, and anyone else he thinks might benefit from a poem, including the oc-



Henry Morales shows off book of his first poems.

casional U.S. president, many of which have written him letters in return.

In 1996, Morales was nominated for his community service to carry the Olympic torch on a leg of its journey to the summer games in Atlanta.

"Oh, that was my day!" remembered Morales. "It was my glory day. Everybody wanted my autograph."

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce sponsored Morales' trip to San Luis Obispo for his

part of the relay.

"They have a spotter running behind you if your arm gets tired with the torch," he said. "But I practiced for weeks running around Pioneer Park with a five-pound weight. It was great."

In 2002, Morales retired after working over 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service, and now spends his time making appearances as a motivational speaker, and writing more poems and songs, which he hopes to one day have published as a book.