**SPORTS**

**KIDS GET A CHANCE TO SHOOT WITH THE PROS**

By Zak C. Cowan

Sports Editor

This summer, Bakersfield's young basketball players will have the chance to develop their skills with training from professional ball players.

The Bakersfield Universe Academy is a youth-development program that was founded by Kyle Shiloh, Darren Rice and Richard "Zek" Andrews in 2008.

The program consists of training sessions, a developmental league, and a competitive program.

Shiloh graduated from Gues Manterial High School in 2003 before gaining a scholarship to play in college.

He said BUA is teaching kids in the Bakersfield area and helping the youth grow in the game of basketball, as well as in life.

"Growing up didn't have a clear direct role model, only to try to be a basketball player in high school and played against each other," Shiloh said. "I would watch them, take bits and pieces from all of their games, and try to put it all together."

"I believe helped me get to where I am today."

"I think I can be a role model to the kids who are just starting out."

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"I would like to do this for kids.

"Shiloh's vision of the BUA is eventually to expand to more cities around the country, and the organization will add a second location next season in Reno. As of now, Shiloh is focused on the Bakersfield basketball community in the area.

"My goal right now for BUA is to transform the way basketball is viewed in Bakersfield," Shiloh said. "The kids have always been so talented in this town, but the problem is talent never develops to its fullest potential.

"People don't have the awareness of the good things that go with the kids."

"It's hard to help change all of this, by continuing to build BUA and help develop your kids.

"Shiloh credits his interest in starting a youth-development program to his own experiences playing in the NBA and playing against," Shiloh said. "I believe the kids could be doing a lot better if they were given the opportunity to be like me.

"I never really had anyone to tell me about the thin gs I would need to do in life."

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Rounding the last base to victory

By Michael Morrow

Winners of four of their last five, Bakersfield College’s softball team is pushing forward to the regional playoffs with an 11-14 record overall and 7-3 the Western State Conference. The Renegades picked up wins against College of the Canyons (4-3), Glendale (6-4) and 5-4 and Santa Monica College 15-2.

“The first three games we won were big conference games because College of the Canyons was above us and Glendale was right behind us, so those were big wins,” said BC head softball coach Sid Taylor. “Four-out-of-five, we’re playing pretty good and I feel real confident. We have it if games left to play and we’re right where we need to be.”

The loss came when BC played Mt. San Antonio College for the second time this season. The Renegades lost 10-3 in the first game earlier this season March 20th and 4-9 April 9th.

“They in the score in the first, we did well,” said Taylor. “We had a couple of basemen, but there were a lot of singles. Like 11 singles, not something that they put together. Where as this game here (vs. CMC), it didn’t get us in many hits and a couple of hits they got we probably should have had a little more aggressiveness.” Taylor said. “I wasn’t real pleased with the way we struck them out. We didn’t swing with much confidence, although we had a couple chances to score, we just didn’t have the bunt or the way we’re capable of against that caliber of a pitcher.”

Taylor mentioned what she learned about her team after the last five games. “What I take away from it, if we get going and everyday goes on track, and has that belief we can beat them, then I knew we’re right there with them physically. It’s just a matter of stopping over bats and having confidence.”

Up next for the Renegades is a double-header at Santa Monica it is a home matchup against College of the Canyons and another double- header against L.A. Valley at home. BC then travels to L.A. Mission to finish off the regular season. All six games are WCC matchups, which will determine the League powder positions of seeding. “I hope they realize that they can win this thing with consistency and playing with confidence, so that’s the key. Not playing with over confidence, but being humble enough to learn about her team after the last five games. “What I take away from it, if we get going and everyday goes on track, and has that belief we can beat them, then I knew we’re right there with them physically. It’s just a matter of stopping over bats and having confidence.”

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BCC still holds second in conference after four losses

Four losses in a row has been disappointing and inconsistency has been one big problem. This was the case when BCC ended up sixth, out of six in the Western State Conference.
Cheer team quests for new talent

By Chrsistal Hart

Once a week, a bunch of young women gather to practice for a routine that will be performed in front of a large audience. This is the life of a cheerleader, and it's not for the faint of heart. It requires hours of practice, blood, sweat, and tears. But it's also rewarding, and it's a dream come true for many.

The day begins with a warm-up, stretching and doing some basic exercises to get the blood flowing. Then it's time for the real thing: the routine itself. It's a coordination of moves, jumps, and stunts that require precision and timing. The girls work in unison, with every move synchronized to perfection. It's not just about looking good; it's about being a team.

The routine itself is quite impressive. There are flips, throws, and catches, all executed with a level of skill that is令人 impresionate. The girls are not only physically fit but also mentally tough. They have to be able to handle the pressure of performing in front of a crowd, with every move being watched and judged.

But the rewards are worth it. There's the sense of accomplishment that comes with a job well done, the feeling of belonging to a team, and the respect that comes from those on the sidelines. For many, it's the only thing that matters. They live and breathe for cheerleading, and they're not about to let anything stand in their way.

The last thing in the routine is the dismount, the moment when everything comes together. It's the climax of the routine, the moment when all the hard work pays off. It's a moment of pure emotion, and it's one that is shared by all the girls.

Even though it's a tough sport, the girls love it. They love the adrenaline rush, the feeling of accomplishment, and the camaraderie. They would do it all over again, no matter what.

For many, cheerleading is more than just a sport. It's a way of life, and they wouldn't have it any other way.
16th Annual Scottish Games and Gathering

A day of throwing stones, bagpipes and celebration

By Esteban Ramírez

People go to the Scottish Games to watch the events, listen to music, learn about Scottish heritage and enjoy the atmosphere.

This year’s Scottish Games were on April 2, and was the 16th year they were held at the Kern County Fairgrounds. They had different types of events and shows like the Caber Toss, Hammer Throw, Haggis Toss, The World’s Tallest Leprechaun, Black Gold Cloggers, George the Giant and more.

Ted Miller, 72, who went for the first time to the Scottish Games said, “my favorite part of the day were the sporting events and the music. This is something I want to keep doing, but next time I’ll bring my camera.” He also said, “I really think the Haggis Toss is interesting and I would love to participate in it, but I’m too old for that.”

Other people liked the displays for sale and the atmosphere. Some have been going to the Scottish Games for a while and like Miller, this was the first year some people attended.

Betty Stewart, a member of the Kern County Scottish Society, said, “our main goal for the Scottish Games is to make people are they have Scottish blood in them and to show them the Scottish heritage.”

She said that part of the profits from this event goes to the general account for the Jambon Children’s Center, which is an emergency shelter for kids that provides a safe, warm and nurturing environment. Stewart said, “this kids also get free entrance to the Scottish Games.”

Stewart said that they don’t have any requirements for people who want to join any of the events, so you can be any nationality to join in on any of the events. Stewart said that she was not Scottish, but married into it. Stewart said, “my favorite part of the day is all the food, music, vendors and events, but it’s all good. All these years I’ve been here I still don’t know how those skinny guys can toss the caber.”

The Kern County Scottish Society had 33 clans this year but Stewart said that her clan is the oldest because it has been a part of it since they started it. “It’s great to be Scottish,” said Stewart.

Miguel del Gallego competes in the Braemar Stone event at the Kern County Scottish Games and Gathering on April 2.