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Foothill caps impressive sweep

By Matt Schwab
Tri-Valley Herald

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In a span of 24 hours the Foothill High girls soccer team beat perennial North Coast Section power Carondelet, San Diego Section heavyweight Torrey Pines and defending East Bay Athletic League champ Monte Vista, all at the Mustang Soccer Complex in Danville.

The Falcons' 2-1 win over Monte Vista on Saturday came in the championship match of the Invitational Early Division of the 47-school Tri-Valley Classic.

Now that's a three-game sweep worth shouting about, even if the Falcons' smiles came above weary legs as they walked gingerly toward the parking lot. They actually played four games in three days, also including an 8-1 rout of Bishop O'Dowd on Thursday to open the Classic.

Foothill attacking dynamo Carlee Payne had both Falcons' goals in the final off crosses from fellow seniors Rachael McGlinchy and Sophie Metz.

Monte Vista, likewise, closed the Classic with a flourish, following Thursday's opening 1-0 loss to cross-town rival San Ramon Valley with eye-opening efforts in two shutouts on Friday (5-0 over Santa Cruz and 2-0 over Castro Valley) before keeping it close against Foothill.

"We played really well, the whole team," Monte Vista coach Greg Fish said. "I'm really proud of them. We've made so much progress (in the span of a few days)."

Rebuilding this year with a young squad, Fish said he's finally gotten the right people in the right positions.

One of 13 Foothill seniors, Payne brings a rare combination of speed, skill, power and a high soccer IQ to the Falcons' attack. And as first-rate strikers will do, Payne delivered in the big game. Her teammates did too.

"We were dead at the end ... No matter how sore or tired we were we wanted to do it for each other," Payne, the team captain, said.

Foothill coach Ron Lambert was thrilled with his whole squad, particularly the defense, which he described as "phenomenal" over the three days. He mentioned defenders Ashlyn Mazur, McGlinchy, Metz, and Krista Bohrman.

In Saturday's consolation final, Torrey Pines won a well-played 1-0 match over San Ramon Valley, which dropped two of its final three games in the Classic after the emotional win over the Mustangs. The Wolves absorbed a physical pounding in a 3-1 loss to Castro Valley on Friday, losing three starters to injuries.

Carondelet put on a clinic in a 3-0 win over Castro Valley on Saturday, dominating in the midfield. Sophomore midfielder Korey Lamet had a nice through-ball assist on the first goal by Lauren McQuiston, and McQuiston beat the offside trap before assisting sophomore Rogan Dolan on the second goal. Kim Ortiz rounded out the Carondelet scoring unassisted.

Carondelet coach Rick Morin, whose team also tied Torrey Pines, got what he wanted in the Classic, four good games. The Classic will help the skillful and well-organized Cougars prep for a rigorous EBAL season.

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Boys basketball

Dublin 70, Heritage 61: For the first time in the four-year history of Dublin's Don Nelson Classic, the host Gaels walked away tournament champions.

"It feels really good because we got second the past two years," tournament MVP Tyler Murphy said. "We had a good tournament. We played Dublin basketball."

Murphy scored a team-high 16 points in the championship, knocking down four 3-pointers and finishing 4-for-4 at the free-throw line.

After Dublin took a 19-12 lead into the second quarter, the Heritage offense caught fire. The Patriots poured in 28 second-quarter points to take a 40-37 halftime lead.

Both teams got to the bonus quickly in the first half — combining to attempt 29 free throws. The fouls kept coming after the break, and there were 64 free throws attempted.

After Heritage took a 49-42 lead on a bucket by Jordan Knox midway through the third quarter, Dublin took over.

The Gaels went on a 21-4 run to take a 63-54 lead with about five minutes to play, and the lead hovered around 10 points the rest of the contest.

"We were up and down for a while, but once they started missing some shots we were in good shape," Dublin coach Tom Costello said. "It's great that we were able to win the tournament in front of Don for the first time."

Jonathon Warlich hit a pair of 3s and was 6-for-8 from the line to finish with 12 points and garner All-Tournament honors. Nathan Barnes was also named

to the All-Tournament team after an eight-point night.

— Kyle Bonagura

California 56, Concord 45: Jason Kochan scored 18 points to lead the Grizzlies to a win in the third-place game of the Don Nelson Classic.

Francis Goutama (six points) and Chris Wingard (six points) were both named to the All-Tournament team.

— Kyle Bonagura

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