

Braves will enter DP's New World : Chargers will open stadium against County's juggernaut

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Lompoc has the reputation for being one of the tough kids on the block of Santa Barbara County prep football.

"These kids start playing together when they're 7, and they run the same offense," said coach Dare Holdren during Monday's Athletic Round Table press luncheon at Harry's Plaza Cafe. "Every year I look at Lompoc on film and I think, 'We can beat these guys, we can beat them,' but they're real tough when you get them in real life."

San Marcos lost to the Braves 24-7 at Valley Stadium, but at least Dos Pueblos High will get them on their own block: The Chargers will face Lompoc on Friday in the first varsity game to ever be played in their new home stadium.

"We're going to make that a big deal," said DP coach Jeff Uyesaka. "There are going to be lots of firsts, as you can imagine: The first catch, the first touchdown, the first tackle . . . the first win."

• DOS PUEBLOS (1-1) -- The Chargers are coming off a 19-17 win at Cabrillo even though they gained only 144 yards total offense. Uyesaka introduced one of the reasons how they pulled out the victory: Dane Limosnero, who had kickoff returns of 88 and 71 yards.

"On special teams, he beat our entire offense with 181 yards," he said.

Limosnero was accompanied on Monday by a pair of two-way starters, linebacker-fullback Aaron Parsons and lineman Alejandro Veloz.

"We even had (Parsons) play a little bit of noseguard last game and he did a tremendous job, getting from sideline to sideline," Uyesaka said.

"Out at DP, we haven't been growing them that tall lately," he added, "but as far as measurement of the heart goes, Alejandro is an outstanding, hard-working young man."

• SAN MARCOS (1-1) -- Holdren never would have imagined four years ago that incoming freshmen Sammy Garcia and Parker Carroll would wind up as starting cornerbacks. But somewhere along the way, they both turned a corner.

"It's a testament to these guys and their work ethic and their seriousness that they have put it all together," he said. "We've only given up about 150 yards passing total in the last two games, and that's mainly due to

these two guys.

"I'm very proud of both of them because they're both just very social by nature, and yet they put in the work, put in the time."

• SANTA BARBARA (0-2) -- The Dons aren't down despite losing an 11-point lead at tough Beverly Hills last Friday.

"We're 0-2, but we have to be the most confident 0-2 team I've ever seen," said coach Will Gonzales. "We know we're a good team, we know we're better than our record. We've run almost 200 plays in two games. We had about 200 yards passing in the first half alone -- it was an interesting game.

"We have to learn that when we're up and up big, we have to keep our foot on the gas and keep going."

He brought two of his speed burners: R.J. Bisquera, who caught 10 passes for 104 yards against the Normans, and Florida transfer Kyle Leonard, who leads the Dons in rushing.

• BISHOP DIEGO (0-2) -- The Cardinals had to leave the luncheon early because of a school assembly, but assistant coach Matt Capritto said they are anxious get their first win this Friday when they face Santa Paula for homecoming.

"We struggled against Fillmore this week, but I think our players learned a lot about what it's going to take, as far as hard work and dedication, to get the season on the right track," he said. "Santa Paula is very improved, so we need to get a good effort from our guys."

• SBCC (0-3) -- The Vaqueros were trailing 49-0 at halftime at powerhouse Ventura when coach Craig Moropoulos issued a challenge, and his Vaqueros responded by holding the Pirates scoreless the rest of the way.

"(Ventura) faked a punt with four minutes to go at 49-0 and didn't pull off the dogs," Moropoulos said. "The main thing was that our guys came out, got after it, played hard, and I was very proud of them."

He feels good about his team's chances in league play, which opens on Saturday at home against Antelope Valley, especially with new wideouts Jed Elsberry and Oskar Loza.

"(Elsberry) reminds me of Steve Largent -- he does everything you ask," Moropoulos said. "Loza is an outstanding athlete. He played quarterback in high school up in Sacramento and is now a wide receiver for us. He had a big game at Canyons two weeks ago.

"These are two of the reasons why I'm excited about the future at Santa Barbara City College."

GIRLS TENNIS

• SANTA BARBARA (3-0) -- The Dons are unbeaten after playing three ranked foes, but coach Steve Geremia is still cautioning his perennial Channel League champions to be wary of rival Dos Pueblos.

"If I were to rank them, I'd say they are definitely the favorites to win the Channel League," he said.

But Santa Barbara does return all but two players from last year's dominating club.

"We have three good, senior captains: April Ludwick, Zoe Miller and Danielle Broida, who's been injured and unable to play for us yet, but we're looking forward to her getting out there," Geremia said. "We also have Hanna Grokenberger, who's a two-time Channel League doubles champion."

• DOS PUEBLOS (4-1) -- The Chargers have been led by senior captains Erica Cano and Melissa Dahl, both fourth-year starters, and have been buoyed by two newcomers, Lauren Stratman and Hayley Edwards.

"Our senior captains have a take-charge attitude with great advice and team-bonding activities," said coach Liz Frech. "And this freshman phenom (Stratman), as the news likes to call her, adds some more firepower and energy to our team. She's just returned from winning the No Quit Tournament in Las Vegas in the girls 14s."

Frech noted that Edwards, a junior, joined the team just this season.

"She's showing how tough and calm she is," Frech said.

• SAN MARCOS (2-0) -- Captains Julian Mannix, the Royals' No. 1 singles player, and Shelby Zylstra and Amy Kinsella, who comprise the top doubles squad, are giving coach Kara Warkentin hope for a big season.

"I'm actually really encouraged with this year's team," she said. "This is the first year that I kind of feel like the whole team is on the same page, attitude-wise. "We're having a lot of fun."

WOMEN'S GOLF

• SANTA BARBARA (5-1) -- A pair of sophomores, Haley True and Lexi Ortega, have Ryan Throop off to his best start in five seasons as the Dons' coach.

"Haley came to the team last year after having never played golf before," Throop said. "By the end of the year, she was our lowest scorer.

"What I like about Lexi is she reminds me of (Ryder Cup star) J.D. Holmes . . . She just swings as hard as she can and is probably our longest driver on the team."

• SBCC (19-1) -- Although the Vaqueros have all new players, four of the six starters "are familiar with each other," said sports information specialist Dave Loveton.

"We have two sets of sisters: Sumika and Asaka Sim of Dos Pueblos High, and twin sisters Sara and Claire Borneman.

"We suffered our first loss to Canyons last week by 10 strokes, and they're the defending state champions," he added, noting that SBCC still leads Canyons in the WSC standings.

YOUTH SOCCER

• SANTA BARBARA UNITED -- The Round Table honored the club's girls U-13 team which won the Norway Cup in Oslo. Dave Goss, one of the team's three coaches, noted that the girls gained more than just seven victories and a 22-0 goal differential.

"Believe it or not, there were 45 countries represented, 1,600-plus teams -- it was one of the two largest international soccer tournaments in the world," he said. "The opening ceremonies were three weeks before the Olympic Games, with our girls being the only American team in the tournament, carrying their flag, was a very special experience."

Goss, who introduced his daughter, tournament MVP Michelle Goss, said the team visited the Nobel Peace Center as well as the Viking Museum, while also developing relationships with other teams. They stayed in Lillehammer for five days with some of the Norwegian players.

"At the tournament itself, we got to scrimmage teams from Zimbabwe, Kenya and Palestine," Goss said. "The Palestinian girls shared with us how probably half their team hadn't left a four-square block area in their homeland. That's the kind of stuff that these girls will never forget."

LUNCHEON NOTES

• SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD -- Alejandro Veloz, an offensive lineman for Dos Pueblos High, was honored as the Chargers' recipient. He has a 4.53 grade-point average with a course load that includes calculus, advanced engineering, AP literature and AP government.

Veloz, the son of Armando and Rosalina Veloz, has received National Honor Society and California Scholarship Federation membership, and a Hispanic Scholar Award for hsi PSAT scores.

He's also a member of DP's Leadership Group.

"He's a great young man, a very intelligent young man, who's involved in a lot of things," Uyesaka said. "Leadership is a big thing on our campus.

"Sometimes you run into problems with guys whose synapses are firing as fast as his are: 'Coach, what about this? Maybe we should do this play . . .' But Alejandro is one of those guys who just does whatever you tell him to do."

• RADIO GAME OF THE WEEK -- Round Table board member Bob Dinaberg announced that the weekly Big Friday High School Football Game of the Week will begin this week on 1490 AM radio. The first broadcast will be Bishop Diego's homecoming contest on Friday against Santa Paula, with airtime at 7:20 p.m.

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Dane Limosnero
Football

School: Dos Pueblos High
Year: Senior

Achievement: Scored a TD and set up a field goal with kickoff returns of 86 and 71 yards in a 19-17 win at Cabrillo.

Honorable mention: Kevin Lunn, Laguna Blanca cross country; R.J. Rosborough, Carpinteria football; Chase Racich, Dos Pueblos water polo; Luther Tarver-Burkes, Laguna football.

Caitlin Racich

Girls Volleyball
School: Dos Pueblos High
Year: Senior

Achievement: Pepperdine-bound hitter led DP into the finals of Huntington Beach's prestigious Dave Mohs Tournament.

Honorable mention: Mimi Cuttrel, Santa Barbara volleyball; Paige Colijn, SBCC cross country; Kelly Kosmo, DP cross country.