

Alpha Beacon thriving despite adversity

By Julio Lara
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

The Alpha Beacon Christian School's volleyball season has begun — and fittingly enough, it's taken the form of a great rally point in a game.

There have been ups, downs, challenges, teamwork and excitement; most of which has come with the instability that shook the Lady Lions before they took a single step on a volleyball court this year.

For a while, there were questions about whether Alpha would have an academic year, much less a volleyball team.

Alpha Beacon was moved from their home of seven years in San Mateo by the San Mateo School District when Fiesta Elementary School occupied their address temporarily while renovations and upgrades were made to the elementary school. Alpha Beacon searched all summer long for a place to hold classes, eventually splitting up campuses, with the elementary school staying at Bayside Middle School in San Mateo and the high school at The Church of the Highlands in San Bruno.

If all this sounds a little confusing, you can only imagine the toll it took on the students

and athletes who, until Sept. 10, had no idea where they would be getting their education.

Despite the mental strain on the 10 girls that make up the Lady Lions, Alpha Beacon's volleyball team has shown tremendous resilience. They've taken adversity and converted it into a 13-0 record to start the season, including a perfect 4-0 start in the Bay Area Christian Christian League.

"Not having a place for the school, obviously it's a great statement about the families that stuck with us and took a tremendous walk of faith on their part," said Alpha Beacon head coach Chris Chu. "One of the most important things that I thought I had to do was to start our preseason right on time. So, even though we didn't have a school site, I have having practice starting in the middle of August."

Alpha Beacon has leased out a gym in Redwood Shores and, "We've been having practices since then, to give the kids a sense of normalcy," Chu said. "We have a good group of girls, with good attitudes and good character — especially this year."

The Lady Lions have experienced success despite losing two seniors from last season's championship squad, as well as three impact players.

Still, those Lady Lions that have persevered



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS CHU
Lisandre Meyer is one of 10 Alpha Beacon players to stick with the school despite questions of where they would actually go to school this year.

are the ones that truly love the program and enjoying playing volleyball while wearing the

Alpha Beacon uniform.

"It's been crazy," Chu said. "I hope we never have to do through another year like this. But, it's been a year of growth. When you are taken out of your comfort zone, when you start losing things, that's when you really start growing. They really believe in the value of the school. And for us, it's not just about the high level of academics, but also character training."

Already winners in the mental game, the Lady Lions have shown they have some solid talent on the court as well. They're led by players like Sarah Chu, Lisandre Meyer, Kaelah Velisano and Ally Legaspi.

"The team looks to them for emotional and spiritual leadership," Chu said. "They're really tough and they're leaders on the court. When the going gets tough, they're right there to step it up and go the extra mile for the team."

Velisano leads the team with 18 kills in four games. Meyer, Chu and Stephanie Mao are also in double digits with 14. Legaspi leads the team in assists with 31. Velisano and Chu have 17 and 18 assists respectively. They also have double digit aces with 12 apiece. Legaspi has 10.

Giants end season with loss to Rockies

By Janie McCauley
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rockies 6, Giants 3

SAN FRANCISCO — Each of the San Francisco Giants walked back onto the field after the final out and gathered near the pitching

were at home, but one of the most impressive things I've seen in baseball were the fans in this series. We felt this was a playoff type of situation, that's how much they were into it," man-

who snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Giants.

San Francisco (86-76) wound up in second place in the NL West behind playoff-bound Arizona, becoming the first defending champion not to make the playoffs since the 2007 St.

doing that," DeRosa said. "If I can't, I'm going to take a break and be a stay-at-home dad for a minute."

Departing Giants managing partner Bill Neukom received a rousing standing ovation and a "THANK YOU BILL" tribute on the cen-