

## CHATTER

### Harvard-Westlake's Hearlihy selected state's top coach

After leading Harvard-Westlake of Studio City to its first Div. IV girls' basketball state championship, Melissa Hearlihy was recognized as state coach of the year by Cal-Hi Sports and ESPN/Rise Magazine.

Hearlihy, who has 553 victories and six Southern Section titles in her 25-year career, is only the second area girls' basketball coach to receive the honor.

Harvey Green was recognized in 1979 after guiding El Camino Real of Woodland Hills to a 19-0 record and a City Section championship. ECR remains the only area girls' basketball team to finish the season with a perfect record.

Hearlihy's state title was also her first after falling to Sacred Heart Cathedral of San Francisco in the 1998 Div. III final with Alemany of Mission Hills. Harvard-Westlake had only reached one state final prior to this season, falling to Acalanes of Lafayette in the 1999 Div. III championship game.

Harvard-Westlake, which concluded its season with a 30-game winning streak capped by a 58-44 victory over St. Mary's of Albany in the state final, set an area record with 34 on-court victories.

Bell-Jeff of Burbank, last year's Div. V state champion, also went 34-1, but one victory against Inglewood came as a result of a forfeit.

### Basketball all-stars will be future teammates

Although Agoura's Brittany Oster and Flintridge Prep of La Canada Flintridge's Megan Musashi will be competing on opposite teams at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Valley Sports Foundation's Battle of the Valley girls' basketball all-star game, they'll be future teammates at Redlands.

Oster is competing for the West, under the guidance of Agoura coach Steve Scifres. Musashi will play for the East, coached by Crescenta Valley of La Crescenta's Jason Perez.

Canyon's Brooke Lemar, playing for the East, will be a future teammate at Southern Illinois of West all-star and Westlake standout Taylor Ignoto.

A 3-point contest will take place at halftime of the girls' game, with Lemar and Musashi as possible competitors, along with potential candidates Cassie Pappas of C.V. and Sasha Borenstein of Agoura.

## GITTELSON BITS

# Taft star has one last stop before USC

There's one last chance to catch Bryce Jones, the star basketball player for longtime power Taft of Woodland Hills, before he heads to USC on a scholarship.

Jones is the marquee attraction Saturday in the annual Battle of the Valley all-star game at Cal State Northridge. Tipoff is 7 p.m.



**GERRY GITTELSON**

Jones, a 6-foot-5 forward who can do it all, helped carry Taft to the City Section final and the third round of the CIF State

Div. I playoffs. Teammate Pierson Williams, a top 3-pointer shooter, is also participating.

"We practiced for the first time Tuesday, and wow, what a great group of kids," said West coach Dave Rebibo of El Camino Real of Woodland Hills. "This team is very, very talented."

Jones, Williams, Thousand Oaks' Alex Tiffin and Calabasas' Jordan Coleman are among the top names for the West. The East's top players include Trevor Wiseman (Golden Valley of Santa Clarita), Dushon Carter (Renaissance Academy of La Cañada), Jeremy Sulker-Hall (Notre Dame of Sherman Oaks) and Coltrane Powdrill (Crescenta Valley). Burbank's Jose Hernandez will be the East coach.

A halftime dunk contest is scheduled, and Jones and Coleman are entering.

"They're both high flyers. They put on a little show after practice," Rebibo said. "I can't tell you their dunks, though. They want to keep it a surprise. They have some tricks up their sleeve, and they told me they're going to keep working on it."

There is also a girls' all-star game beginning at 5 p.m.