



## Is Alemany football team best in Western Division?

By Gerry Gittelsohn, Columnist

Article Last Updated: 07/05/2008 09:44:58 PM PDT

The rebuilding project at Alemany of Mission Hills is in its third year under football coach Dean Herrington, and this season the Warriors should compete for a Western Division championship after going 8-4 and advancing to the quarterfinals last year.

The Warriors return lots of top skill-position players, including big-play receivers Chris Gant, Nick Cook and Antonio Bray and three-year starting running back Malcolm Marable.

Plus, top linebacker Anthony Espinosa is back, and new quarterback David Metcalf has looked terrific in summer competition. Alemany also has a top transfer in receiver Sean Haynes from Chaminade of West Hills, a fierce returning defensive lineman in K.C.Obi and a talented returning offensive lineman in Michael Janios, who's 6-foot-1, 290pounds and loves to knock defenders on their butt.

"Hopefully, we're going to be good if we put it all together," Gant said. "The top team in the Western Division? I don't know about that. We're just going to take it game by game."

**Locals make their pitch in minors:** Two of the

area's top position players and power hitters, former Palmdale infielder Malcom Culver and former Valencia infielder Casey Mulligan, have switched to pitcher.

Culver, drafted by the Kansas City Royals in June, is pitching in the Rookie Arizona League and did not allow a run in his only appearance, going two innings. Mulligan, drafted two years earlier by the St. Louis Cardinals, has a 2.45 ERA in four relief appearances for the Palm Beach Cardinals in Advanced Single-A.

Former Notre Dame of Sherman Oaks star Mike Stanton, an outfielder for the Florida Marlins Single-A affiliate Greensboro (N.C.) is killing the ball in his first full season after a slow start in rookie ball last year. He's batting .283 with 21 home runs and 58 RBIs in 78 games.

Meantime, Mike Moustakas, the former record-setting slugger from Chatsworth drafted No. 2 overall last year by the Kansas City Royals, is finally starting to look like a top prospect after a dreadful start. He's batting .244 with 12 home runs and 42 RBIs in 82 games as a shortstop for Single-A Burlington (Iowa). Former Chatsworth teammate Matt Dominguez, a third baseman drafted last year in the first round by the Florida Marlins, is batting .308 with four home runs and 17 RBIs in 35 games at Greensboro.

**Rutherford to walk on at CSUN:** Dallas Rutherford, Jrue Holiday's right-hand man the past two seasons at Campbell Hall of North Hollywood, waited too long to accept a Cal State Northridge basketball scholarship, and the

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.

PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



Matadors ended up pulling the offer, Rutherford said.

Nevertheless, Rutherford plans to play for the Matadors anyway as a walk-on, with an agreement he will be awarded a scholarship after one season if all goes well.

"I was talking to UCLA, Stanford, San Diego State, Portland State, a few others. I had some options, but the more I thought about it, the more I decided I wanted to stay close to home," Rutherford said. "I've grown up in Northridge, and I've been in that gym since I was a little kid. I'm comfortable there."

Rutherford scored 22 points in an April all-star Game at Northridge, and has been shooting 300 to 400 shots per day at the Matadome, often practicing there until midnight, he said.

"I shoot well at Northridge. I'm comfortable there," Rutherford said. "I've been working out a lot, too. I've put on 15 pounds."

**Palarz new coach at Calabasas:** Former Campbell Hall coach Jon Palarz is the new coach at Calabasas, replacing Jim Nielsen.

**Campbell Hall in summer league:** The defending two-time state champion Vikings play host to national power Mater Dei of Santa Ana in a summer-league game July 17 at 7:30 p.m. Last summer, Campbell Hall lost 93-80 to Mater Dei as Jrue Holiday, now at UCLA, put on a show with 45 points.

**Locals take it on the run:** It should be a good year for prep running backs this coming football season, as perhaps 10 returnees - Ryan Zirbel (Saugus), Malcolm Jones (Oaks Christian of Westlake Village), Chris Brown (Newbury Park), Dietrich Riley (St. Francis of La Canada), John Lister (Thousand Oaks), DJ Morgan (Taft of Woodland Hills), Marquell Jefferson (Palmdale), Malcolm Marable (Alemany of Mission Hills), Rashon Harper (El Camino Real of Woodland Hills) and Demitri Diamond (Hart of Newhall) - could be primed for 2,000-yard seasons.

**And finally:** With his blazing speed and silver cleats, Jabari Howard, a receiver for Valencia, reminds me of the great Joe Washington, a former star at Oklahoma who played 10 NFL season with the Atlanta Falcons, Washington Redskins, Baltimore Colts and San Diego Chargers. ... Former Lancaster wrestler Adam Wheeler has qualified for the U.S. Olympics in Beijing.

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.

PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™