

# Trivia pursuit challenges local teens

By Malaika Fraley

STAFF WRITER

BELMONT

**T**HEY worked all weekend, making phone calls, searching the Internet and canvassing libraries and bookstores in the hope of being declared the winner of the trivia hunt of all trivia hunts, the Millard Fillmore.

Hundreds of students from eight

Peninsula high schools participated in the 37th annual Millard Fillmore Trivia Hunt.

The winner, announced Monday night, was Palo Alto High School, with 463 out of a possible 496 points.

The hunt, hosted each year by Carlmont High School, challenges student teams to answer 29 multi-part trivia questions, a cipher, and

the teams have 56 hours to complete the hunt.

But there's a catch. The teams must provide two forms of documentation for each answer, and nothing printed from the Internet is accepted. Some answers require audio or visual proof. Spelling, punctuation and dates must be exact. Showing up a minute late costs a team points. The hunt is so difficult to complete that the students barely sleep.

"It's incredible how much we can get accomplished in a weekend, being sleep-deprived, eating all junk food," Lauren Berger, a captain for the Carlmont High School team, who admitted to showering only once during the competition. "The whole weekend, you don't stop moving. It's exhilarating.

"And the questions are just so bizarre. Why would you need to know what size were the ruby slippers in the 'Wizard of Oz?'" said Berger. "It's a lot of fun."

Teams have to get creative to win. Last year, they were tasked to bring in the autograph of someone born on Aug. 14, 1945. The Carlmont students handed out fliers all over town before finding someone just a couple of hours before deadline,

Berger said. Many teams keep teammates stationed at various local libraries to keep an eye out for cheaters.

The teams turned in their answers and documentation at 7 p.m. Sunday, and then returned to Carlmont Monday afternoon for the scoring session.

For the Carlmont team, it was a heartbreaker. They came in second, losing to Palo Alto by only one point. Carlmont has won once in the long history of the event — in 2002. Woodside High came in third this year.

The hunt was created in 1969 by now-retired Carlmont High School history teacher Bob Hunter, who wanted a fun activity that would sharpen students' research skills. Those who participated in it said it does indeed.

Marcy Sanchez, who runs Carlmont's computer library, recalled the words of one participant who attended Harvard University after graduating from Carlmont.

"He said when he entered Harvard's library, he wasn't intimidated at all because of the Millard Fillmore," Sanchez said.

## On the Web

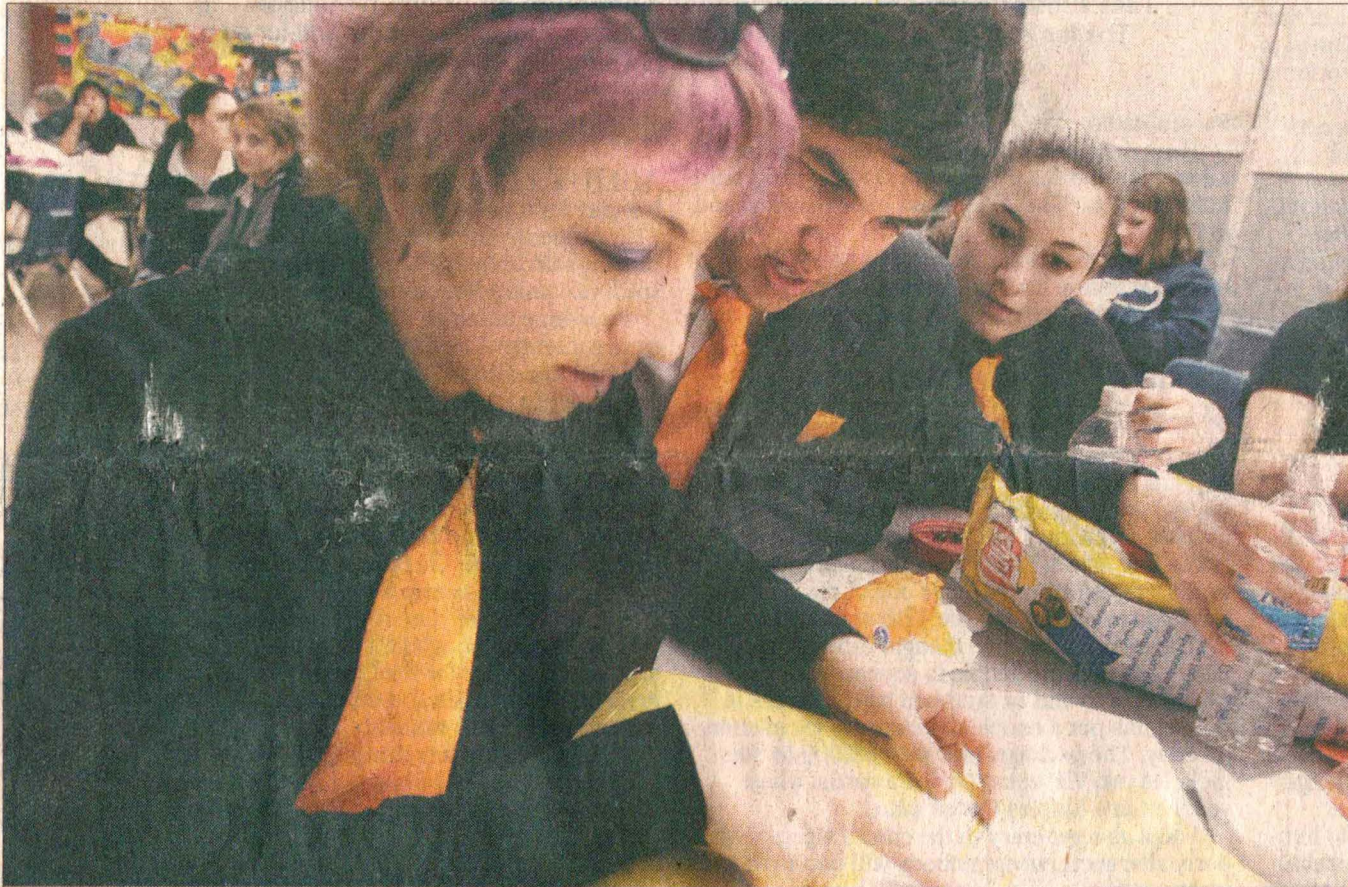
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[www.carlmont.seq.org](http://www.carlmont.seq.org)

bring in five hard-to-find items. The questions are read at a birthday party for the 13th U.S. president on the first Friday in February, after which

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIM  
FEB. 8, 2005

# ON THE HUNT

Teams competing in annual weekend event  
are short on sleep, long on ingenuity



MATTHEW SUMNER — Staff

**WOODSIDE HIGH** Friends of Millard Fillmore Trivia Hunt team members Amanda Ramirez (left), Zachary Rapoport (center) and Stephanie Swenson check their files during scoring for the annual contest Monday night at Carlmont High School in Belmont.

(OVER)

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
MARCH 1, 2005

# Bomb threat called in to Carlmont High

**By Tara Ramroop**

STAFF WRITER

BELMONT —Students and staff at Carlmont High School were evacuated Monday morning after an anonymous bomb threat was called in to the school.

A man who "sounded like an adult" called the administration office at Carlmont High just after 11 a.m. and said only that a bomb was going to go off, Police Sgt. Patrick Halleran said Monday.

Police and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad searched the school while the 2,000-plus students and staff waited on the athletic fields. Police didn't find anything suspicious and everyone was back inside in an

hour, Halleran said.

This is the first bomb threat the school has experienced this year, Halleran said. He noted that such threats are a rare event in local schools.

"We don't have many leads at this point," Halleran said. "So right now, we're treating this as an isolated incident."

A school resource officer on the Carlmont campus will conduct further investigations.

Police ask that anyone with more information call the Belmont Police Department at (650) 595-7400.

Staff writer Tara Ramroop can be reached at (650) 348-4302 or [tramroop@sanmateocountytimes.com](mailto:tramroop@sanmateocountytimes.com).

CCS DIVISION I GIRLS



RON LEWIS — Staff

**CARLMONT HIGH** athletes celebrate a basket by Jennica Janssen en route to a CCS championship win over Wilcox.

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
MARCH 5, 2005

# Carlmont pulls off a stunning title

By Rick Chandler

STAFF WRITER

SAN JOSE — With this kind of momentum, there's no telling how far Carlmont can go.

A NorCal title? A State crown? The moon?

Whatever the answer, one can bet the Scots will do it together.

"This team is very close, and it shows in the way we play," said Jennica Janssen, Carlmont's junior all-purpose guard-forward who led the Scots to an improbable Central Coast Section Division I girls basketball championship on Friday night.

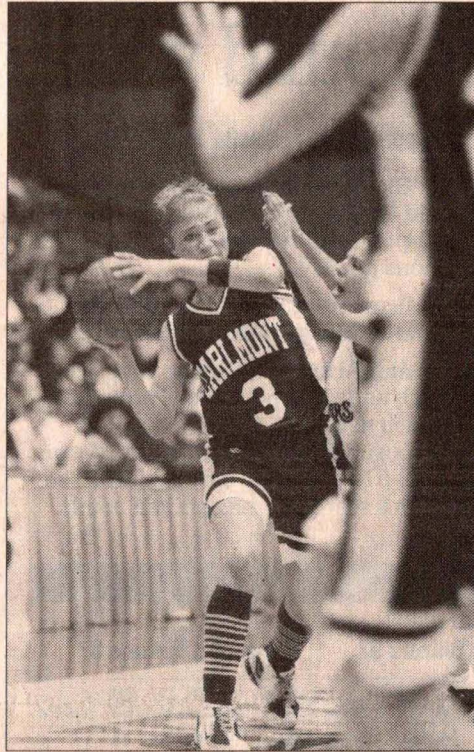
"After school today our whole team made sure to ride the bus home together. We all gathered in the back of the bus and got pumped up for our game."

Janssen's floor leadership, Finau Tovo's inside presence and Melissa Ho's outside shooting helped produce a 36-22 victory over second-seeded Wilcox at the San Jose State Events Center.

"This hasn't all sunk in yet; I'm very tired," Janssen said. "We're CCS champs."

When it all began on Feb. 23, Carlmont coach Dave Lowe faced a daunting task: take a ninth-ranked team that didn't even make its own league playoffs, and negotiate through the tough CCS Division I bracket — with roadblocks such as top-seeded Aptos and No. 4 San Benito along the way.

But the Scots did all their coach asked of them, and more. After a first-round win over No. 8 Alisal, Carlmont stunned Aptos 47-43, then knocked out San Benito 50-45.



RON LEWIS — Staff

**JENNICA JANSSEN** looks for an open teammate during the CCS final.

Even then, the doubters were legion. Wilcox came into the game at 26-2, and seemingly had the size and quickness to deal with Carlmont.

And then there was the venue.

"When we walked into this place and looked around and saw how big it was, we just said 'Wow.'" Janssen said. "It was intimidating."

But Carlmont didn't play scared. After Tovo's layup on a good move inside early in the second quarter gave them a 4-2 lead — the first quarter ended 2-2 — the Scots shifted to a different gear and never looked back. They outscored Wilcox 14-2 in the second quarter, 11-7 in the third, and made this one a laugher.

Leading the way was Tovo with 10 points and 13 rebounds. Janssen had nine points, Ho also had nine (all on 3-pointers) and Alyssa Kato had five points, including a 3. Wilcox was only 7-of-38 from the floor, as a variety of Carlmont zone sets shut the Chargers down. Credit Tovo with most of the damage — she created a black hole inside where shots went to die. And the Chargers couldn't get anything going outside, putting up 11 air balls.

"When CCS started, our coach just got us together and pointed out that no one expected us to do anything," said Carlmont's Dayna Bartkowiak. "From the very beginning, we had nothing to lose. And a team like that is dangerous."

After finishing fifth in the Peninsula Athletic League South and entering CCS play at 16-9 overall, no one believed in the Scots except themselves.

"That's the thing about this team," said Lowe, who coached the boys at Lowell for 16 seasons before coming to Belmont. "They never doubted themselves. Not for one minute."

(OVER)



DOUG OAKLEY/SPECIAL TO THE INDEPENDENT

Four freshman are starting on the Carlmont varsity softball team. In the center is catcher Caitlin Steele and standing from left to right: Alexa Daines, Katy Suko and Kelly Cunningham.

# Independent Sports

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Suko

# Carlmont's frosch fab four



Steele

## Cunningham, Daines, Steele and Suko starting for Scots

**BY MATT ELLISER**  
*Staff Writer*

BELMONT — Each time they take their first steps onto the diamond, they admit to feeling a twinge of anxiety.

But if this is the way freshman Carlmont softball players Kelly Cunningham, Alexa Daines, Caitlin Steele and Katy Suko are playing while they get their feet wet, who knows what will happen once they become comfortable. Each member of the youthful quartet has earned a starting role on the Scots varsity softball team, and have helped the defending Central Coast Section Division I champions off to a blazing 9-0 start this season despite the loss of five key players to graduation.

"It's not unusual to have freshman on the varsity, but to have four starting is unusual," said Carlmont coach Jim Liggett, entering his 30th year at the helm of the Scots. "They've fit in and made us a lot better at their positions."

All four freshman grew up playing competitive softball over the summers, but are now joining a team that has achieved unparalleled success in San Mateo County. The Scots have won 19 of 29 Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division titles and seven CCS crowns, including five of the last eight.

"Every game I've been really nervous — I feel like there's a lot of pressure and I don't want to do anything wrong," said Steele. "But it's such an honor to be so young and play on such a great team."

Steele has earned the starting catching job for Carlmont after a strong showing on the school's fall ball team. Like the rest of her young classmates, what has most impressed Liggett about Steele is her defensive prowess.

"Caitlin is an outstanding defensive catcher — and my first priority is always how they play defense," said Liggett. "She has a great arm and she's a pretty good hitter, and we expect really big things from her."

Daines has been a perfect fit at first base for the Scots, as the lefty has shown a slick glove and powerful bat already this year.

"Alexa plays extremely good defense and is hitting well," said Liggett. "I think she'll develop into an outstanding first baseman — as fine of one as we've had here at Carlmont."

Across the diamond at third base is Suko, who has fielded her position admirably and shown a surprising amount of hitting ability for a freshman. She said the combination of having several young classmates on the team along with the open acceptance shown by star senior shortstop Keli Leung and the rest of the Scots' upperclassmen has made her increasingly comfortable.

"The older girls have been so great, and it's awesome playing on a team that's won all these titles," said Suko. "It's a lot of pressure because everyone on the team is so good, but I'm getting used to it."

Cunningham has stepped right into center field this season, using her speed to take away hits in the outfield and create problems for the opposition when she's at the plate. Cunningham has been hitting No. 2 in the Carlmont batting order, using her "slap" hitting style to get on base.

(COVER)

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
APRIL 11, 2005

# Scots make coaching changes

■ Selli takes football post,  
Low with boys basketball

By Rick Chandler

STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — Carlmont High announced several coaching changes on Sunday, including the hiring of new head coaches for football and boys varsity basketball.

Jason Selli takes the helm of the varsity football program, taking over for Ben White, who has accepted the same position at Exeter High — a 1,000-student school near Visalia. Selli had been an assistant on White's staff for the past three seasons, coming over with him from South San Francisco High where he served in the same capacity.

Meanwhile, Dave Low was installed as the boys varsity basketball head coach. Low had coached Carlmont's girls varsity basketball team for four seasons, leading the Scots to the Central Coast Section Division I title this past season, the first CCS girls basketball crown in the school's history. Low takes over for James Jewett.

Other changes include girls varsity basketball, where Irene Oliveira was promoted from the girls frosh-soph where she had coached for four seasons; girls water polo, where Julie Thompson will be the varsity head coach; and track and field, where Jeff Gilkey will direct the varsity team in addition to his head coaching duties with boys cross country.

Losing White was a tough pill to swallow, according to athletic director Terry Stogner.

"The reality of the situation was that Ben needed to find a place where he could afford a house for his wife and their new baby," Stogner said. "We've talked about it for some time, and when this position (at Exeter) opened, he decided it was the right thing to do."

At the same time Stogner is excited about the prospect of Selli taking over the program.

"He'll run the same system, and we shouldn't miss a beat," Stogner said. "Jason will do a great job."

Low coached boys basketball at Lowell for 16 seasons before coming to Carlmont — originally to coach the varsity girls for just one season, and then take over the varsity boys for Stogner, who was to retire.

"But in my first season with the girls team, we only won four games," said Low, who is also a physical education teacher at the school. "I wanted to fix that."

Indeed he did, guiding the Scots to a 20-10 overall record this past season.

"I'm excited about this new challenge, because I've always liked challenges," Low said. "I think there's a lot of talent at Carlmont. The trick will be to get them to understand how to put themselves into a position to win games."



CARLTON HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
APRIL 21, 2005

# Stogner is expected to become PAL commissioner

■ Carlmont AD/coach to replace retiring Young

By Glenn Reeves  
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — Longtime Carlmont High School athletic director and boys basketball coach Terry Stogner is expected to be named Peninsula Athletic League commissioner today when the PAL Board of Managers convenes at the

San Mateo County Board of Education office.

Stogner replaces Gordy Young, who is retiring after six years as commissioner.

"Terry will do a great job," Young said.

Stogner has been interviewed and approved by a search committee that includes Central Coast Section commissioner Nancy Lazenby Blazer, Board of Managers president and San

Mateo High School principal Jackie McEvoy, South San Francisco High School principal Mike Coyne, Menlo School dean Anthony LaPolla and Menlo-Atherton athletic director Pam Wimberly.

Young will end his long association with the Bay Area and San Mateo County athletics in June, when he will move to Yakima, Wash., to live near his daughter and grandchildren.

"It's going to be a change," said

Young, who will turn 70 in May. "I've lived in the Bay Area all my life. I know there's going to be some culture shock."

Young was a star high school athlete in San Francisco and played football at Stanford before becoming a high school teacher, coach and administrator. He coached football at Capuchino six years and served as the school's principal

before replacing Chuck Kent as PAL commissioner in 1999.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it," Young said. "It's been a good experience. I would do it all over again."

After a life spent in athletics, Young is a strong advocate of the value of sports.

"Sometimes people don't realize that academics and athletics reinforce each other," Young said. "Nowadays I see athletics taking a back seat to an emphasis on education. My contention is that both work best working together. Stanford has proved you can do both."

He was asked what issues or challenges face the PAL.

"Rising costs," he said. "And then there's things like having two (divisions) or three and

whether to let schools in. But those are minor things."

The major issue, in Young's mind, is the devaluation of athletics.

"Especially on the high school level, athletics can absolutely reinforce academics," Young said. "But the mood has swung in favor of academics at the cost of athletics. One shouldn't succeed at the cost of the other. You can do both. I think they help each other. But now athletics is having trouble holding its head above water. The situation needs to be worked out so both contribute to a student's experience at school."

He made the point that few high school athletes earn college scholarships.

"This is their last experience playing organized sports," Young said. "They will take these memories with them for the rest of their lives. It bothers me that people underestimate the positive aspects of athletics."

CARLTON, 11:00 AM  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
MAY 21, 2005

## GIRLS COACH OF THE YEAR

# Carlmont's Low made difference

By Rick Chandler

STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — Winter is supposed to be the season where things get interesting for a basketball coach, but Carlmont's Dave Low has had a wild spring as well.

First, he was named the new boys varsity head coach, replacing James Jewett, who guided the Scots through the 2004-05 campaign. Then last week, it was announced Low would also become Carlmont's new athletic director, replacing Terry Stogner, who is moving on to become Peninsula Athletic League commissioner.

In addition to these posts, Low will continue to teach physical education at Carlmont.

"It's definitely going to be a challenge, and I'm looking forward to building a strong boys program," Low said. "But at the same time, there's an awful lot I'm going to miss."

Low, you see, has spent the past four seasons as the girls varsity basketball head coach. And this past season — his last with the girls team — will be difficult to forget. And for his efforts, Low is the County Times Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

It's an amazing story — Carlmont coming out of nowhere to sweep through the Central Coast Section Division I playoffs and claim the championship.

"It was an amazing run," said Low, who spent 16 years coaching boys basketball at Lowell in San Francisco before coming to Carlmont. "The thing

about our season is that we had to play awfully well down the stretch just to get in. There was very little wiggle room there, and people just stepped up."

Carlmont finished sixth in the Peninsula Athletic League South Division and didn't even make its own league playoffs, hardly the credentials of a CCS Division I champion. But that was just when the Scots hit their stride.

Carlmont was just the ninth seed going in. Led by guard Jennica Janssen and center Finau Tovo, the Scots did everything their coach asked of them and more. After a first-round win over No. 8 Alisal, Carlmont stunned top-seeded Aptos 47-43, then knocked out No. 4 San Benito 50-45.

Even then, the doubters were legion. No. 2 Wilcox went into the CCS title game at 26-2 and seemingly had the size and quickness to deal with Carlmont. And indeed, it was a blowout — but with Carlmont on the winning end. The Scots outscored their opponent 14-2 in the second quarter on their way to a 36-22 victory.

Tovo injured her knee late in that contest and was lost for NorCal Tournament play, the Scots losing in the quarterfinals to Berkeley High.

"The thing I'll remember most is the look of confidence that all the girls had," Low said. "Everyone contributed. They expected to win, even when others doubted them. I'm really going to miss them. I'll miss them a lot."

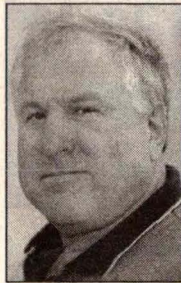
CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
DAILY NEWS  
JUNE 3, 2005

# Ex-Carlmont star to coach up at Oregon

## Former point guard leaves the Big West for Pacific-10

Selena Ho was a 5-foot-5 whirling dervish point guard while a four-year varsity performer at Carlmont, class of '98. She went on to star at Pacific, where she was a first team all-Big West selection her last two years.

### PREP LOOKOUT



**JOHN REID**

Ho left as the all-time Big West career three-point goal shooter with 271 (24th in NCAA history) and averaged 14.6 points and 4.9 assists per game as a senior.

After serving as an assistant women's hoop coach at UC Irvine the past two and a half years, Ho was hired this week as assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Oregon.

"I've only been to Eugene twice," said Ho over the phone yesterday. "We have some great players coming back from last season who are committed to focusing on teamwork. They have a great attitude. We beat Stanford last year. The sky's the limit with this team."

Ho's former coach at Pacific, Sherri Murrell, is now head women's hoop coach at Washington State.

"I stayed in contact with Sherri," Ho said. "She was my mentor. I learned so much from her. She pushed me to limits that I didn't think I could reach. She taught me about the game and about life. She's the reason I coach. But, now I'll be battling against her."

Ho was caught in the middle of a purge last season at UC Irvine when head coach Mark Adams was forced to resign last December after an 0-7 start. Molly Tuter

has since been named head coach. "It was a crazy situation there, but we all stuck together," Ho said. "I was always loyal to Mark and I would have never applied for his job. UC Irvine is part of the Big West, so I felt it was time for me to find a new challenge outside the conference."

Ho said being a head collegiate coach isn't out of the question, but it's not a high priority.

"I'm taking it one step at a time," Ho said. It's onward ho for Ho.

# High school recognized

From **CARLMONT**, page 1

this year, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Swarthmore College, administrators said.

"Last year we had all these college acceptances, but not all these privates ...," Jenoff said, adding that it's a far cry from when she began as principal in 1999. "The enrollment was low. The test scores were low. The community opinion of the school was at bottom."

Doss concurred. When she was a student at San Mateo's Aragon High School, she said her parents would only let her come to Carlmont for games if they drove her personally.

The changes started with fixing up the "prisonlike" structure to make it look like a college campus through three bond measures, Jenoff said.

The school has also added a diverse number of new programs, from the three-year biotechnology program run by Doss and teacher Dan Raffa, which one mother said

was better than she saw at the state's universities this year, to offerings in anthropology, Shakespeare, environmental science, choral music and advanced placement art history. Jenoff has further implemented a strict discipline system, including manual labor for rules infractions.

Enrollment has improved, swelling from 1,300 students to more than 2,000. And students both in and out of the academy said the school has changed for the better.

"We've definitely gotten a lot more departments. It's a lot more inter-

esting," said Alison Richins, a senior in the biotech program who overcame leukemia this year and will be attending Cal Poly in the fall.

Rowdiness has decreased as well, several students in the academy program said.

"There's less tension between students. [Before,] there were a lot more fights," said senior Dan Diemedia, who will be attending San Francisco Barber College next year. "I think people realize now that it's a lot more worth it."

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RICHARD BATMAN/SPECIAL TO THE INDEPENDENT

Carlmont High School biology teacher Tina Doss presents individual awards to each student before school let out.

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
THE INDEPENDENT  
JUNE 18, 2005

# Carlmont cheers a banner year

**High school principal,  
teacher recognized  
with county awards**

**BY KATE WILLIAMSON**  
*Staff Writer*

BELMONT — Carlmont High School has come a long way since "Dangerous Minds."

The school, made infamous by the 1995 movie about a teacher who breaks through to a jaded, rowdy bunch of low-income teens at Carlmont's academy program for struggling students, has been working hard to reverse its reputation.

Now students and teachers report that it has done exactly that through a series of innovative

and challenging new classes, physical improvements to the school and a change in the tenor of life around campus.

Others have noticed. This year, principal Andrea Jenoff was honored as a San Mateo

County woman of the year, and 28-year-old science department chair Tina Doss was honored as San Mateo County Teacher of the Year. The math-focused school boasts one of the nation's top math students, Joy Zhang.

The school also has placed an unprecedented number of its students in prestigious colleges



**Doss**

(OVER)

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
THE INDEPENDENT  
JULY 5, 2005

## Teen arrested in school lockdown

### Boy, 17, allegedly took handgun to Carlmont High School

*Independent News Services*

BELMONT — A teenage suspect was taken into custody Thursday following a police search Wednesday that led to a lockdown of Carlmont High School, Belmont police reported.

With cooperation from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office,

Belmont detectives arrested the 17-year-old from East Palo Alto on Thursday at 11:45 a.m. The male suspect was booked into Hillcrest Juvenile Hall in San Mateo on charges of possession of a loaded firearm, possession of a concealed firearm, resisting an officer and possession of a firearm on a school campus.

The suspect, whose name is being withheld due to his age, is not a Carlmont student, according to police.

According to police reports, a Belmont police officer approached a

boy seen looking into a parked vehicle in the 1900 block of Chula Vista Drive about 10:55 a.m. Wednesday. As the officer spoke, the teen fled, running west on Chula Vista toward the high school, which was holding summer school classes. The suspect ran onto the campus and reportedly discarded a handgun as an officer followed him in the foot pursuit.

In compliance with the school security plan, Carlmont classrooms were locked down for more than an hour.

# Chinn relished rare role of underdog at Carlmont

By Rick Chandler

STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — So it seems Ashley Chinn relishes the underdog role. Who knew? That's a persona Carlmont softball players rarely get to try out.

"There was some pressure this year, but it was also fun," said Chinn, the latest in a long line of great pitchers for the Scots. "With only one starting senior and four starting freshmen, people never thought that we would do anything. We were the underdogs."

But that only made Chinn and her teammates stronger and hungrier. Carlmont, led by Chinn, won the Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division title and its Central Coast Section playoff opener before being knocked out in the quarterfinals.

And so Chinn will be back as a junior with a head of steam, ready to prove herself once again. Opponents

should take note.

Chinn was raised to hurl softballs, first taking up the art at the age of 7 in the Belmont's celebrated Youth Softball League.

Now, the junior-to-be has joined the pantheon of noted Carlmont pitchers (think Deanna Earsley, Tori Nyberg and Jerrica Castagno, among others). Chinn is the County Times Player of the Year — the third straight season that Carlmont has brought home that honor (Castagno won it the previous two seasons).

"I first coached her as a freshman in winter ball, and I could see right there that she had potential," said veteran Carlmont softball coach Jim Liggett. "She was our backup pitcher that spring, and that's saying

something."

Is it ever. Liggett is never at a loss for pitchers, and 2004 was no exception. With All-County senior Castagno on the slab, Carlmont won the Central Coast Section Division I title. The freshman Chinn played a utility role as an outfielder and backup pitcher (she had a 5-1 record).

"You tend to forget that Ashley is only a sophomore," Liggett said.

This past season was an outstanding one for Chinn, who took over the starting pitching duties and sparkled with a 20-3 record and 0.14 earned run average, striking out 246. She seemed to come out of nowhere, having played

in Castagno's shadow the previous year. She is also a solid hitter.

The Scots fell short in the '05 CCS playoffs however, losing 1-0 to North Salinas in the quarterfinals, as Chinn struck out eight (two under her game average) and gave up a season-high 10 hits.

She had been struck on her pitching elbow in practice two days before, and the injury obviously had an effect.

"It's still not totally right," she said. "It's not affecting my pitching (Chinn plays summer league for the San Jose Strikers), but it bothers me when I throw overhand. I'm having it checked soon."

Carlmont went 14-1 in league play, with the only earned runs Chinn surren-

dered coming on a two-out double by Capuchino's Roxanne Hannon, who has been playing with and against Chinn since they were little.

How high can Chinn go? Liggett thinks the sky is the limit.

"The tremendous thing about Ashley is her work ethic," he said. "She has a great attitude and really works on her game. In softball, a pitcher really has to be self-made. All the great ones have taught themselves."

Chinn will likely go down as one of the great ones. She will be hard-pressed, though, to reach the school record for career and season wins (113 and 35, respectively), both held by Nyberg, who played at Carlmont in the late 1990s before

going on to pitch for Stanford. A recent CCS rule change has limited the number of games a team can play.

It was Nyberg (now an assistant coach at Northwestern) who served as a role model for Chinn when the former played at Carlmont.

"I really looked up to Tori when I was younger," Chinn said. "Sometimes I think it would be great to go to Stanford like she did. That would be really cool."

Chinn also credits Liggett, whom she calls "a legend."

"Coach Liggett brings out the best in you," she said. "He knows what your potential is and works hard to bring that out. I'm very lucky to have him as my coach."

CARL MONT HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
JULY 8, 2005

ALL-COUNTY PLAYERS OF THE YEAR  
**CHINN BEST OF THE BEST**



**ASHLEY CHINN** was 20-3 for Carlmont with a microscopic ERA of 0.14 and 246 strikeouts in 149 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings. **RON LEWIS** — Staff

(OVER)



CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
THE INDEPENDENT  
JULY 26, 2005

## Lee leaps onto national scene

BY MATT ELLISER

Staff Writer

Anonymity on the golf course is becoming increasingly unusual for Joanne Lee, but the San Carlos native enjoyed a rare chance to play underdog at last week's 57th U.S. Girls Junior Amateur Championship.

The soon-to-be junior at Carlmont High has become a dominant fixture on the local golf scene, winning the Peninsula Athletic League, Central Coast Section and California State High School State titles last year. But if Lee was somehow unknown on the national scene, she probably blew her cover by reaching the semifinals at the Banbury Golf Club in Eagle, Idaho.

"I don't think anybody here has heard of me, so I don't have a lot of pressure on me," Lee told the Associated Press after reaching the semifinals.

The 16-year-old Lee never trailed in defeating Amber Lundskog of San Diego to reach the semis before finally losing to former champion In-Bee Park of Las Vegas.

Lee had played the Girls' Junior four times before, and had never made the cut before. She came into the event hot, winning her last three tournaments.

Carlmont High School  
San Jose Mercury News  
August 18, 05

## TEACHER OF THE WEEK

# GENEVIEVE SAGI

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL,  
BELMONT

**AGE:** "I'll never tell."

**YEARS OF SERVICE:** Five

**BACKGROUND:** As choral director, Sagi's day begins at 7 a.m. and can run as late as 6 p.m. — if it isn't a concert day. Originally from Castro Valley, Sagi attended California State University-Hayward, graduating with a bachelor's degree in music education and vocal performance. She also received her teaching credential from Cal State-Hayward. Sagi entered the workforce as an assistant conductor at Mount Eden High School in Hayward for three years and then joined the Carlmont team. She's choral director and performing arts department chair at Carlmont.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** As musical director, Sagi runs a lot after school rehearsals and activities, as well as tours with the choir. She also advises the yoga club, choir club and choir cheerleading club.

**HOBBIES:** "I am an avid yoga participant and really love to spend time with my nieces and nephews," she says. "I also love to cook."

**BEST DAY AT WORK:**

"Performances. Our concerts really put everything into perspective for the kids, parents and myself," Sagi says. "The concerts are the culmination of months of blood, sweat and tears. We get to show the community what we've been doing in class for the last few months."

**WHO/WHAT INFLUENCED YOUR DESIRE TO BE A**

**TEACHER:** Several teachers paved Sagi's path to teaching, including her choir, chemistry and government teachers. "Besides just being awesome people and teachers, they also gave me a lot of responsibility in the classroom."

**WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?:** Leftovers from dinner and snacks the kids bring her.

**BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** "Not laughing when my kids do funny, but distracting things in class," she says. "Sometimes they just kill me."

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT TEACHING:** "Kids and music," Sagi says. "The combination is explosive."

**SECRET TO GETTING KIDS TO LISTEN:** Teaching young adults is different from teaching younger kids, Sagi says. While there is no secret, she says that respect for her abilities as a teacher and musician keeps her students listening throughout class.

**WHY CHOIR?:** "I don't have a choice in the matter," she says. "I am a choir director, plain and simple."

**MEMORABLE MOMENTS:** "Last year chamber singers sang the memorial service for a Carlmont student who had passed away," Sagi recalls. "It was one of the hardest things I think we have ever done. I was so proud of the way the kids stood up in front of hundreds of people and shared their music during such a hard time."

— Kristina Nicholas, Mercury News

CARLMONT HIGH - 1000 -  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
AUGUST 24, 2005

### Baseball

BELMONT — Rich Valero was named Carlmont's head baseball coach, it was announced by athletic director Dave Low on Tuesday. Valero replaces Norm Hayes.

Valero, a Terra Nova High graduate, played baseball at College of San Mateo and Skyline in 1992 and '93 before earning a baseball scholarship at South Alabama, where he played catcher. He then went on to play minor league baseball for four years before returning to the Bay Area as an assistant coach at Skyline from 1999-2002.

He also coached and taught at Borel Middle School in San Mateo and Ben Franklin Middle School in San Francisco.

Low also announced the hiring of Dylan Shelley as boys frosh-soph basketball coach. Shelley as an assistant coach at Richmond High this past season.

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

# Carlmont coach Selli has big plans

**By John Baker**  
CORRESPONDENT

BELMONT — There will be many new faces on Carlmont High's football team this season, but first-year head Jason Selli isn't one of them.

He does take over the reins from Ben White (now at Central Valley), but Selli is hardly a stranger. He was an assistant coach for Carlmont the past four years.

"It's been a pretty smooth transition," Selli said. "The kids are familiar with the system and trying to keep everything as simple as possible has helped.

"There's always going to be some wrinkles (in a case like this)," he added, "but for the most part we're trying to keep it the same."

The youngish Scots are aiming to come off a tough 2004 Bay Division campaign when they went 3-4 (5-5 overall). It won't get much

easier this season, with the Bay Division including two Central Coast Section champions (Burlingame and Woodside), as well as traditional powers Terra Nova and Aragon.

There is some senior leadership on the roster, however. Tony Houseal will be the full-time starting quarterback after sharing the position last year, while running back David Akin will be the focal point of the offense.

Keying the offense will be running back David Akin.

"He's not a blazing speed-type guy," Selli said of Akin. "But he's definitely a powerful runner who can keep going after the first hit."

Making holes on the offensive line and tackles as a defensive line will be three-year starter Sam Holmes, whom Selli said will "be an anchor." Right tackle/defensive end Hau Kauatykolonghau should also make an impact.

One senior who may not be back is utility man Anthony Burrell, who is suffering from a lower back injury.

Carlmont will be reloading several positions with newcomers this season.

The secondary will be all juniors except for sophomore Joey Ferrari. A sophomore and junior will also be the defensive ends, although Akin may see some time there.

Selli is also hoping sophomore Derek Woodman, who will start at both guard and tackle, can live up to his potential. But with only 26 bodies on an already injury-decimated roster, Carlmont cannot afford to wait.

"It's all I've got," Selli said. "I don't know if you can call it a 'youth movement.' If I had more seniors to fill the spots, I'd definitely play them. I'm just trying to put the guys in the positions that are best for them."

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
EXAMINER/INDEPENDENT  
SEPT. 16, 2005

### Belmont



Kristina Doss, chair of the Carlmont High School Science Department, has been named San Mateo County Teacher of the Year. Doss was instrumental in obtaining grants that brought biotechnology courses and advanced placement chemistry and physics to Carlmont. She is also founder of the school's Environmental Club, which works with park rangers to remove invasive plants.

SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
NOV. 2, 2005

# THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME



AKIM AGINSKY

**THESPIANS** (from left) Haley Schulz (Lion), Elise Caves (Dorothy), Lindsay Schulz (Scarecrow) and Chris Curran (Tin Man) watch as dog Nicky (Toto) makes a run for it in Carlmont High School's production of "The Wizard of Oz." The show runs Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m., and again Nov. 10, 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. at the school's Little Theater. For ticket information, call 595-0210.

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
NOV. 2, 2005

# Carlmont's Lee takes CCS golf crown

STAFF REPORTS

Carlmont's Joanne Lee won the individual title for the third consecutive year, and the Menlo-Atherton High team finished third, qualifying for the NorCal championships, at the Central Coast Section Golf Tournament on Tuesday at Rancho Cañada in Carmel Valley.

Lee, who competes as an individual as Carlmont does not have a girls team, carded a 71, the same score as she did last year. She will lead the CCS contingent at the NorCal Championships on Monday at the Green Tree Golf Course in Vacaville.

Menlo-Atherton, which finished second in the regular Peninsula Athletic League season, turned in a team score of 347 for third place, edging Aragon, which took fourth with a score of 352. Rachel Reed led Aragon with a score of 80 and also qualified for the NorCals as an individual.

Menlo-Atherton was paced by

## ROUNDUP

senior Salla Rapakko (83), senior Jordan Micek (85), Theresa Tenisi (89) and freshman Mele Latu (90). Also playing for M-A were Lauren Verity and Allie Stroud.

"We started the season very slowly, but we're finishing very strong," M-A coach Buff Giurlani said. "The girls are beginning to play at the level that they are capable of playing.

"Our score is 20 shots better than last year when we also finished third. It shows you that girls high school golf is improving very rapidly in the section and in our league," Giurlani said. "We get to go to the NorCals for the second year in a row. I'm very pleased with our showing."

CARLTON...  
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE  
NOV. 8, 2005

## State golf champ Lee advances

After carding a 7-over-par 78 on Monday at the Green Tree Golf Club in Vacaville, Joanne Lee was hoping for a playoff in the NCGA/CIF Girls Championship.

"I know I need to do some homework," the Carlmont junior said, "but I really want to play some more golf."

The reigning state champion got her wish and made the most of it, scoring a birdie on the first hole of a four-person playoff to clinch one of the final spots in next week's state championship.

Albany freshman Joy Kim won the individual title, beating Pacific Grove's Corinna Rees by three strokes with a 71. Monte Vista, which has won 17 consecutive matches or tournaments, won the team title with a 421, edging Oak Ridge of El Dorado Hills (428) and Santa Catalina of Monterey (429).

College Prep's Mia Kabasakalis (77) was the only other Bay Area golfer to join Kim, Lee and Monte Vista in qualifying for the state tournament.

After losing three strokes on two of her final three holes, Kim's

final shot of the day was a 15-yard chip-in for birdie.

"I just wanted to qualify for state," she said. "Winning was just something special."

Monte Vista, which repeated as the NorCal champions, got its usual steady play (three players in the 80s and a 79 from freshman Jordan Ontiveros).

"If one girl's not playing 100 percent, there's always been someone there to support her," coach Cheryl Burleigh said. "It's tough to defend a title, and there was a lot of pressure on them. I

couldn't be more proud of them."

San Francisco representatives St. Ignatius (460) and Lowell (507) failed to move on.

— Rusty Simmons



CARLTON HIGH SCHOOL  
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES  
NOV. 8, 2005

## LOCAL ROUNDUP

# Scots' Lee wins NorCal golf playoff

### STAFF REPORTS

VACAVILLE — Joanne Lee didn't have her best day, but it was good enough.

The junior from Carlmont High, the defending state champion, shot a 7-over-par 78 in windy conditions at the NorCal Golf Championships at the Green Tree Golf Course, ending up in a four-way, sudden-death playoff for the final three state championship berths.

And Lee prevailed in the playoff with Hannah Summerhays of Del Campo, Nicole Ferrero of Lodi and Chelsea Stetzmler of Union Mine, recording a birdie on the first hole to grab fifth place overall. She will participate in the state championships Nov. 16 at the PGA Southern California GC in Beaumont.

Joy Kim of Albany was medalist with a 71, followed by Corinna Rees of Pacific Grove (74), Ariana Patterson of Santa Catalina (76) and Mia Kabasakalis of College Prep (77).

It is the third straight year that Lee has qualified for state. She was runner-up as

a freshman.

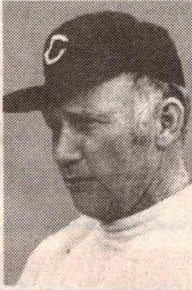
"It wasn't my best effort," said Lee, who competed on the boys team at Carlmont this season, because the school does not have a girls team. "I wasn't hitting very well, and my putts weren't going in. But then in the playoff it all came back."

Lee finished second in last year's NorCal Tournament, and was seventh — taking the last State berth — as a freshman.

Menlo-Atherton's Theresa Tenisi was 36th with an 87.

(OVER)

**LANSBERRY**



**LOREN LANSBERRY**

July 27, 1928-November 17, 2005

Coach Loren Lansberry dies-The Legend Goes On Loren had a distinguished 32 year career coaching Carlmont H.S. (Belmont, CA) track and cross country teams.

Those students who were fortunate to know Coach Lansberry, learned more than athletics from him. They learned to dance, run hills, to climb mountains, and develop leadership skills. More importantly, being on his teams, created devotion, loyalty, team work, discipline and top performances.

Loren was born in Oregon City, Oregon. He attended Seward H.S., Seward, Alaska, in his senior year, then went on to the University of Alaska and San Jose State where he also participated in a Marine Officers Training Program.

While in Alaska, he was a Brakeman on the Alaska Railroad, in the Forest Service, and a commercial fisherman.

Loren will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by family, friends, and former students. He is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Barbara, loving children, Mark, Cynthia Frank, son-in-law, Pharaoh Frank, daughter Teri Simas, son-in-law, Ken Simas. Also survived by his brothers Stephen and Jim and sister-in-law, Sandy; sister-in-law Peg Jaynes and husband Ken and many nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

A celebration of Loren's life will be held next year.

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**ALI CHIANG**, 16 and a Junior Olympian, puts in more than 11 hours of skeet shooting each week at the Martinez Gun Club's range. Below, Chiang raises her shotgun to fire as she watches her target take flight.

# Carlmont High student ranked fifth in nation



By **Rebekah Gordon**

STAFF WRITER

REDWOOD SHORES

**I**T'S ALMOST AS though Ali Chiang was destined to be a national champion skeet shooter.

After all, her middle name is Skeete.

The name was her father's idea. A champion skeet shooter himself, he first placed a shotgun in her hand at the shooting range when she was 8.

"She picked it up very fast," said family friend Ken Fong, 57, an Alameda resident and skeet shooter

who has known Ali all her life. "You could already see that this was going to come pretty easy for her."

The Carlmont High School junior, just shy of 17, lives in Redwood Shores. She started competing at the age of 11. Five years later, she is ranked fifth in the nation in women's skeet by USA Shooting, the national governing body of Olympic shooting sports.

She placed third in July at the national championships, competing against women at least a decade her

Please see **SKEET**, News 9

# TAKING AIM at OLYMPIC GOLD

Skeet-shooting Redwood Shores teen has sights set on Beijing Games



William Keith Stewart  
San Mateo Co. Times  
Reese, Aug 12, 2005

Carlmont High School  
San Mateo Co Times  
Nov 12, 2005

# Teenager takes aim at Beijing Games

## ► SKEET, from News 1

senior and landing a spot as the youngest member of the national women's skeet team. A month later, she placed second in women's overall at the Junior Olympics.

"She's stubborn. She has that attitude like you can't stop her, and she will not stop until she succeeds," Fong said. "I know she'll go far."

Next stop: the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

### Concentration and practice

A black Fresno State cap riddled with bullet holes that dangles over her bed is Ali's most prized possession, a rite of passage for shooting a rare perfect score — 25 — at the national championships.

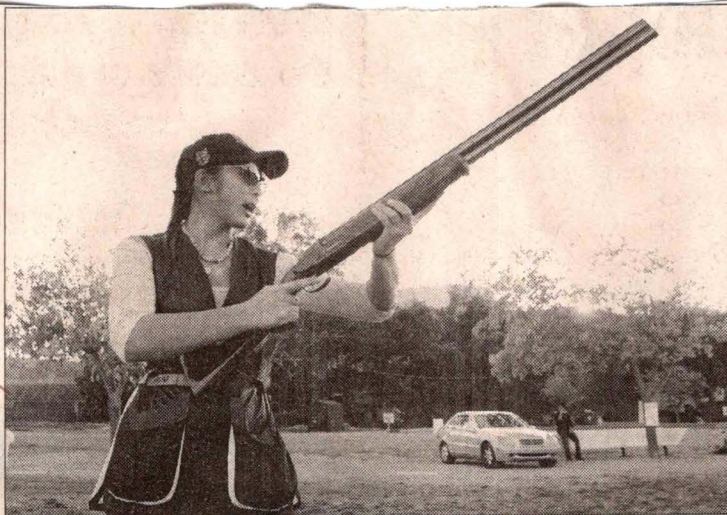
"It's kind of like a trophy," she said.

As with many sports, concentration is key.

"If you think about anything else but the target, you will miss," she said. "It's hard to miss. It takes more energy to miss a target than to hit it."

She practices about 11 hours each weekend and, on Wednesday nights when her schedule allows, treks all the way to the Martinez Gun Club — one of the top skeet and trap facilities on the West Coast — more than 50 miles away. (Since the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, the Martinez facility has often been a final practice stop for the U.S. trap and skeet shooting teams.) During the summer, she wakes up at 7 a.m. to practice every day. Rain is no deterrent.

"I don't practice half as much as my friends practice," she said. "I have to do a lot more mental practice because I'm at a



MICHAEL LUCIA — Staff

### JUNIOR OLYMPIAN Ali Chiang gets ready to fire at the Martinez Gun Club skeet shooting range.

higher level now. The fact that I don't get to practice every day like a lot of people do is very hard. I have the results, but it's still hard."

Somehow she also manages to squeeze in piano, Carlmont's varsity badminton team, a 3.5 GPA, and typical teenage excursions to the mall.

"She balances it out really well," said Dano Perez, her badminton coach. A strong group of peers helps, he said, but "she doesn't tell a soul about how exceptional she is in skeet shooting. She's very, very modest."

### A lesser-known sport

Ali competes in international skeet, a more difficult version than its American counterpart. Women's International skeet has been an Olympic event since 2000.

In a round, a shooter takes 25 shots from seven positions on a semi-circle and an eighth position halfway between the end points. Clay targets are

flung into the air at 90 miles per hour with up to a three-second delay from two houses positioned 10 and 3 feet above the ground.

Regular expenses for ammunition, targets and travel for competitions get costly. A 12-gauge, double-barreled shotgun alone easily costs \$10,000. Hers is a Perazzi MX2000.

"I love it. It's a beautiful gun," Ali said — words not often heard from a 16-year-old girl.

Olympic-level competition for youths has lagged in past years, particularly for women, said Lloyd Woodhouse, the U.S. National shotgun coach in Colorado Springs.

"We've put a push on trying to get young people involved," he said. "Skeet women juniors is still pretty low. Historically, if you look back over time, we haven't had women involved in the shooting sports."

There were just three women who competed in junior skeet this year, he said.

### Father and coach

Ali's father, Sai Chiang, began shooting 26 years ago when his accountant took him hunting, and he has garnered his share of competition medals.

The owner of a photography and digital services company, Chiang, 54, is also his daughter's coach.

"It's hard to separate, sometimes, when someone is close to you," Chiang said. "When you do coach, it can be a challenge sometimes because there's no buffer." Much, he said, like teaching your wife how to drive.

But it seems to be working.

He instills in Ali the mantra that "sport is a simulation of life without real penalties" and that, given the number of mistakes made in life, it's most important to learn to be "able to face failure and how to deal with it and come back," he said.

Ali's younger brother, Kirk, 15, also shoots. Chiang said he taught his children skeet shooting to have the chance to participate, learn about themselves and spend quality time together.

"I can give my kids a run for their money even when I'm 70, 80," he said.

Chiang will keep coaching Ali for upcoming competitions such as the 2007 Pan American Games, with their sights ultimately set on the Olympics.

Getting there, he said, is not just about repetition of technique, but mental belief and attitude.

"If you put your mind to it, you can do anything," Ali said. "That's why I love it so much."

Staff writer Rebekah Gordon can be reached at (650) 348-4331 or rgordon@sanmateocountytimes.com.