

THE MEYER SPORTS WIRE

New Year's Ramblings: Pirate, Wildcat Basketball; A Rose Bowl Surprise

By Dave Meyer

Happy New Year! As we start 2017, football playoffs, basketball and a host of winter sports keep us talking sports. Last week, I was part of a corporate event at Surf Bowl on Hill Street (OK, Coast Highway) in Oceanside. During the event, the age-old argument started ... is bowling a sport?

Off it went ... bowling, darts, fishing, billiards. Sport? Competition? Recreation? As one saying goes ... anything you improve at with alcohol involved, is not a sport. Without judging, I say any activity off the couch or PlayStation — or smartphone — with a little competition involved is good with me. Oceanside Basketball

Congratulations to Coach Cameron Clark and his Oceanside High boys' basketball team, winners of the Wine Valley (Napa, California) Tournament in early December. Clark is in his sixth season at Oceanside. For Clark it was a great return to his roots. A 1981 St. Helena High School graduate, Clark played on back-



Pirate basketball team after winning Napa tournament. (Photo courtesy of OHS)

to-back CIF North Coast Section Class A championship boys' basketball teams with the Saints, where he was twice named All-Napa County as a point guard. Oceanside defeated Castlemont of Oakland 65-57, Vintage High of Napa 67-35 and Vallejo High

72-50 to win the tournament. Juniors Emmanuel Grandison, Jacob Camargo and Donovan Laie lead the Pirates in scoring average and each scored in double figures in the Wine Valley championship game. Oceanside, which defeated Carlsbad 53-46 Jan. 10

at the Wally Molifua Gymnasium, opens Avocado League East play on Jan. 18 at Rancho Buena Vista. El Camino Basketball

El Camino Coach Tom Tarantino, who took over for legend Ray Johnson after the 2013-2014 season, leads the Wildcats. El Camino defeated St. Genevieve from Panorama City 82-67 and Dougherty Valley from San Ramon 54-50, in the recent Under Armour Classic at Torrey Pines. The Wildcats open their league season Jan. 18 at San Marcos. The Wildcats and Pirates meet at El Camino on Jan. 27. Rose Bowl

With all of the college football bowl games, it was such a treat to see a classic Rose Bowl game on Jan. 2. USC defeated Penn State 52-49 on kicker Matt Boermeester's 46-yard game-winning field goal as time expired. If you have not heard Boermeester's story, it's worth reading. Boermeester is the classic story of never giving up and it never being too late to try anything. Matt's father, Peter, was a kicker at UCLA.

Matt attended Cathedral Catholic High and played baseball but not football. Matt was part of the Dons' CIF championship baseball team in 2012. In junior college he decided to try kicking. While kicking for Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Matt attended a USC kicking camp and was offered a scholarship. The Rose Bowl winning kick was his first kick with a game on the line. Not bad for a former high school outfielder who had never kicked in his life and started playing football at the junior college level without any prior kicking experience. Cheers to a Great 2017! Who will be our next surprise this year?

Oceanside native David Meyer has over 29 years of legal experience and over 35 years of business experience and has represented the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum, The Upper Deck Company, Cobra Golf and Super Shots, a sports marketing company.