



Words of wisdom?
 "It was men and boys in almost every facet of the game. Not much else I can say."
 — Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, on the Warriors beating his team by 30 points

TALKING POINTS



Newton, Manning ready for battle

Peyton Manning is the only five-time MVP in NFL history, one of the faces of the league and, at 39, the oldest starting quarterback to lead a team to the Super Bowl. Slowed by age and injury, he is no longer the record-breaking passer he once was. Most folks figure Manning's fourth Super Sunday appearance will be his last. **Page C2**



Hawkeyes, Aggies sit high in rankings

Iowa is at its highest ranking in 29 years while Texas A&M is at its highest ranking ever. The Hawkeyes, who have raised eyebrows and have beaten five ranked teams this season, are third, their highest ranking since January 1987. That month the Hawkeyes spent their only week ever as a No. 1 team and three weeks at No. 2. **Page C2**



Serena gets victory over Sharapova

Serena Williams attacked Maria Sharapova's strength and it helped extend her complete domination of their rivalry, earning the six-time Australian Open champion a place in the semifinals. Top-ranked Williams beat Sharapova 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, her 18th consecutive victory and 19th in their 21 career meetings. **Page C2**



Strike zone could get a slight lift

Baseball's strike zone could be getting a slight lift. Major League Baseball is studying whether to raise the bottom of the strike zone from the hollow beneath the kneecap back to the top of the kneecap. Strike zone data was included in a presentation given to MLB owners last week at their meeting in Coral Gables, Florida. **Page C4**

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER | QUARTZ HILL

A wall at the Rebels' goal

From forward to goalie, Allen is defense's anchor



CHRISTINA RAMOS
Valley Press

By SHEL SEGAL
Valley Press Staff Writer

QUARTZ HILL — If you find something you're good at, stick to it. And that is exactly what Quartz Hill goalkeeper Trevor Allen has done.

Originally a forward, Allen made the change to play in front of the net two seasons ago. And while it hasn't been everything he had hoped, he is anchoring a Rebel team that is tied for first place in Golden League and he is getting rave reviews for his play.

Allen said as he had been used to scoring goals and running up and down the field, he took the job in front of the goal out of necessity for the Rebels.

"I've been playing soccer since I was about 5 years old," said Allen, a senior. "Always playing forward, midfielder. I made the switch because we didn't have a keeper and I was the only one with that kind of experience. I had played games here and there."

See ALLEN on C3

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL | PARACLETE



RUBY VARELA/Valley Press

TEACHING MOMENT — Paraclete football head coach Norm Dahlia, left, gives words of encouragement to one of his players following a championship game loss against Pomona on Dec. 5, 2014. Dahlia is stepping down as coach of the Spirits.

Spirits' Dahlia stepping down

By MERISA JENSEN
Valley Press Associate Sports Editor

An era is coming to an end for the Paraclete football team.

Norm Dahlia officially stepped down as the head football coach on Monday after a decade of coaching the Spirits.

He spoke with the team in the morning to break the news.

"It went good," Dahlia said. "There were some real happy and some not real happy. Everybody was good through the whole thing. It's bittersweet."

Dahlia, 56, and his wife Lori have talked about moving to North Carolina for the last couple of years. Their longtime friend, Greg Sobiech, lives there and they visited him often. Their daughter-in-law, Lorren, also is from the Tar Heel State.

Now, the entire Dahlia clan is making the move across the country. Dahlia and his wife, their daughter Bobbi and their son Dominic and his wife, Lorren, and their two children.

With his eldest grandson, Corbin, about to start school, the

Dahlia family felt this was the right time to make the move.

"I honestly thought that I could do it for another year or two and I was going to try," Dahlia said about coaching. "I've contemplated it and contemplated it and here's the reality — my oldest grandkid is starting school next year and I want to be around them. (I want to) watch that phase of it again, like we did with our kids, the T-ball phase, the little soccer phase and all that stuff. I want to be around for it, I don't want to miss it."

"It just seemed like the right time to go there. Dominic and Lorren have decided to start him in school there. We don't want to start him here and then pull him up there."

The Dahlias have purchased a home in Denver, North Carolina, and Dahlia's children all have jobs, or job opportunities, lined up.

Dahlia said he thinks the move will be a good thing for all of them.

"I really do. It's so much

See DAHLIA on C3

COMMENTARY

Newton leads Panthers like MVP

Brian Golden

Staff Writer
Antelope Valley Press



bgolden@avpress.com

Super Bowl 50 spell-check: It will be the Cam-olina Panthers against the Denver Broncos.

It rolls off the tongue so much more smoothly than the MVP-olina Panthers.

They're really the same, though.

And apparently, more than a few people have issues with that.

Cam Newton is the reason the Carolina Panthers are in their second Super Bowl in franchise history.

The Panthers' quarterback is the most valuable player in the

National Football League right now.

The votes had to be cast before the postseason began.

In his own one-man Iowa Caucuses, Newton then went out and dropped 80 points on the two next-best teams in the NFC, the Arizona Cardinals and Seattle Seahawks.

A season of firsts for the Cats' quarterback added another Sunday: Newton became the first quarterback ever to throw for 300 yards and rush for two touchdowns in the same NFL playoff game.

Back in early December, I brought up Newton's MVP credentials on the Sports USA Network's NFL Sunday Warmup pregame show.

The flak and the static I got from Tom Brady's many admirers, frankly, was surprising.

Newton then went out and led a fourth-quarter comeback in New Orleans that kept Carolina

unbeaten at the time.

He threw five touchdown passes, something he did three different times this season.

Newton finished with 36 scoring throws and only 10 interceptions. He did not throw a pick in the red zone all season.

This, mind you, after losing his favorite receiver, Kelvin Benjamin, to a season-ending knee injury in the preseason.

That injury prompted many to write off the Panthers.

After all, their other lives belonged to Jericho Cotchery, Cory (don't call me "Philly") Brown, rookie Devin "drops passes in bunches" Funchess and Ted(ward Scissorhands) Ginn Jr.

Somehow they all had their moments, including a 49-15 NFC championship game blowout in which the Arizona Cardinals' more vaunted receiving corps could only watch Brown turn a crossing route into an 86-yard touchdown.

See GOLDEN on C3

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Warriors throttle Spurs in matchup of NBA's best

By JANIE McCAULEY
Associated Press

OAKLAND — Stephen Curry scored 37 points and hit six 3-pointers in three quarters as the reigning champion Golden State Warriors showed they still rule the West by routing the San Antonio Spurs 120-90 on Monday night.

Curry had 15 points in the opening quarter and shot 12-for-20 in Golden State's 39th straight home win at raucous Oracle Arena, where a star-studded sellout crowd saw a lopsided showdown in what was billed as a potential Western Conference finals preview.

The Warriors (41-4) snapped a 13-game winning streak by the Spurs (38-7), off to the best start in franchise history but without Tim Duncan this time. The teams had the highest combined winning percentage in NBA history by opponents meeting at least 40 games into the season.

Curry galloped down the court and pounded his chest after his second straight 3-pointer and 10th consecutive point put Golden State up 76-56 with 7:55 to go in the third. It was his 1,400th career 3 and he became the 26th player in NBA history to reach that mark.

Chants of "M-V-P!" came from every corner of the arena as Curry did it all for his highest-scoring total in 17 games against San Antonio — knocking down 3s from the baseline and hit-



Associated Press

WHO'S NO. 1? — The Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry lobbies for possession in front of the San Antonio Spurs' Patty Mills (8) during the first half on Monday in Oakland. The Warriors beat the Spurs 120-90.

ting from 30 feet well beyond the arc. Coming off his second triple-double of the season when he banked in a half-court shot Friday against Indiana, the dynamic point guard had three steals early in the game to set the defensive tone. And the Warriors didn't relent after building a 62-47 halftime lead.

All-Star forward Kawhi Leonard scored 16 points for the sloppy Spurs,

with Harrison Barnes and Andre Iguodala guarding him early. The Spurs lacked the presence of Duncan, out because of soreness in his right knee.

Even coach Steve Kerr was in disbelief watching his current team thoroughly dismantle his old one on

See WARRIORS on C3