



**Words of wisdom?**  
 "I'm not a movie star. I know what my day job is."  
 — Cavaliers star LeBron James at the screening of his new movie "Trainwreck."

TALKING POINTS



**U.S. beats Haiti in Gold Cup game**

Gyasi Zardes didn't wait long to make an impact for the United States in its Gold Cup match against Haiti on Friday night. The 23-year-old forward entered at the start of the second half for Jozy Altidore, who is still recovering from an injury. Less than two minutes later, the forward turned a pass from Greg Garza into a perfect setup. **Page C2**



**Draft's top picks square off in game**

Karl-Anthony Towns, the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, scored 12 points in his professional debut Friday night to help the Minnesota Timberwolves to an 81-68 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers and No. 2 pick D'Angelo Russell in the NBA Summer League. Russell finished with eight points. Towns said he was nervous to get started. **Page C2**



**Manhattan mobs WWC champs**

Fresh off its World Cup championship, the U.S. women's soccer team got a hero's welcome on Friday with a ticker-tape parade in lower Manhattan mobbed by young girls and other fans, followed by a ceremony where each player was given a key to the city. "All of this for us started when we were little and we had a dream," Abby Wambach said. **Page C3**



**Froome avoids trouble at Tour**

Staying in front has meant staying out of trouble so far for Chris Froome at the Tour de France. After a crash-marred first week of the race, the 2013 champion is exactly where he wants to be — healthy and wearing the yellow jersey. His title defense ended early last year, when he fell three times in two days. **Page C5**

TODD DAVIS CAMP

## Relentless Davis hosts camp at Highland

By **BRIAN GOLDEN**  
 Valley Press Staff Writer

As the namesake son of a pastor, Todd Davis always knew the story of salvation didn't end in the seeming defeat and bloody slaughter of Good Friday.

He got to walk the walk in his rookie year in the National Football League.

Four times signed as a free agent with the New Orleans Saints.

Four times waived.

But by the end of the 2014 season there was indeed the happy ending on Sunday.

Lots of Sundays.

**"I WOULD'VE NEVER GOTTEN THROUGH LAST YEAR WITHOUT MY FAITH. MY FAITH, AND THE LOVE OF MY FAMILY."**

— Former Paraclete star turned Denver Bronco Todd Davis, on the challenge of finding a spot on an NFL team

From waiver wire commuter to leading tackler in the Denver Broncos' AFC Divisional playoff game against Indianapolis, the former Paraclete star rode a professional roller coaster last season.

The only thing that never changed? His faith.

"I would've never gotten through last year without my faith," said the Denver Broncos inside linebacker, who hosts his inaugural football skills camp today at Highland High School. "My faith, and the love of my family."

By the time it was over, his lifelong dream was a boxscore reality: Davis made his first NFL

start against his favorite team while growing up in Palmdale, the Oakland Raiders.

He was seen batting down passes from Philip Rivers and Andrew Luck.

He was in the same Broncos practice field footage with John Elway, Peyton Manning and Demarcus Ware.

But today isn't about the glamor, notwithstanding the glittering VIP reception honoring Davis at the University of Antelope Valley.

It's about the hard work, the perseverance and the faith that made all those scenes possible.

See **DAVIS** on C3

2015 VALLEY PRESS BOYS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## Force at the net

### Quartz Hill's Eslinger is Player of Year

By **ALAN HENDRY**  
 Valley Press Staff Writer

Jason Eslinger was playing with his Quartz Hill teammates for the first time this week since the CIF-Southern Section Division 3 championship match on May 23.

Eslinger had volunteered to help during the 33rd annual Antelope Valley College Summer Volleyball Camp and many of his teammates were also there.

It was the close bond the players developed that Eslinger feels helped the Rebels to their undefeated season in the Golden League and run to the title match, coming three points away from winning the championship.

"I think we played our best," Eslinger said. "Obviously I'm still upset we didn't win, but we have to move on."

"We definitely played our hearts out, but it wasn't enough that day."

Eslinger himself earned individual honors for his play, being named to the All-CIF Southern Section Division 3 team, along with senior teammate Jakob Dipoma and Eastside junior Zane Griggs.

Eslinger was also named to the All-Golden League First Team and is the 2015 Valley Press Boys Volleyball Player of the Year.

"He's an all-around volleyball player," said Quartz Hill second-year coach Patrick Studdert. "He's our best defender. He's our best blocker. He's one of our best hitters."

"He's the reason why we win, why we won the Golden League title and also why we made it as far as we did."

Besides helping guide his team to the championship match, Eslinger also helped the Rebels



**CHRISTINA RAMOS/Valley Press**

**DOMINATION** — Quartz Hill junior Jason Eslinger, right, spikes the ball against Gahr junior Niko Lopez in the semifinals of the CIF-SS Division 3 playoffs at Quartz Hill High School on May 20. Eslinger is the 2015 Valley Press Boys Volleyball Player of the Year.

finish undefeated in Golden League play for their first league title since 2013.

"I think we had an excellent year," Eslinger said. "We had an excellent run. I've been told there have been only three teams from the Valley to even make it that far."

"It's nice to set a bar for ourselves for ourselves next year. We've set the bar for next year."

Quartz Hill went undefeated in winning its first championship in 2008, the Rebels first title game

See **VOLLEYBALL** on C3

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION B STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



**RUBY VARELA/Valley Press**

**HANGING AT THE HANGAR** — The Southern California Amateur Softball Association B State Tournament kicks off Friday evening at The Hangar with over 140 teams registered for the tournament.

## Ceremony opens tourney

### SoCal ASA B State Championships kick off at Hangar

By **SHEL SEGAL**  
 Valley Press Staff Writer

LANCASTER — With all the pomp and circumstance of the Olympic Games, the opening ceremonies for Southern California Amateur Softball Association B State Championships got underway at The Hangar on Friday evening.

Featuring a parade of the more than 140 teams from as far away as Carlsbad, Escondido and Oxnard, the players got a chance to mingle with one another, parade around the stadium track and even trade pins of their teams.

And with more than 5,000 people attending the ceremony, Efrain Carrera, Jr., recreation and program coordinator, city of Lancaster, said it's hard to find an event of this type with this size anywhere in the country.

"It's the top of the top of the girls' junior Olympic games," said Carrera, who added approximately 1,700 girls ages 8 through 16 will be taking part in the tournament. "It's huge all throughout America and this is probably the biggest one."

The tournament began on Friday and will be running through Sunday, Carrera said, with games being played at William J. McAdam Park, Best of the West Softball Complex and Desert Sands Park in Palmdale, and Lancaster City Park in Lancaster.

Carrera added the Valley is the perfect place to be hosting this event. "Our fields are second to none," he said. "Our staff here is very accom-

modating. The resources that people need to be able to stay throughout the weekend are here. And we're blessed with beautiful weather this weekend. Our fields are close, both Palmdale and Lancaster. ... When you can get the fields within a range of 15 miles, 20 miles, that makes it a lot easier."

He also said the purpose of the ceremonies are for everyone to just get to meet each other. And to trade pins.

"When we're hosting our games and when the game are going on, you don't really get a glimpse of what 1,700 kids looks like," Carrera said. "Opening ceremonies is when everyone gets together, and what they do is pin trade. If I'm from Murrieta, I have a Murrieta pin and I'm going to trade with someone from the Antelope Valley. It's a good chance for girls around Southern California to mingle and get

See **SOFTBALL** on C3

TENNIS | WIMBLEDON

## Fed tops Murray, Djoker next

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
 Associated Press

LONDON — If Roger Federer was going to allow Andy Murray to gain a foothold in the Wimbledon semifinals, this seemed as if it might be the moment.

Murray delivered a 129 mph ace to pull out an epic seven-deuce, 15-minute game, saving five set points along the way, to get to 5-all in the second set. As he strutted near the Centre Court stands, shaking his fist and roaring, spectators loudly saluted the effort with a standing ovation.

"I," Federer would say later, "was screaming inside."

Was Murray suddenly making a match of it? Swinging the momentum his way? Not against Federer. Not on this day. Displaying the impeccable serving he produced all match — indeed, all fortnight — Federer held at love right away, then broke Murray in the next game. And that, essentially, was that.

Federer's 7-5, 7-5, 6-4 victory Friday, built by taking 70 of 91 points he served and breaking Murray in the last game of each set, moved him into his 10th Wimbledon final. One more win would make Federer the first man with eight titles at The Championships, as the grass-court tournament first held in 1877

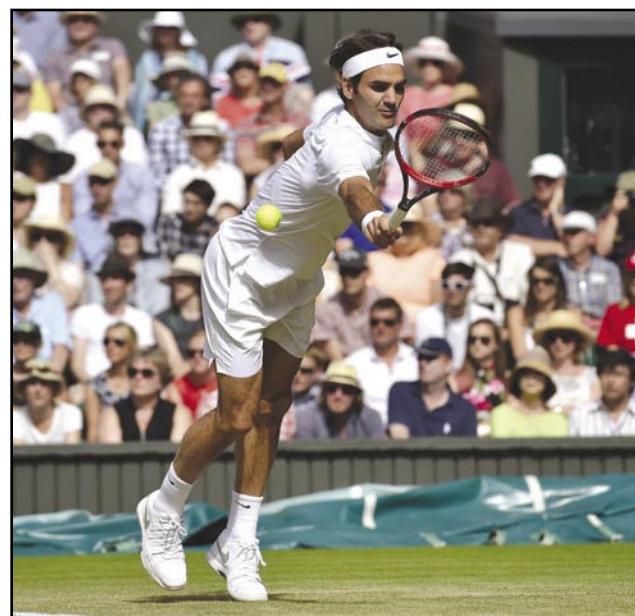
is known around these parts.

"Doesn't matter whether it's No. 8 or No. 1," Federer said, "Wimbledon finals is always a big occasion."

On Sunday, the No. 2-seeded Federer faces No. 1 Novak Djokovic in a rematch of last year's final. Djokovic won that one in five sets to keep Federer stuck on seven trophies at the All England Club, tied with Pete Sampras and 1880s player Willie Renshaw, and a record 17 Grand Slam trophies overall.

Djokovic, who also won Wimbledon in 2011 and owns eight major titles, advanced by beating No. 21 Richard Gasquet 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4.

See **WIMBLEDON** on C2



**BACK TO YOU**  
 Roger Federer of Switzerland returns a shot to Andy Murray of Britain, during the men's singles semifinal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, England on Friday.

Associated Press