

(After games of Saturday, Feb. 20) (Previous rank in parentheses)

1. Mater Dei (Santa Ana) 26-1 (1) The Monarchs opened the CIF Southern Section Div. I-AA playoffs with a 95-46 victory over Corona. Keala King, an Arizona State commit, led the way with 17 points as coach Gary McKnight substituted freely. The second round contest was a bit tighter, as Long Beach Jordan trailed by only six points at halftime. Mater Dei heated up in the second half, nailing 16 3-pointers in all, and won going away, 103-77. The Monarchs were on the road and on a night when Jordan coach Ron Massey was honored for recording his 500th victory earlier in the season, the veteran mentor came away impressed with the Monarchs' unit. Mr. Basketball candidate Tyler Lamb led the way with 25 points while King added 22. The goal is obviously an eighth CIF state title for Mater Dei, but the Monarchs are motivated to win a section title as well, something that has eluded them since the 2006 season. Tuesday night, Mater Dei squared off with 23-6 Los Alamitos.

2. Westchester (Los Angeles) 24-3 (2) Unlike top CIF Southern Section teams, the L.A. City Section playoffs don't have five rounds, so the top-seeded Comets played only one game last week. The first round was blowout city, as Westchester defeated Lincoln of Lincoln Heights, 67-30. Dwayne Polee Jr. has played well in recent weeks and led the way with 16 points. Junior Robert Gsellman has been an unsung hero in the Comets' big wins this year and contributed 13 points. One less round for city teams means the competition heads up right away in the quarterfinals and over the years some talented teams have lost in that round. Westchester hopes to avoid a letdown on Wednesday when it faces 19-7 Fremont of Los Angeles, which defeated L.A. Jordan in a first-round thriller.

3. Salesian (Richmond) 27-1 (3) Far and away the top-ranked small school team in the state, Coach Bill Mellis' defending Division IV state champion Pride grabbed the No. 1 seed in the CIF North Coast Section Division IV playoffs after winning the Bay Shore Athletic League. Following a 59-54 semifinal victory over an arch-rival St. Mary's (Berkeley) team that always plays them tough, Salesian flexed its muscles in a 61-43 title game victory over a St. Joseph Notre Dame of Alameda team that not only is the top-ranked Division V team in the state, but had also pinned a 38-29 semifinal loss on a very good St. Patrick St. Vincent of Vallejo in the semifinals. Most of the top seeds in the NCS's large-school brackets get byes but not in D4, so the Pride opens action on Wednesday at home against Clear Lake. **4. Long Beach Poly (Long Beach) 25-3 (4)** Poly's quest for its first CIF state title in over 25 years began with a matchup against Great Oak of Temecula. Coach Sharrief Metoyer knew he had to try and slow down Great Oak's backcourt ace LaBradford Franklin. His team responded, limiting the San Diego State signee to eight points in a 82-53 win. Great Oak didn't have much size and was unable to slow down the trio of Ryan Anderson, Shelton Boykin and Roshcon Prince, who combined for 36 points and 19 boards. Poly was on the road in the High Desert for the second round and just couldn't put Palmdale Knight away. The home squad trailed 42-33 after three quarters, but scored 22 points to make things interesting before falling, 57-55. Anderson and Prince led the way with a combined 24 points and Metoyer got some clutch free throw shooting from Robert Nixon. The state's all-time winningest program hit the road on Tuesday night against Los Osos of Rancho Cucamonga.

5. Newark Memorial (Newark) 25-3 (5) They may have had some close games over the final stretch of Mission Valley Athletic League play, but that was not the case last weekend in the league playoffs. Newark Memorial posted an 83-47 win over Kennedy of Fremont in the semis and 73-34 in the title game over a James Logan (Union City) team it had beaten during league play by five and four points in two meetings. Since a 47-37 loss to Salesian on MLK Day at Cal, Coach Craig Ashmore's Cougars have won 10 straight. As expected, the boys earned the NCS Division I top seed and get a first round bye. They will play either Antioch or Deer Valley (Antioch) in a

Friday night home game.

6. Taft (Woodland Hills) 22-4 (6) Taft's opening round game in the L.A. City Section playoffs was also a laugher as the Toreadors pounded Sylmar, 128-29. USC commit Bryce Jones and Texas commit DeAndre Daniels combined for 46 points in the easy win. Coach Derrick Taylor is hoping for that type of production from his two most talented players in the quarterfinal matchup with 14-12 Cleveland of Reseda and a probable showdown at USC's Galen Center with state-ranked Crenshaw in the semifinals. Taft has been a bit inconsistent this year, which may be a concern in the later rounds, but Taylor likely feels his team has not yet played its best game of the season, either.

7. Serra (Gardena) 27-2 (7) Vaughn Autry poured in 28 points as the Cavaliers began the CIFSS Division IIIA playoffs with an easy 78-47 win against Servite of Anaheim. They followed that up with another playoff romp of 88-51 over Pacifica of Garden Grove. Serra's quarterfinal matchup on Tuesday night was against Golden Valley of Santa Clarita.

8. Ocean View (Huntington Beach) 25-3 (8) Favored to win the CIFSS Div. III-AA title, the Seahawks got on the right track toward making that happen with wins against Agoura of Agoura Hills (81-67) and Apple Valley (71-47). Avery Johnson (21 points) and Anthony Brown (20 points) both played well against the Chargers. The Apple Valley win featured Brown with 19 points and a solid outing from Ryan Okwudibonye, who tossed in 18 points. La Habra was Ocean View's quarterfinal opponent on Tuesday night.

9. Bishop O'Dowd (Oakland) 22-3 (9) It was a very ho-hum week for O'Dowd heading into the NCS Division III playoffs. With no league playoffs, the Dragons finished up Hayward Area Athletic League play with two road victories, 67-37 and 71-58 over Hayward and Castro Valley, respectively. The NCS D3 top seed hosted a Del Norte (Crescent City) team that traveled 400 miles for a Tuesday night game in Oakland. Looking ahead, the playoff field does not look that strong. This year's No. 2 seed, Analy of Sebastopol, returns the same team that upset O'Dowd last year when the Dragons were the top seed and the Tigers were fifth.

10. Harvard-Westlake (North Hollywood) 24-4 (10) The Harvard-Westlake vs. Serra final in the CIFSS Div. IIIA bracket moved closer to reality as the Wolverines took care of business in their first two playoff outings. Their wins were by 79-43 over Palos Verdes (Palos Verdes Estates) and 80-51 over South Hills (Covina). As has been the case for more than a month, Erik Swoope was on fire for H-W and connected for 30 points in each of the games. Damiene Cain also had a strong outing vs. South Hills with 23 points and 10 rebounds. The Wolverines' played Calabasas in their quarterfinal game on Tuesday night.

11. Price (Los Angeles) 26-3 (11) Facing State Athlete of the Week Darren Smith and his team from Banning was no problem for the Knights. They have a recent State Athlete of the Week of their own in Allen Crabbe and he went off for 32 points and 11 rebounds as Price crushed the Broncos, 87-37, in the CIFSS Div. IVAA playoffs. Price also won its first playoff game, 87-45, vs. South Pasadena. The two wins advanced head coach Michael Lynch's team to this week's quarterfinals against Morningside of Inglewood.

12. Leuzinger (Lawndale) 21-6 (12) In the larger school divisions of the CIFSS playoffs, upsets are often more plentiful. The Olympians had no such problem in their first two games as they beat Lancaster, 90-65, and then raced past Capistrano Valley of Mission Viejo, 76-60. Delon Wright approached a triple-double against Lancaster in finishing with 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Amir Garrett and Teshon Burton, meanwhile, both scored 20 points in the win over Capo Valley. If players such as Burton and Chayson Williams keep stepping up like they have so far, Leuzinger could certainly go deep into the postseason.

13. Loyola (Los Angeles) 25-2 (13) Julian Harrell knocked down 24 points and hauled in eight

rebounds as the Cubs advanced in the CIFSS Div. IA playoffs with a 68-43 triumph against Patriot of Riverside. Earlier in the week, Loyola opened up a 21-5 lead in the first quarter in a playoff-opening 83-38 romp past Perris. Joe Stein was one of four in double-figures in the win with 16 points. On Tuesday night, the Cubs played Mission Viejo in the quarterfinals.

14. De La Salle (Concord) 24-2 (14) Leading the bottom of the NCS D1 bracket is the team that will likely face top-seeded Newark Memorial in the title game, coach Frank Allocco's Spartans, who captured the second-seed and a first-round bye. They will be at home on Friday awaiting the San Leandro vs. Washington of Fremont winner. The East Bay Athletic League is one with no playoffs, but Sparta wrapped up league play last week with two typical grind-it-out victories, 45-39 and 41-34 over Monte Vista of Danville and California of San Ramon, respectively, giving them 15 straight wins since a league loss to No. 18 San Ramon Valley. Going into the playoffs, Allocco continues to move toward a spot on the all-time coaching victory list after getting win No. 520 in last week's action.

15. St. Francis (Mountain View) 25-2 (15) There are those who say the West Catholic Athletic League is a little down this year, but don't tell that to the top ranked team from the Central Coast Section, which just accomplished a significant feat. The Lancers won their 17th straight game in claiming the first ever 17-game perfect WCAL season. To get there, they took out Valley Christian in a 68-40 blowout, and then they beat Mitty of San Jose, 63-51, in the semifinals. To win the league playoff title to go with the regular season crown, coach Mike Motil's boys had to beat Serra for a third time this season, which they did, but it wasn't easy. Previous ESPN RISE CalHiSports.com Boys State Athlete of the week and WCAL Player of the Year Tyler Johnson had 19 points and Spencer Britschgi added 11 points and the Lancers overcame a 36-33 deficit after three quarters to take a 57-54 victory. The defending CCS and NorCal Division II champions have a double-bye as the CCS D2 top seed and won't see action until the quarterfinals on Saturday.

16. Centennial (Corona) 25-4 (16) The Huskies opened the CIFSS Division I-AA playoffs by scoring their highest point total in a game this season in a 103-44 victory over Cabrillo of Long Beach after leading 60-30 at halftime. That season-best scoring total didn't last long, either, as the Huskies went and topped it two days later in a 106-69 win over Lynwood. Leading by just 10 at halftime, the Huskies dominated the second half by outscoring the Knights, 56-29. Led by Gelaun Wheelwright and Dominique Dunning, Centennial continued its playoff season on Tuesday against Etiwanda.

17. Centennial (Compton) 23-5 (17) With two wins last week to open the CIFSS Division III-A playoffs, the Apaches were on an 11-game win streak when they played La Canada on Tuesday night. As the No. 3 seed, the Apaches opened the postseason with a 67-48 win over Irvine as Alex Lambeth made six 3-pointers to finish with 18 points. They had to go on the road to play Charter Oak of Covina in the second-round, but managed a 60-54 victory.

18. San Ramon Valley (Danville) 23-2 (18) The third team from the NCS Division I playoffs to make the rankings, veteran Coach John Raynor's Wolverines ended the season with two East Bay Athletic League victories, 72-65 at Foothill of Pleasanton and 46-34 at Monte Vista of Danville. After splitting with and tying De La Salle at 13-1 in league, Raynor's boys were rewarded with the No. 3 seed in the NCS D1 playoffs. They opened on Tuesday night against the same Foothill team they beat last week.

19. Rancho Verde (Moreno Valley) 25-3 (19) The Mustangs found a way to continue their playoff ride into this week in the CIFSS Division I-AA playoffs with a 49-21 win over Downey. Kyle Fuller and Sonny Reese each scored 16 points in the win while the defense held Downey to its lowest point total of the season. In the second round against Lakewood, it was the Kyle Fuller show as he scored 40 points in a 65-57 road victory for the Mustangs. Rancho Verde advanced to

this week's quarterfinals.

20. Crenshaw (Los Angeles) 20-3 (20) It was a strange first two CIF L.A. City Section playoff games for the Cougars in that their first game, an 87-65 win vs. Coliseum League rival Dorsey, was much closer than the second-round matchup vs. South Gate. Crenshaw crushed the Rams, 76-29, and led 39-12 at halftime. This week, the Cougars will play 15-11 Birmingham of Lake Balboa in the quarterfinals.

Dropped Out: None.

On the Bubble: Buchanan (Clovis) 20-6, Castro Valley 21-5, Center (Antelope) 24-2, Chino Hills 26-2, Eisenhower (Rialto) 25-5, Foothill (Tustin) 26-2, Franklin (Elk Grove) 23-4, Hoover (San Diego) 23-5, Lincoln (San Diego) 21-2, Serra (San Mateo) 23-4, Vista del Lago (Folsom) 25-2. Comments or corrections? Email mark@studentsports.com and be sure to leave a comment so others can check out what you have to say.

New Cal-Hi Sports Bay Area Hoop Rankings

Tue, 02/23/2010 - 6:21pm

Salesian boys and Bishop O'Dowd girls continue to lead the way heading into the first week of section playoffs. To see highlights of many of these teams, watch Cal-Hi Sports Bay Area on Sunday at 7 p.m. on YourTV 20, San Francisco. Replays are shown during the week on Comcast Sportsnet throughout Northern California.

By Harold Abend, Special to CalHiSports.com

The CalHiSports.com caravan criss-crossed the Bay Area's bridges with trips to San Francisco, Piedmont, Concord, Santa Rosa and Larkspur last week, catching four girls games, two boys games and a CIF North Coast Section playoff soccer match covered for ESPN RISE.

The first stop on last week's tour was at St. Ignatius (San Francisco), where in a nightmarish performance, the Wildcat girls made 10-of-50 shots from the field, 11-of-21 from the free-throw line and had no assisted baskets in a 34-31 WCAL semifinal home loss to Notre Dame of Belmont.

That's right. Despite all the above, the hosts almost won the game.

Alfred University (NY) commit **Eilise O'Conner** had 17 points and nine steals to keep the Wildcats close.

The next night we took in a Carondelet victory over James Logan in the NCS D1 soccer playoffs, but to find out about that and other California and national soccer news and rankings you'll have to visit the [ESPN RISE High School Soccer](http://ESPNRISE.com) site.

On Thursday, we saw the Piedmont girls take a 44-33 BSAL semifinal victory from St. Joseph Notre Dame.

Friday night was a doubleheader in front of a packed house at Santa Rosa Junior College, where the Montgomery boys and girls swept the North Bay League playoff titles. The girls won it with a 41-38 victory over Maria Carrillo, while the boys posted a controversial 51-49 victory over