

Coach, here is the article from the Clayton Pioneer. As you well know 8 of the 9 players on our team are regulars at Excel Basketball Camp. We take pride in emulating what you teach throughout the summer, and it pays off.

Back to Back Diocese Champions.

2010 5th Grade St. Bonaventure Rolls to Back to Back Diocese Championships!

The 2009-2010 Diablo East CYO season opened with the Bulldogs from St. Bonaventure being the odds on favorite to compete for a league championship. They ended up tied for first place with St. Ignatius of Antioch, and when it came to the head to head tie-breaker St. Ignatius came out on top.

But, that didn't phase the Bulldogs who were in the exact same position the year before as 4th graders, when they emerged as Diocese Champions.

With their roster intact with the same 9 players that had won in 4th grade, the young Bulldogs set out to repeat as Champions. Josh Lunsford, Kevin Snyder, Usmaan Alloo, and Chris Rogan who led the amazing 4th quarter comeback the previous year were psyched and ready to go. Evan Enos who missed the first few games of the season with a broken hand, was back in the fold and shooting lights out coming into the playoffs. Point guard Chad Treppa, not only controlled the tempo of the games, but also forced the tempo of the opponent along his other two defensive stoppers Ryan Redmond and Kevin Snyder. The "Big 3" in size and in scoring were Taylor Heuermann, Bill Ralston, and Chris Rogan. All three of which dominated both offensively and defensively throughout the season.

The Bulldogs came into the Diocese playoffs a tough minded defensive team. They knew if they played great defense and rebounded that they would have an excellent chance at repeating as Champions. Coaches Mike Treppa and Tim Lunsford had stressed all season long the importance of great defense and the Bulldogs responded.

All 3 playoff games were played in Oakland at St. Elizabeth's High School. The opening round matchup for the Bulldogs was St. David's from Richmond, CA. The 'Dogs came out fast and hard with great defense and a ton of fast break points. With a big lead throughout the game, they were never pressured, as they won going away, 55-14.

In the semifinals they would square off against Corpus Christi from Piedmont, CA. Once again the Bulldogs jumped out early with aggressive defense that smothered the Corpus Christi ball-handlers. This led to a halftime lead of 25-5, and put the Bulldogs in a position to cruise in the second half eventually wrapping it up with a 41-15 win. In each of the first 2 games, all the boys contributed both offensively and defensively, it was truly a team effort.

The Finals were now set. St. Bonaventure would face St. Johns of El Cerrito, CA. The Bulldogs were confident coming into the finals, knowing if they played their game they would have a great chance to repeat. They did just that! The swarming defense in the first half, and the offensive play of sharpshooter Ryan Redmond gave the Bulldogs a halftime cushion of 8 points as they led 22-14. In the second half they turned up the defensive pressure even more, and held St. Johns to just 4 points the entire half. With a final score of 43-18, the St. Bonaventure Bulldogs captured their second Diocese Championship in as many years. They truly dominated the 3 games of the tournament, outscoring their opponents 139-47 on their way to the title.

Coach Treppa said of his team, "It was truly an honor to coach these boys this season, they continue to strive to get better every day. The great families we have been blessed with on this team make coaching these boys something both Coach Lunsford and I will never forget."