

2013 TOP 10 SPORTS MOMENTS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

RUNAWAY WINNERS

Maxwell, Young, Ayanbadejo stand out among year's top local stories



SHERYL GERMANY/CONTRIBUTED

SLV senior Anna Maxwell races to a Division IV record and title at the state cross country championships in November. Her bevy of championships put her atop two Sentinel staffers' lists for the top sports story of 2013.

Sentinel staff report

One look at the most captivating national sporting moments of 2013 will easily put a person into a dour mood heading into the new year. All the scandals, murders, hoaxes and steroid cover-ups make it tough to have a positive outlook.

Not so in Santa Cruz County. Here it was the year of hyperbole. In fact, so many impressive local athletes and team accomplished so many amazing feats that even with four Sentinel staffers picking their top 10, we couldn't get them all in. Here are the ones that made our short lists:

10. CABRILLO WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINS STATE TITLE:

A power for years under coach Gabby Houston Neville, the Seahawks took another grand step forward by beating Grossmont 28-26, 25-21, 19-25, 25-19 to win their first state crown and the school's first team title. The win capped a perfect 31-0 season and brought NorCal the title for the first time in the modern history of the tournament. Moreover, the Seahawks accomplished the feat with a roster that features seven players from the county. Count me among the impressed.



JIM SEIMAS
Asst. Sports Editor

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2. CABRILLO VOLLEYBALL DOMINATES STATE, MAKES NORCAL PROUD: Coach Gabby Houston Neville made her team watch excerpts of Herb Brooks' speech from the movie "Miracle" every day before the state tournament, and the Seahawks' win was hardly less amazing than the USA hockey team's 1980 Olympics victory over Russia. Cabrillo became the first NorCal team to win the California Community College Athletic Association title in the modern, 36-year history of the tournament, breaking its own streak of first-day losses and finishing an undefeated 31-0, also a NorCal first. It only lost eight sets the entire season.

MATHESON

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6. CABRILLO VOLLEYBALL WINS STATE TITLE: The coolest thing about this team? It's not the 31-0 record, or the Coast Conference championship. It's the fact that seven players hail from Santa Cruz County. The perfect compilation of local talent, the Seahawks became the first NorCal team in 36 years to win the state title.

MAY

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4. CABRILLO VOLLEYBALL WINS STATE: With an undefeated season on the line, the Seahawks made good on all their talent and success this season by becoming the first NorCal team in 36 years to win the community college state title. Behind a cadre of Santa Cruz County high school standouts, the Seahawks went 31-0 for the first undefeated record in program history and became Cabrillo's first sports team to win a state championship since at least 1982.