



Miners move quickly against Ignacio

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Head coach Andrew Fenity's first halftime speech was right on the mark.

"I think that's the best soccer we've played yet. I really do," he told the Lady Bobcats at Down Valley Park near Placerville, Colo.

Save for an 18th-minute turnover forced by and ultimately converted by Telluride's Molly Mitchell — four minutes after she headed home teammate Sonja Erickson's perfect crossing pass to the back post — and a Jessi Solomon score (ricocheting off Ignacio's Shawni Troup, and away from ready goalkeeper Nicole Williams) in the 35th, IHS's development to date was visible on Friday, March 30.

And it had held a potent THS roster — minus injured standout Sarah Wontroboski — to essentially just two goals, which little could be done to prevent. One was Mitchell's hat-trick strike in the 20th; the other stood up to be the match winner, courtesy Kealey Zaumseil in the fourth minute.

Having finished 10th nationally in Dual Moguls skiing a weekend earlier at the 2012 Sprint U.S. Freestyle Championships in Vermont, the highly regarded freshman's other boots then created and cashed the Lady Miners' most important goal of the 3A Southwestern League doubleheader.

Likely aware that Ignacio, save for Solomon's good fortune, had blanked Telluride for a solid 15-minute stretch (the two matches were played with 35-minute halves, rather than the usual 40s) going into intermission, Zaumseil restarted her team's motor with a goal in the 38th that Williams could not control.

Another highlight-reel header, provided by Toni Hill off a Solomon corner kick, followed six minutes later, and an IHS own-goal in the 51st — under pressure from an Erin Pihl corner, THS's sixteenth already in the contest — gave the Lady Miners an 8-0 lead.



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Destinee Lucero (17) leaps to trap a ball as Telluride's Toni Hill (7) watches during 3A Southwestern League action at Down Valley Park on March 30.

Julia Stanfield's penalty kick in the 56th made the score 9-0, and Pihl netted a relatively easy 10th in the 58th.

Having surrendered an alarming 18 corners total, Ignacio's adjustments paid off in Match 2 as Telluride generated just eight. But frustrations boiled over in the 21st when Mitchell was mashed by a Shannon Mestas shoulder. Allowing action to continue in front of an appalled Hill, the referees did IHS a favor by keeping their cards pocketed.

A yellow was eventually given, but fortunately not for brutal play; Ignacio's Jasmine Red was booked before the second-half kickoff for wearing jewelry onto the field.

And despite regular rotation of his personnel, plus another goalie switch — Emma Walker-Silverman had initially replaced Match 1 netminder Brooke Kama, and was herself replaced for the second half of Match 2 by Maddie Johnson — Telluride assistant Leandra Peralta was unable to indirectly aid the visitors in getting a goal. Or at least a legit scoring chance.

Taking set-up touches from

Zaumseil and Mitchell, Hill side-footed in a 54th-minute goal from close range to officially end the afternoon, a minute after reserve Sarah Barr shoved in an unexpected score.

Williams, working the full elapsed 112 minutes, finished with 20 total saves as THS (7-1-1, 5-1-1 SWL) fired 54 total shots into the air (37 on net), opposed by Ignacio's three.

Following Spring Break, the Lady Bobcats (0-4, 0-4) return April 10 (4 p.m., IHS Field) against Center, Ignacio's first of four slated league matches within a week.

SCORING SUMMARY:
Match 1 — Zaumseil, T (assist Ryan Hanley) 4; Mitchell, T (Erickson) 14; Mitchell 18; Mitchell 20; Solomon, T 35; Zaumseil 38; Hill, T (Solomon) 44; Ignacio own-goal 51; Stanfield, T [PK] 56; Pihl, T 58.
Match 2—Hanley (Karla Rodriguez, Erickson) 3; Stanfield [PK] 11; Hanley 17; Zaumseil (Hill) 19; Rodriguez 28; Mitchell (Brooke Kama) 45; Hanley 46; Hill 48; Barr, T (Mitchell) 53; Hill (Zaumseil, Mitchell) 54.

Hayes-ing rites: IHS runs well

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

A hallmark of successful small-town prep athletics is the athletes' versatility.

Having gone all-out one last time in both football and wrestling, Ignacio senior Jeff Herrera passed the time on an idle baseball weekend by donning a Bobcat track-and-field uniform and helping IHS win the 800-meter relay at last weekend's Harry J. Hayes Invitational in Bloomfield, N.M.

A 1-2 result in the discus — senior Shane Richmond slinging it 122 feet and classmate Colton Wyatt right behind at 119 — helped the boys' team amass 54 points, good for a share (with Dulce, N.M.) of third place. The hosting 4A Bobcats won easily with 150, well clear of second-place Bayfield, which registered 91. 2A East Mountain (Sandia Park, N.M.) rounded out the top five with 31 points.

2A Jemez Valley (Jemez Pueblo, N.M.) was sixth with 30, followed by 2A Newcomb, N.M. (14), 2A Cuba, N.M. (8), and 1A

Tse Yi Gai (Cuba, N.M.; 6 pts.).

One of Herrera's teammates on the 4x2, senior Dusty Mangus, enjoyed a solid day with a winning pole vault of 11-foot-6 and a fourth in the open 200. In that event, he trailed sophomore Adam Herrera, winner of the sprint as well as the open 100, the aforementioned 4x2, and the long jump for good measure.

Senior Teagan Overturf completed Ignacio's baton bunch, with Richmond earning IHS — which began the season at the March 17 Bloomfield Quadrangular — more points with his fifth-place shot-put finish.

A Lady Bobcat roster counting just four individuals managed to total 14 points, six ahead of Tse Yi Gai, and take seventh place. Bloomfield again outdistanced 3A Bayfield for first, 135-77, with 2A Dulce (71) finishing third. Cuba (61), Jemez Valley (42), and EMHS (30) ran 4-5-6.

Freshman Sky Cotton led the way with runner-up times in the 100 and 200 dashes, and also placed fifth in the long jump. Sophomore Cloe Seibel ran second in the 400 meters, and

backed it up with a third in the 800-meter run.

Up next for IHS, with State-qualifying pressure added, will be the Pine River Invitational at Bayfield's Wolverine Country Stadium on April 14 at 9 a.m.

The Bobcats made their first attempt at qualifying for State the weekend before Bloomfield, at the March 23 Montezuma-Cortez Invitational. Ignacio's boys totaled 74 points and finished fourth out of 11 scoring squads, while the girls' 46 tied them with 3A Monte Vista for fifth.

The host 4A Panthers swept the team titles, with the boys racking up 123 points and the girls 130.

Individual winners for Ignacio were Richmond in the discus (125 feet, 2 inches), Adam Herrera in the long jump (19 feet, 10.75 inches) and the 400 (51.91 seconds), and Michelle Simmons in the high jump (5 feet, 2 inches) and 200 (27.88 seconds).

Simmons nearly did the 100/200 double, but was beat by Dolores' Lexi Atkinson by eight-hundredths (13.53 seconds to 13.61) of a tick in the shorter sprint.



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Elco Garcia (black trunks) has a lock on where he wants to wallop Antonio Mesquita during the final bout of "March Mayhem" on March 24 inside the Sky Ute Casino Resort's Events Center. Garcia went on to win by unanimous decision after 10 rounds.

G-men get their men at 'Mayhem'

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

For all their repeated head gestures of disagreement with referee Stephen Blea, reasons for Antonio Mesquita's and Bernardo Guereca's defeats couldn't have been any clearer as they exited.

Las Vegas' Mesquita huffed out a couple pitiful protest laps inside the ropes, apparently not acknowledging the massive bloodstain (from an ear still trickling down his torso) down the left leg of his trunks. Guereca, of El Paso, Texas, gave his mouthpiece a few swift kicks along the mat back to his corner.

And if all that wasn't telltale enough, the gents' showings in the ring during the co-main bouts didn't help their cases at "March Mayhem" inside Sky Ute Casino Resort's Events Center Saturday, March 24.

After hanging fairly close through three rounds at 160 with Ignacio's Elco Garcia, Mesquita made the mistake of calling "The Animal" out late in Round 4 of the night's grand finale. Garcia landed a solid hook late, to which Mesquita tapped his jaw with his own mitts as if to say "Didn't hurt." Looking annoyed but amused, Garcia went straight at that jaw with a left/right combo just before the bell.

"I like to always go forward," said Garcia of the incident, "and I couldn't let him intimidate me."

As claret began leaking seriously in Round 6, Mesquita, to his credit, fought on well enough to connect on several flush blows, including a sweeping right late in the eighth. But warned too often to keep his head up and cease his frequent clinching, as well as sustaining a stern pounding, Mesquita was simply too far behind after the full 10

rounds to hope for the decision.

It went to Garcia (26-8, 12 KO), 99-91, 97-93 and 98-92, incensing Mesquita (35-3, 27 KO) to a level where cornerman/Ignacio frequenter Layla McCarter (34-13-5, 7 KO) helped smooth things over.

"I knew he was a tough fighter, had a good record and everything," Garcia said, noting that Mesquita's last loss was hastened by an injured shoulder rather than his opponent. "He got me with some good shots, but I just can't let anybody back me up. Know what I mean?"

About the only thing Garcia wasn't pumped about, in contrast to Gomez, was his preparation.

"I wasn't happy with this fight," he said. "It was a good opportunity for me, and I'm going to train even harder and go forward from here. I can do better; I'm already back in the gym, running again."

"I want to also thank Byron Frost," he added, "and Etta Frost ... I appreciate all their support."

Clashing for a third time against Guereca, New Mexico's "Ironman" Joe Gomez wasted little time softening his opponent, scoring a knockdown inside the last ten ticks of Round 1, then pressing Blea into giving Guereca a standing-eight early in Round 2 en route to a unanimous (79-69, 78-71, 79-70) verdict after eight rounds at the middleweight limit of 160 pounds.

"That was my main plan," Gomez said, recalling a defeat previously dealt him via judges' scorecards favoring Guereca. "We were going for a knockout, and a knockout only. That's what I wanted; wish that knockdown had come 30, 40 seconds before, you know?"

Now 2-1 versus the Texan, Gomez climbed to 18-5-1 (8 KO) as Guereca sank to 16-14-1 (3 KO).

"He told me I'm one of the hardest he's ever fought," Gomez remembered from the pair's centering hug after duo's battle, "and I also told him that style-wise, he's one of the best I've ever fought."

Landing possibly the two hardest left hooks seen all night, Colorado Springs-based rookie Jeremy Ramos improved to 1-0 after a TKO (at 0:49 of Round 4; four rounds scheduled) over Towaoc's Zamir Young (0-2) at a super-middleweight 162 pounds.

Sporting old-school black trunks, with a face and hairdo resembling the portrayal of Max Baer in "Cinderella Man," Colorado Springs heavyweight Juan Ramos (1-0) downed Towaoc's Jerome Lopez (0-1) in Round 2 of their four-rounder, en route to a TKO 0:47 into Round 3.

Razzed by comical "Banana!" shouts, referring to his yellow/gold trunks and boots, Farmington super-middleweight Grant John (1-0) peeled Albuquerque's Omar Quevedo apart in a unanimous 40-35, 40-35, 40-35 win at 165. Quevedo (0-1) had a point deducted for an inability to retain his mouthguard.

The pros' card got underway fine enough, but despite throwing big during Rounds 3 and 4, Albuquerque's Eric Gonzalez was unable to sway the three wise men at ringside against Farmington's Andre Harrison at 124. Both featherweights saw their records dip to respective 1-0-1 figures after the four most depressing words in the game were verbalized: "We have a draw!"

The following bouts were scratched: Chavira Jack (Farmington, N.M.; 1-0-1) vs. Desiree Duran (Albuquerque; 0-0), 4 at 130, and Jazma Hogue (Farmington; 2-0) vs. David Yanez (Las Vegas; 1-2-1), 4 at 124.

Amateurs set off 'Mayhem'

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Standing inside the ropes alongside Sky Ute Casino Resort Marketing Director Ben Fernandez, trainer/cornerman George Manzanares couldn't help but grin as Fernandez reminded the fans of his exploits in boxing, including a Daily Point of Light Award given in 2000.

His grin spread after seeing the completion of the first amateur card preceding a pro slate in Ignacio in quite some time, pairing 20 young fighters in 10 bouts at "March Mayhem" on Saturday, March 24.

And of five youngsters wearing the George's Independent Boxing Club blue-and-white, two

claimed victory, doing justice to one of the listed "traits" of a DPOL recipient: "Likes to see others do well. They measure their own success largely by the achievements of others."

In Bout 3, Daniel Silva won by decision over fellow GIBC member Mike Archuleta at 95 pounds, avenging 60-pounder Joseph Garcia's card-opening loss to Morris Boxing's Matayo Tillahash.

Antonio Ponce, recently of Kansas-based Bad Boyz Boxing, defeated GIBC's Phillip Greenie at 240 pounds in Bout 4, but Donovan Villarreal won the judges over at 132 pounds against New Mexico-based 11th Street's Marcos Martinez in Bout 7.

Young Allen Garcia of Kansas-

based Los Lobos Boxing topped New Mexico-based Martinez Boxing's Matthew Reyes at 65 pounds in Bout 2, but teammate Hector Trinidad fell at 130 to Martinez's Adan Reyes in Bout #5. And LLBC took another blow to its pride when National Silver Gloves Champion Deyanina Hernandez was upset by Martinez's Jennifer Mendoza at 110 pounds in Bout 6.

Zach Jacquez defeated Aaron Perez at 105 in Bout 8, but sister Dacia Jacquez lost to Martinez's Nattie Martinez at 118 pounds a bout later. And Martinez's Bryan Martinez finished off a good afternoon for the red-and-black with a win over 11th Street's Jose Atencio at 115 pounds in Bout 10.

Baseball: 2A/1A San Juan Basin League					Girls' Soccer: 3A Southwestern League								
Team	OVERALL			SJBL		Team	OVERALL			SWL			
	W	L	Pct.	W	L		W	L	T	W	L	T	
Nucla	1	3	.250	0	0	Bayfield	4	0	0	1.000	4	0	0
IGNACIO	1	4	.200	0	0	Telluride	7	1	1	.778	5	1	1
Dove Creek	1	4	.200	0	0	Alamosa	5	1	1	.714	3	1	1
Dolores	1	6	.143	0	0	Ridgway	2	1	0	.667	2	1	0
						Pagosa Spgs.	1	3	0	.250	1	3	0
						IGNACIO	0	4	0	.000	0	4	0
						Center	0	6	0	.000	0	5	0

—compiled by Joel Priest

All-State Wrestling Alex Pena	All-Conference-Boys' Basketball 1st Team: Shane Richmond Adison Jones Clayton Jefferson Xavier Watts	All-Region Team Shane Richmond Clayton Jefferson
Player of the Year Shane Richmond		All-State Shane Richmond
Coach of the Year Chris Valdez		Congratulations Bobcats!