

EVAC 2004 Highlights

East Valley Athletes for Christ (EVAC) is an association of homeschool families dedicated to exemplifying Christ while participating in athletic competition. It is the goal of EVAC to encourage the hearts and minds of the participating homeschool youth in the love and likeness of Christ. Being a non profit organization, EVAC players pay or fundraise for all of their own fees to cover gym time, officials, uniforms, equipment, etc. EVAC participates in the Charter Athletic Association at both the high school and junior high level.

2004 found EVAC fielding two high school girls basketball teams, one varsity boys team, one junior varsity boys team, and one junior high girls team. Spring brought EVAC in to two high school boys' volleyball teams, one high school girls softball team, and one junior high girls softball team. In the fall, EVAC fielded two high school girls volleyball teams, one junior high girls volleyball team, and in it's debut season a boys high school flag football team. Basketball season for the year consists of a varsity boys team, a junior varsity boys team, a junior high girls team, and for the first time a junior high boys team.

Approximately 100 athletes make up these teams with some playing more than one sport. Here are a few highlights submitted by volunteer coaches:

2004 brought a new sport to the EVAC line-up....**BOY'S VARSITY FLAG FOOTBALL**. What a blast all the guys had. We had an age span of 13 to 17 and fifteen turned out to make up the team. Our season couldn't have append without our three volunteer coaches: Jerry Lumpkin, head coach, took care of the defensive team, Jeff Andresen, an assistant coach, handled the offensive team and Tim Byke, an assistant coach, kept the stats for offense and defense for the season. This was a building season, and the guys learned, improved, and had great success during the season. The biggest success for the EVAC Eagles was beating Jess Schwartz in the play-offs in our final game of the season. We had played J.W. three other times and lost to them. Every game was close and could have been ours, but it was the final game that the team rose to the occasion and executed excellent defense and offense to bring the EVAC out on top with a win. It was a great way to end our first season of play.

Volleyball fever was in the air last fall! The Jr. High girls' team had a very successful season, and first-time coaches David and Larisa Ronda couldn't have been more pleased. The team was comprised of fourteen 7th and 8th graders, many of which had never played the sport before. With only four returning players, there was much to be learned! Pre-season learning camps with Coach Rick Rockwell got the ball off the ground, and the girls' commitment and enthusiasm during the season practices lead them to victory. They held an undefeated record in CAA league play and entered the end-of-season tournament seeded first in their bracket. The Jr. High EVAC girls set an excellent example for sportsmanship and team cohesion as they pressed on through the three day tournament to win the championship match against the Horizon-A charter school team. The EVAC Jr. High girls garnished two large trophies for their successes, and team captains Eden Kroeger and Sarah Young, who won the tournament MVP award for her outstanding setting, are to be commended for their leadership and skill development. Congratulations to all the girls!

High School girls' volleyball was coached by Rick Rockwell. This was Rick's first season as the girls head coach. Twenty two young ladies made up the two high school teams. The Blue team went undefeated in their season with 16 wins. The Silver team ended their season with a record of 10 - 6. The CAA tournament didn't stack up in favor of EVAC with the Blue team finishing fourth and the Silver team losing out in the first round. This provided a great time of character building for all involved. The season highlight for 14 of these ladies was a post season trip to Omaha, Nebraska to the National Christian Homeschool Volleyball Tournament where they competed for three days against homeschool teams from all over the United States. The Lady Eagles finished fourth in the silver bracket and 12th overall out of 23 teams.

2004 EVAC J.V. Boys Basketball Season

Head coach, Greg McInturff and assistant coach, Marvin Melchor thoroughly enjoyed coaching the 2004 EVAC junior varsity boys basketball team. They had a great season! They ended up beating undefeated Sabis in the end of the season tournament winning the CAA state championship. Most important, the Christian character of the team was exemplary and represented home schoolers well.

All in all, 2004 was an awesome year for EVAC sports. Please check out the website at www.evacsports.com if you have a young person interested in playing a junior high or high school sport.

