

## Amador soccer star awarded BUSC scholarship

Dane Shaffar headed for Sonoma State

**NICOLE DOI**

At 5 years old, Dane Shaffar ran onto the soccer field for the first time. Now, nearly 13 years later, the 2012 Amador Valley High graduate is headed to play soccer at his dream school, Sonoma State.

"It's really funny, when I was younger, I always went to tournaments at Sonoma. I always loved the school, but I never knew that I would actually end up there," Shaffar said.

Born and raised in Pleasanton, Shaffar began his soccer career with the Ballistic United Soccer Club, where he played Division 1 from U8s through U19s.

At Amador, Shaffar continued his soccer career and was named captain of the freshmen team, and continued to shine throughout his high school career. Senior year, he was captain of the boy's varsity team.

Shaffar was recognized for his talent on the field as a junior, when he was chosen for the Second-Team All League for the East Bay Athletic League. He further proved his soccer abilities senior year when he was selected for the First-Team All League.

He was also named Amador boy's varsity MVP junior and senior year, making history as the only soccer player at Amador to receive the prestigious award for two consecutive years.

"What makes Dane a special person is his love for his family, loyalty to his friends, and the pride he has each and every day when he represents his community and Amador," wrote Rob Flores, assistant varsity soccer coach at Amador, in his letter of recommendation for the Ballistic United Soccer Club and Erik Lemoine Scholarship.

In 2010, Shaffar had the privilege of playing for the Olympic Development Program as a member of the Cal North State Team.

Soccer has always played a large role in Shaffar's life.

"He has always had a passion for soccer and because he made it his life, we made it ours," said Mitzi Shaffar, Dane's mother.

Dane Shaffar attributes much of his success to those who have all supported him along the way.

"Soccer has pretty much been my life. I find inspiration to succeed in my love of soccer, my family, my teammates, my coaches and the



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Dane Shaffar, recipient of the Ballistic United Soccer Club and Erik Lemoine Scholarship, shows his soccer skills at State Cup.

community," Shaffar said. "I like being a part of something bigger."

This year Shaffar was awarded the Ballistic United Soccer Club and Erik Lemoine Scholarship, which is presented to Foothill or Amador seniors who have represented BUSC, their school and their community in an outstanding manner.

"I feel that Dane Shaffar's charac-

ter and leadership make him a role model not just for soccer players but for anyone who is looking at what is right with our youth today," Amador varsity soccer coach Ken Villegas wrote in his letter of recommendation.

At Sonoma State University, Shaffar plans to major in business. As a recruit for the SSU Seawolves, he

will play under head coach Markus Ziemer.

"I can't wait to get on the field and play with the team," Shaffar said. "There's always room for improvement, and being surrounded by so many talented players and lead by such an amazing coach, Coach Markus, will give me the opportunity to get better." ■

## Eight BUSC members to play in college

The Ballistic United Soccer Club has announced that eight U18 Premier players will be playing soccer in college in the fall. The players continuing their playing careers in college include Tyler Hoffman (Cal State Los Angeles), Brandon Brown (Chico State), Seth Niermeyer (Chico State), Duke Driggs (Cal State East Bay), Collin Hartland (Colorado College), Nandor Krause (Sonoma State), Dane Shaffar (Sonoma State), and Jason Chow (St. Mary's).

Hoffman was named to the All Conference team and voted Most Valuable Player as a goalkeeper for the San Joaquin Athletic Association. Shaffar, two-time Amador high school MVP, was named first team all-league in the East Bay

Athletic League and will be playing alongside fellow teammate and team captain Krause. Dane and Nandor have played together for BUSC since U9 and were both three-year varsity starters at Amador.

Niermeyer has also been playing competitively for BUSC since U9, joining Shaffar and Krause at U11. Niermeyer was a three-year varsity starter at Foothill high school. Chow, another lifetime BUSC competitive player was a four-year varsity player at Amador High School. Brown and Driggs, both of Cal High, joined the club a few years back.

Driggs was also named first team all-league in the East Bay



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Ballistic United Soccer Club players (l-r) Collin Hartland, Seth Niermeyer, Nandor Krause, Dane Shaffar, Duke Driggs, Brandon Brown will continue playing soccer at college.

sive player of the year. Hartland came to the club at U14 and was Dublin High's offensive MVP two years in a row. The U18 Premier

team took first place in the Nor Cal Premier 2 division, a fine way to end the boys' playing career with the club. ■

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Tri-Valley makes impact at Summer Nationals

Five athletes from the Tri-Valley Masters and Tri-Valley Aquatics competed this past weekend at the U.S. Masters Swimming Long Course Summer Nationals hosted at Omaha's Century Link Center. As a team, Luane Rowe, Vicki Espiritu, Adam

Conway, Doug Condon and Bill McCracken placed 25th out of 160 teams. As a two-woman team, Rowe and Espiritu placed 24th overall, while the men's team, Conway, Condon and McCracken, placed 34th.

Rowe placed first in the 1500m free, 400m free and 200m and second in the 400m individual medley and 200m butterfly, setting national records in the 1500m and 800m free. McCracken placed first in the 800m free and second in the 200m free. Espiritu and Con-

way placed in the top 10 for their events. Rowe, Espiritu, Conway and Condon joined forces to place second in both the 200m mixed free relay and medley relay.

### Warriors basketball camp

The Golden State Warriors Basketball Camp will hold a five-day session at Robert Livermore Community Center in Livermore from July 30-Aug. 3, for boys and girls, ages 7-15, of all skill levels. The

staff is current high school and college coaches, as well as current and former local college players; camps also feature appearances by current and former Warriors players and coaches.

For details, visit warriors.com or call (510) 986-5310.

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