



Sports Report for the Week of 2/14/12-2/21/12

HAWKS SOAR INTO POSTSEASON



*Hawks Sophomore James Tillman
(Courtesy of The Connection)*

Men's Basketball

Hawks blow out #3 SRJC, travel to #6 Ohlone in playoffs

Fresh off one of the toughest weeks in Hawks basketball history, one that saw CRC lose by 45 points in one game and by a buzzer beater in another, the Cosumnes River men's basketball team took to the road to attempt to salvage a favorable seed in the postseason. The Hawks closed the week against #3 Santa Rosa JC (24-5; 13-1), looking to end a three-game skid against a team undefeated in conference play, and that had already wrapped up the Big 8 conference title.

Although daunting, the Hawks were poised and ready for the task, as they attacked the Bear Cubs from the opening tip. In their most complete game of the season, Cosumnes River played well on all fronts, and took a narrow 45-37 lead into the half. In the second half, the Hawks continued to pound the paint, while also shooting the lights out in front of a stunned Santa Rosa crowd on "fan appreciation night." In the end, CRC's zone defense and perimeter shooting proved to be too much, as the Hawks blew out the heavily-favored Bear Cubs 90-64 on Thursday night in the regular season finale. Santa Rosa JC transfer and Penngrove native Tony Baldocchi (Cardinal Newman) led the Hawks with a game-high 24 points, including six threes. Sophomore post Tony Gill (Oakmont) added 21 points for the Hawks, while forwards JJ Mina (Bradshaw Christian) and Ryan Salmonson (Colfax) also scored in double digits, with 12 and 10 points respectively.

The week did not open up well for the Hawks, who travelled across town to face a downtrodden Sacramento City basketball team, who were coming off consecutive 20+ point losses. Sacramento City (17-9; 6-8) shot their way into this one, connecting on eight three-point baskets on the night. The

Hawks led for most of the contest, but struggled to put the Panthers away and faltered down the stretch, losing 76-74. The Hawks offense was powered by sophomore forwards Tony Gill and James Tillman. Gill (Oakmont) led the way with 26 points, including two trey's, and grabbed nine rebounds on the night. Tillman (Pioneer) poured in 21 points on 10-15 shooting, while blocking three shots and grabbing a steal. Sophomore guard Allan Brown (Del Campo) contributed 10 assists on the night. The loss was the Hawks third straight, the longest losing streak of the season for Cosumnes River.

With the win over SRJC, the Hawks (17-12; 7-7) lock up a #11 seed in the playoffs, finishing in a tie for fourth in the Big 8 conference standings. They travel to Fremont on Friday, where they will take on the Renegades of #6 Ohlone College (15-11; 8-4). Ohlone finished second in the Coast Conference-North Division, behind only defending state champion City College of San Francisco. Tip-off for that game is scheduled for 7 PM.

We'd also like to take a moment to recognize forwards Tony Gill and James Tillman for being named First Team All-Big 8 Conference! Both players have contributed mightily to the Hawks success this season, with Gill remaining a candidate for All-State recognition. Sophomore forward Ryan Salmonson was also honored by the Big 8 conference, as he was named Honorable Mention All-Big 8. Congrats to all three of these players and we wish them the best of luck this postseason.



Hawks women's basketball team

Women's Basketball

Hawks finish second in Big 8, host Laney in first round of playoffs

The 2011-2012 season has been a successful one for the Cosumnes River women's basketball team, as the Hawks contended for the Big 8 conference title until the final game of the season. Following a difficult loss to Sierra College in the final home game of the season, CRC took to the road in search of their first conference championship in women's basketball since winning the Bay Valley crown in 1998.

The Hawks opened the week on Tuesday against Sacramento City (2-22; 1-13), and dominated from the opening tip. The Hawks suffocated the Panthers with their defense, holding Sac City to only 34% shooting on the night, including an abysmal 1-9 from three. The Hawks also forced an outstanding 26 turnovers in the contest, as CRC blew out their crosstown rivals 66-34. Three Hawks scored in double digits, as sophomore guard Quay Quinine (Franklin) led the way with 14 points in the game.

Sophomore post Deaughna Barker (Rosemont) and freshman guard Fernandi Espinosa (Bradshaw Christian) each added 10 in the effort. CRC's defense recorded 22 steals in the contest, and was led by Tina Diaz's (West Campus) five steals.

With the victory, the Hawks travelled to Santa Rosa on Thursday night to play Santa Rosa JC for the Big 8 conference championship. The #11 Bear Cubs of Santa Rosa (22-6; 13-1) looked to avenge a loss earlier in the season to CRC, their only one of the season in conference play. Both teams were evenly matched in the contest, playing each other to a 25-25 deadlock at halftime. The offenses of both squads picked up in the second half, however, as the scored changed hands many times over the final 20 minutes of the game. The Bear Cubs only shot 34% in the second half but connected on five three-point baskets, which would prove to be enough as CRC succumbed to a late Santa Rosa rally, falling 62-55. Post Nikki Gordon (Franklin) led the Hawks with 16 points in the contest, on 8-12 shooting. Quinnine once again was a major factor for the Hawks, as she recorded a double-double on the night, with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

With the loss, Cosumnes River (20-7; 11-3) finishes in a tie with Sierra College for second place in the Big 8, and wraps up a home playoff game with the #8 seed. The Hawks will host #9 Laney College of Oakland (24-6) on Friday, in a game scheduled to tip-off at 7 PM. Laney College won the Bay Valley-Bay Division championship with an 11-1 conference record.



Baseball

Hawks split against Giants, take to Ohlone this weekend

The Cosumnes River baseball team took to the road last week for a challenging three-game set. The Hawks opened the week last Tuesday in Hayward against the #5 Gladiators of Chabot College (6-4). Freshman starter Austin Ales (Oak Ridge) struggled in the outing, yielding two earned runs in 1 and 1/3 innings. Reliever Pete Pendley (Galt) and the Hawks bullpen dominated the rest of the game, however, pitching six and 2/3 innings of shutout ball to keep the game close. The Gladiators staff was equally stingy though, conceding only one earned run in the game, on their way to a narrow 2-1 win over Cosumnes River. Shortstop Josh Silver (Franklin) went 2-4 at the plate, while catcher Shawn Wheeler (Bella Vista) went 1-2 while knocking in the only Hawks run on the day.

The Hawks wrapped up the week by heading south to Visalia, where they took on the College of the Sequoias Giants (6-2) in a two-game series. Cosumnes River struck early and often in the first game, as the Hawks scored in six of the nine innings played, scoring seven runs on the day. Silver once again led the offense with three hits on the day, including a double and a pair of RBIs, as four Hawks

recorded multiple hits in the game. Pitchers Bryce Shandro (Elk Grove) and Austin Ales combined for nine innings of six hit ball, with Shandro only conceding two earned on the day, and Ales throwing over four innings of shutout baseball en route to a 7-2 Hawks victory.

The win provided the Hawks with an opportunity to try to sweep the two-game series, as the teams faced off once again on Saturday. Sequoias jumped to a 3-0 lead through five, before the Hawks rallied for three runs in the top of the eighth inning to force extras. However, the Giants managed to strike in the bottom half of the 10th, winning 4-3 in walk-off fashion to split against the Hawks. First baseman Garrett Heisinger (Pleasant Grove) led the Hawks offense, going 2-4 with a pair of RBIs. Pitcher Nick Smart (Armijo) was saddled with the loss, but only after conceding a lone run in five innings of work, striking out five on the day.

Cosumnes River enters the week ranked #12 in Northern California, with a record of 3-5 on the 2012 season. The Hawks fell to #5 Chabot College yesterday at Sacramento State, losing 7-3. The Hawks rallied late for three runs in the eighth inning, but Chabot's offense rallied once again in the ninth before closing out CRC. They finish out the week with a road game in Fremont, as the Hawks take on #3 Ohlone College (4-3) on Saturday afternoon. That game is scheduled to begin at 1 PM.



Shortstop Alissa "Lou" Greenhaw

Softball

Hawks split doubleheader, host Lassen for two this Friday

The Cosumnes River softball team picked up their first win of the year this past weekend, defeating Shasta College in the second game of a double header, 9-5. Shasta struck early for three runs, but struggled to get going offensively after that, due in large part to the Hawks stellar defense up the middle. CRC's pitching, which has been decimated early due to injuries, has been assisted greatly by freshmen shortstop Lou Greenhaw (Galt) and centerfielder Nikki Luiz (Lodi). The Hawks fell in the first game to perennial power Mt. San Antonio College of Walnut, 10-5.

The Hawks return to action this Friday, when they are scheduled to play four games in two days. On

Friday, Cosumnes River hosts visiting Lassen College for a doubleheader. Games are scheduled for 12 and 2 PM. The Hawks then head to San Mateo for a double header on Saturday, where they will face Fresno City College and the College of San Mateo.



Tennis

Hawks shine at Modesto JC tournament, struggle against Reedley

The results have been mixed for Cosumnes River College's tennis teams this past week, following a difficult day against tennis powerhouse Reedley College, yesterday. The men experienced a setback prior to play on Tuesday, when they lost #2 Patrick Samples (Vacaville) to injury. The Hawks struggled throughout the day, but competed well against a very talented group from Reedley. Late last week, a pair of Hawks performed admirably at the Modesto JC tournament, hosted in Modesto last weekend. Hawks #1 Brandon McCarthy (St. Mary's-Stockton) won the consolation bracket finals, while Samples advanced all the way to the semifinals of the winner's bracket.

The Hawks women's scheduled matches versus Folsom Lake College were postponed last week due to weather. They returned to action yesterday, but also struggled against a talented group from Reedley College. CRC's #3 Christina Phillips (Galt) recorded the lone Hawks victory on the afternoon, winning her match in straight sets, 6-2, 7-6. Hawks #1 Brianna Schmitgen (St. Francis) won the first set of her match, before falling in the next two sets, losing 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Both men's and women's tennis teams travel to Sacramento City on Friday in their next scheduled action. Matches are slated to begin at 1 PM.

GO HAWKS!!!