

Obituary

# Keith Bower

1957 - 2007

Keith Bower, loving partner, husband, father, brother, uncle, and good friend died suddenly on Sunday, November 18 doing what he loved – playing soccer with his mates.



Keith, a member of the Clayton Soccer Club, was the only son of Thomas and Lilian Bower of London, England. He was born on November 8, 1957 and lived in England until he moved with his family to Cleveland, Ohio in 1975, where he played on the university soccer team. He moved to the Bay Area in 1979 and

married Rebecca Thomas in 1982. He and his family have lived in Concord for the past 20 years.

Keith is survived by his loving mother Lilian, devoted wife Rebecca, and two adoring children Sarah and Andrew. Please visit the web page located at www.keithbower.com that has been set up in memory of Keith. This page contains information regarding the events to be held in Keith's memory. It also contains a folder into which photos can be deposited and shared with those who loved him.



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# Clayton Sports

## MDSL Hi-Lites take tourney

The U12 Girls team from the Mt. Diablo Soccer Association won first place in the AYSO 2-C Fall Tournament.

The team battled Stockton in the final game on Nov. 18 at Hillcrest Park in Concord. A tied score led to double over-time. After another tied score, penalty kicks determined the winner. Final score: Hi-Lites 2, Stockton 1.

Under Coach Marvin Mendez, the U12 Girls soccer team won 11 of their 12 season games. Five of the Hi-Lites players are from Clayton.

The Mt. Diablo Soccer Association, AYSO Region 223, offers boys and girls 4 1/2 to 14, the opportunity to participate in league games. The league was chartered in August 1980 and during the fall 2006 season, fielded 110 teams with nearly 1,300 players.



Front Row: Angelina Caceras, Kristin Abele, Paige Alford, Anne Marie Del Bene, Yadira Ramirez, Delaney Walls. Back Row: Coach Marc Squillantini, Emily Wright, Megan Smith, Danielle Oxman, Gabriella Squillantini, Sydney Mendez, Coach Marvin Mendez.

## Orlando Cepeda signs bio at Clayton Books

Orlando Cepeda came to Clayton Books the day after Thanksgiving, to sign copies of his book, "Baby Bull."

A modest group of fans, some wearing baseball uniforms, lined the perimeter of the store, awaiting their moment, as a member of the Giants' security team, also in uniform, hovered around.

Cepeda, who is 70 years old, stared intently at each person wanting an autograph, asking to whom it needed to be made out to, before signing with a marker pen.

"It's a good read," said Mike King, using crutches to get around the line. "He was something great in his day."

One father asked his two young sons to pose next to Cepeda, who willingly obliged, patting one of the boys on the head before sending him on his way.

"Baby Bull" details Cepeda's youth, raised in the poverty of Puerto Rico, the death of his father shortly before the start of his professional career, as well as his experiences in professional baseball.



Orlando Cepeda with Clayton Books owner Joel Harris.

## Young cheerleaders take on the Warriors



Kaman's Art Shoppes Inc. MADISON JACKETT AND MICHAELA DROLETTE

ANDRÉ GENSBURGER  
Clayton Pioneer

Madi Jackett and Michaela Drolette, both 8, recently found themselves front and center at a Warriors game, performing for the crowd.

The two are cheerleaders for the Concord Cobras Junior Pee Wees, and it was all part of a season end arranged by the cheer coordinator – knowing the teams would be foregoing

nationals.

"Michaela was the mascot last year because her brother was a Cobra football player," explained Madi's mother, Heather.

"Michaela asked me to join," said Madi.

"We had to memorize every single step," Michaela added, "and ..."

"We had to jump up and do the routine," Madi said, completing Michaela's thoughts.

Team tryouts were in April, with two-hour practices, five nights a week, starting Aug. 1. "Once school started, the schedule dropped down to three nights a week and Saturday games," Heather reported.

"Our friends felt really surprised," Michaela said. "They didn't think it would happen."

"I was surprised," said Madi. "And I get nervous in front of people."

After the Great America competition, Heather said they learned the girls would perform at the Warriors game. Both girls said they were nervous about appearing in such a large venue.

"I had trouble sleeping," Madi said. "I had to call my Dad and he said that it was just a game and that if I messed up I was cute enough that people would not remember."

"I gave her a hug and told her she'd do great," Heather said.

Madi's family rented a 15-

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