

Most local games cancelled

By DAVID BURGE
SPORTSWRITER

Tuesday's big earthquake affected almost every aspect of life in Santa Cruz County. The world of sports and athletics is no exception.

As of this morning, details were still a bit sketchy, but it appeared that most of the local sporting events scheduled for this weekend would be cancelled.

Pat Lovell, commissioner of the Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League, said that Friday's football game between Watsonville and Santa Cruz high schools was definitely cancelled.

Memorial Field at Santa Cruz High, where the game was to be played, is currently under water from a broken pipe. Besides that, Watsonville High has not been in session since the quake, and the football team hasn't been able to practice.

Whether the game would be rescheduled for Saturday or for later in the year hasn't been determined yet.

"I haven't heard anything from anyone," said Watsonville athletic director Ron Gallino. "My suggestion is to cancel all the games, and move the whole league's schedule back a week. Our playoffs (Central Coast Section Division II-South) end a week earlier than everybody else's. So we could do it."

Lovell indicated, however, that Saturday's games in the SCCAL (pitting Soquel-San Lorenzo Valley and Aptos-North Monterey County) may go on as scheduled.

There's a big problem with that, though. Aptos, for instance, has been closed by order of the Pajaro Valley School District. In fact, the Mariners can't practice or even get to their equipment until an engineer checks out the school for possible structural damage. The same goes for Watsonville High.

North County, on the other hand, resumed classes today, and its football team will be able to practice. That would give the Condors a definite edge if their

Santa Cruz County schools to stay closed until Monday

By KATHARINE BALL
STAFF WRITER

All public schools in Santa Cruz County will be closed until Monday, according to various districts. North Monterey County schools reopened today, however, with a normal schedule.

The Pajaro Valley school board was to meet at 4 p.m. today to decide on what measures to take to reopen schools in the Watsonville and Aptos area.

Superintendent Jim Baker said some schools appear to have sustained structural dam-

age.

"Our major concerns are, first, the Watsonville High School 1917 building. We think the second floor may have major structural damage," Baker said.

"Second, we are worried about the auditorium and gym at E.A. Hall Middle School. They may also have major structural damage," he said. "I can't give you the number of portables that have slipped off their foundations."

More than one-third of Pajaro Valley students go to class in portables.

A water tank at Aptos High School was displaced by the quake, but Baker said he thought district maintenance crews would be able to fix it.

Top-level administrators met yesterday to assess quake damage, and drew up charts outlining which schools suffered gas leaks, broken windows, loss of telephone service, and so on. The charts were spread around Baker's lightless office yesterday.

"We are uncertain about the number of gas leaks," Baker said. "Until we can get checks from PG&E we can't be sure of the extent of the damage."

game with Aptos goes on as scheduled.

"Our school and all the other schools in the Pajaro Valley can not go back to school until an engineer has given the OK," said Aptos athletic director Jim La Torre. "We can't let our kids go into the locker room to get their equipment; we can't let them practice. That would give North County an advantage. They're back in school, and their team can practice. We can't."

North County certainly doesn't want to be the heavy in this situation. Condor athletic director and football coach Larry Souza said that his school would abide by whatever the league decides.

"We're in school, and we're capable of playing," Souza said. "But we have to do this as a league. The way Santa Cruz, Watsonville and the San Lorenzo Valley areas were hit, they may not want to play," Souza said. "But I'm game. I'm in favor of the kids returning to normal activities as soon as possible."

Close to 50 percent of the stadium's lights have fallen, and one light standard is in a precarious position.

When asked if the Hawks would have to find a new location for their home games, Cox replied, "That's a very good possibility."

"But we want to do what's best for the league as a whole," he continued. "We all have tragedies that we have to deal with. Football just isn't the most important thing in the world right now."

A final decision on this week's SCCAL football matchups is expected sometime this afternoon.

Libraries closed until Monday

All branches of the Santa Cruz City-County Library System will remain closed until Monday, Library Director Anne Turner said today.

Library staff and dozens of volunteers have been cleaning up all of the branches, with the ex-

ception of the Aptos Branch library which sustained structural damage to its roof as well as having its book collection tossed to the floor and lights and other fixtures damaged.

At the junior college level, Cabrillo has definitely cancelled its game with Monterey Peninsula, which was scheduled for Saturday down in Monterey. Seahawk coach Steve Cox indicated that the game was cancelled because of the tragedy of the quake and his team's inability to practice during the week.

Both Lovell, who doubles as a Cabrillo assistant, and Cox said that the Hawks may have to find another place to play their home games for the rest of the season. Cabrillo's Carl Conelly Stadium was rocked heavily by the quake and sustained extensive damage.

The Watsonville Library is also closed.

-S.C. Co.