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PREP BOWLING

A perfect ending

*Coronado girls
win state title
for second year*

By BROCK RADKE

VIEW SPORTS EDITOR

The best way to close out an undefeated season is with a second straight state championship.

The dominant Coronado High School girls bowling team did just that at the Orleans bowling center Feb. 1, beating Palo Verde, 7-0 (2373-1020). In fact, every bowler on the Cougars' team broke a score of 200 in the match.

Coronado coach Bob McKee, who has led the team with fellow coach Walter Orlksen since the school opened six years ago, said he knew the Cougars would be tough this year.

"We had two strong bowlers back from last year and we knew they'd be good, but once the season started the girls made it one of their goals to go undefeated, even in every single individual game," McKee said. "The only other time a girls team has done that, I think, was when Green Valley did it in 2001. And as the season went on, we knew we had a chance to do it."

To reach the championship final, the Cougars swept through first-round opponent Desert Pines (2261-1797), Vo-Tech in the second round (2265-1603), and Green Valley in the semifinals (2325-2001).

"On the first night, the girls were a little nervous," McKee said. "We started out slow against Desert Pines. But by



Top: Coronado High School's Alyssa Madrid, left, gives Alex Katz a high-five on Feb. 1 during the 2007 NIAA State Girls Bowling Championship at The Orleans Bowling Center. Behind them is teammate April Urban and coaches Bob McKee, right, and Walter Orlksen. Team captain Maddie Pellegrino, left, had games of 223, 211, 209 and 203 in leading Coronado to its second consecutive state title.

SARA TRAMIEL/VIEW

the second game we warmed up and they started bowling well after that."

Coronado's Alyssa Madrid was among the leaders. Her 261 on day three was the second-highest game in the tournament, behind Clark's Jackie Southam, who threw a 267 on day one. Madrid's series of 628 was the third-highest girls' series, topped only by two performances by Palo Verde's

Galit Melnick.

The Cougars' day one team score of 858 was the tourney's best, as was their day three team high series of 2325.

With the majority of the team set to return next year, there could be a bowling resurgence at Coronado. The school's boys team won back-to-back championships in 2004 and 2005.

On the boys' side, Clark topped Chaparral, 4-3 (2154-

2289), to give the Chargers their first state bowling championship.

Things were a little bit closer in the boys' competition, as Clark won the first two games by just nine pins. Bryce Gross was the high bowler in the pivotal second game, leading the Chargers with a 246.

Gross also recorded a tournament-best 299 game on day one of competition.