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not being able to play in CCS.

"It's kind of sad that we don't get a chance at a CCS championship, but what we have is pretty good," Medrano said. "It keeps ourselves in check as a person."

Keith Hicks had 23 points in Tuesday night's 68-50 win over Thomas More-San Jose. Medrano had 16 points.

"It doesn't bother me that we don't get to go to CCS," said Keith Hicks, a four-year varsity player. "You know that going in. Sometimes we watch CCS and think we could be doing better or that we should be playing in it. There's nothing you can do about it."

In an earlier game against Thomas More, Hicks had 26 points, Baroro 25 and Medrano 21. Not many schools can claim to have three players with 21 points or more in the same game.

"I caught pneumonia the week before that game," Baroro said. "I wasn't going to play much that night, but my dad saw I was on fire and kept me in. We were hitting 3s, driving to the basket, doing whatever we can to score."

Guard Dawn Arciaga is averaging 10.8 points for the Mustangs' girls team. She would have gone to Milpitas High had she not chosen MVA.

"I know a lot of the people here," said Arciaga, who sports a 3.90 GPA. "I wanted that Christian education."

Center Aunoa SoiSoi leads the club, averaging 11.9 points.

"I came to school here because it's like a family school for me," said SoiSoi, whose GPA is 3.70. "A lot of my cousins came here and played sports. I'm

happy with our season because we lost two of our main players last year. I'm sad that we can't go to CCS, but I'll deal with it."

In the fall, MVA's only PSAL sport is girls volleyball. However, the school usually runs boys and girls flag football programs, traveling to such towns as Fresno and Modesto for games against other Seventh-Day Adventist schools. In the winter, it's strictly basketball. In the spring, the school tones it down, fielding only a gymnastics team.

Basketball remains the school's passion. Maybe one day MVA will be back in the CCS playoffs.

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