

6'3" Palo Alto High senior captain Lin received no scholarship offers from Division I schools, was turned down by Stanford, accepted by Harvard. Undrafted in the 2010 NBA Draft, he was picked up and waived by the Warriors and Rockets. Lin was then signed by the NY Knicks. He made history as a local athlete and is making history in the NBA.



## Lin-sanity: talent beats out all odds a role model for young and old alike

By Kate Motoyama

Jeremy Lin flies in the face of the stereotype that Asian American men can't play hoops. Lin is the NBA's first American-born player of Taiwanese descent and the fourth Asian American in League history.

The Paly Voice included this quote from Alec Wong, who currently fills Lin's former position on the Palo Alto Vikings: "There is definitely a stereotype against Asian basketball players even if it is not directly spoken," Wong said. "You step onto the court with something to prove. They don't expect you to be the player that you are, and you want to show them that you are on the

court for your talent." ["The Pride of Palo Alto: Jeremy Lin," by David Lim] The San Jose Mercury News describes the phenom this way: "Lin is 'very quiet, very humble--even when he's playing pickup basketball with a bunch of old-school guys,'" said Jim Mullin, the dad of a son who had Lin as his basketball camp counselor. ["Star's rise resonates where it first started," by Daniel Brown and Alex Pavlovic]

To Ky-Phong Tran, of the Nguoi Viet Daily News, a Vietnamese-language paper, Lin rebukes pop culture's fake image of Asians as the awkward Long Duk Dong, the sidekick, the prop,

or the villain. The reason Asian American males are wearing his jersey and chanting Lin's name, according to Tran, is that so many have had to endure the humiliation of having been called "Donger," laughed along with their "friends" at this, and pretended it didn't hurt: "You had to let that shame burn inside you until it bordered on self-loathing."

To this, Lin succeeds as a professional athlete because of abilities that beat out all the stereotypes and odds, and speak loudly to hundreds of millions of sports fans and others that "[Asian Americans] too can be athletic, daring and heroic. [Tran]"

## Chapter news scholarship winners, coming events

FLASH! Seeking past scholarship winners and their families for updates on your lives and achievements.

San Mateo JACL will hold a Rummage Sale at the San Mateo Gardeners Hall in June. We plan to have, in addition to bargains, some edited Japanese collectibles.

San Mateo JACL will host a refreshment table at the Asian Pacific American Film Festival on May 5th, College of San Mateo. California Civil Liberties Education Project films are free; there will be a nominal charge for Lane Nishikawa's tribute to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Battalion, "Only The Brave."



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San Mateo JACL is a Community Sponsor for the "One Year After" benefit concert for the children of Tohoku, Japan. The concert will be held March 10, 2012 at Mission San Jose, Fremont. A senbazuru (one thousand cranes) initiative will be part of the concert event; a person folding one thousand cranes will be granted one wish by a crane, one of the mystical creatures of Japan. The senbazuru will be presented to the children of Tohoku, Japan.

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