

## DFAL Golf Outlook

by Garrett Ley

Unlike years past, there doesn't appear to be one dominant team that will run away with the Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) golf championship. Miramonte, Campolindo and Acalanes each have strong teams and are early favorites to claim the league title. A quick overview will set the scene for the season ahead.

### Miramonte

Since 2003 the Miramonte Matadors have dominated the DFAL, cruising to a 63-4 record in league matches. They are looking to defend last season's DFAL title, but must do so without four of their top six golfers from a year ago. On this list are current college golfers Greg Palm and Bryant Williams, who graduated from a team that finished 16-0 in league play and placed 13th at the North Coast Section Championships.

Under the guidance of coach Jerry Montgomery, the Matadors are off to a quick start with a 3-0 record as of March 11, but they have hardly blown opponents away. They narrowly escaped Las Lomas on March 6 with a two-stroke win, and their other two matches have been decided by nine strokes or less.

This year, the Matadors are led by junior captain Scotty Williams, a first team All-DFAL selection player who helped Miramonte knock off Acalanes with a match-low 38 at Orinda Country Club last year. He then fired a one-over 37 against Northgate on March 8.

Sophomores Cole Speers and Mario Paoletti have assumed roles in the starting lineup after seeing limited time their freshman seasons. Speers has been a consistent performer early on with a 40.8 stroke average while Paoletti is getting experience playing in the first group with Williams. The Matadors are also getting contributions from fourth year letterman Talores Nevares, who fired a 41 against Las Lomas to save the Matadors from potential defeat.

Miramonte has endured the early part of the season without junior Jack Fernbacher, whose broken collarbone has kept him out of the game. Fernbacher has one of the most legendary short games in high school golf, and is hoping for a mid March return.

### Acalanes

Although they finished the regular season in third place behind Miramonte and Campolindo, the Acalanes Dons outplayed their conference rivals in last year's North Coast Tournament of Champions in Fortuna and finished the season on a high note. They look to carry some of that momentum into the new season.

The Dons got off to a quick start with a 206-260 thumping to defeat Concord on February 21. Junior Brandon

Caldwell led all golfers with a one-over 37, and freshman Ian Fisher fired a 38 in his first varsity match.

The following week Acalanes traveled to the challenging Orinda Country Club looking to make it two straight. Spencer Blodgett notched a 39 in wet conditions, but it wasn't enough because the Matadors triumphed 214-223.

In his own words, Acalanes Coach Tim Scott commented on the season saying that "Looking at the few scores around the league, it just doesn't look like there is one dominate team." He went on to say, "I look for it to be a battle between ourselves, Miramonte, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Northgate."

Acalanes' top golfers are Blodgett, Caldwell, Fisher, Michael Warren and Jack Sullivan, a second team All-DFAL selection last year.

"There hasn't been one player who has really jumped out yet," Scott said. "This week we play two matches, and after that we should have an idea of who's playing the best."

Acalanes has yet to play a home match at Rossmoor Golf Course, but that will change this week as the Dons host College Park and Las Lomas in a dual-match on Wednesday, followed by a home match against Northgate on Friday.

### Campolindo

The Campolindo Cougars head into the new season without current St. Mary's golfer and two-time DFAL MVP Dan Cone, but they still have a legitimate chance at winning the league title thanks to a deep and well-rounded lineup.

Campolindo is coached by Steve Robinson, who is in his fourth year at the helm. The Cougars' starting six at his point consists of senior Ben Marshall, juniors Alex Berber, Jack Middlebrook, Ben Alexander and Justin Goldberger, and freshman Bjorn Kallerud.

"We're a good team," Kallerud said. "We were picked to finish third in league, but we are better than that."

The Cougars are off to a 1-0 start after destroying Concord 205-282 on March 7. Kallerud led the field of golfers with a two-over 38 at Moraga Country Club. His round consisted of back-to-back birdies on holes 5 and 6 after he started the round with a couple of bogeys. Middlebrook (41), Marshall (41), Goldberger (42) and Alexander (43) rounded out the top five.

The Cougars host Acalanes on April 12 before they travel to Rossmoor GC the next day to battle the Dons. Either match could ultimately decide the league championship.

Garrett Ley is a feature writer for Lamorinda Weekly and an enthusiastic golfer for Miramonte.

## MBA Box Scores for March 11 Moraga Baseball Association REVISED

### Pony Division

**3/11/07 Moraga Cougars 6, Clayton Valley Eagles 1**

Cougars highlights: Jaime Vega 2-for-3, 2B; Josh Cushing 2 RBI, run; Sean Wraith 1-for-3, RBI, run; Jess Bon 1-for-4, RBI; Matt Bruzzone 6 innings pitched, 10 strikeouts, no ER.

**3/11/07 Martinez Pilots 15, Moraga Mariners 1**

Mariners highlights: Brent Glowatch 1-for-3; Raj Patel BB, run; Allen Smoot BB.

**3/11/07 Moraga Marlins 11, Rodeo #2-1 Marlins highlights:** Skyler Saulovich 5 innings pitched, 9 strikeouts, no hits; Zach Watts 3 hits, RBI; Tom Flowers 3 hits, 3 RBI; Peter Jourgensen 2 hits, 2 RBI.

**3/10/07 Moraga Cougars 13, Clayton Valley Pioneers 4**

Cougars highlights: Peter Matthias 4 innings pitched, no hits, 4 strikeouts; Chris Roming 3 innings pitched, 3 strikeouts; Matt Bruzzone 2-for-4, 2/3B, 4 RBIs, 3 runs; Dan Fadelli 2 clutch catches in left field.

**3/10/07 Danville Silver 16, Moraga Mariners 12**

Mariners highlights: Kevin Malley 4-for-5, 2/2B; Kyle Reynolds 3-for-5, 2B; KK Lowe 3-for-4; Alex Currier 3-for-5; Brent Glowatch 3-for-5; Phillip Wright pitched 3 shutout innings, 2 hits, 2 strikeouts.

**3/10/07 Lafayette Generals 10, Moraga Marlins 2**

Marlins highlights: Clutch out by catcher Tom Flowers on a throw from left by Skyler Saulovich.

### Bronco Division

**3/10/07 Moraga Nationals 9, Piedmont A's 2**

Nationals highlights: Joe Giacchetti 2B, 2 RBI; Griffin McCaffery 3-for-4; James Coleman and Billy Evenhuis - great catches in the outfield; Brandon Dolan 3 innings pitched, 6 strike outs.

**3/11/07 Moraga Bears 2, Orinda Rivercats 1**

Bears highlights: Andy Grubbs 2B, RBI; Ryan Hoffman Game winning hit, RBI; Jeff Eriksen 2 strikeouts and a save.

**3/4/07 Moraga Nationals 5, Moraga Bears 1**

Nationals highlights: Sam McAlpine 6 innings pitched, 3 strike outs; Griffin McCaffery 2-for-3; JD Ratchford 2-for-3, 3 RBI. Bears highlights: Brian Gilmour 6 innings pitched, 5 strikeouts, 1B; Cody Kiriaze 1B, BB, stolen base, run.

**3/4/07 Moraga Dodgers 7, Orinda Cardinals 5**

Dodgers highlights: Alex Mirante 3B, 2 RBI, 1 inning pitched, 3 strikeouts; Domenic Tamburino 3BB, 2 runs, 1 inning pitched, 1 strikeout; Tyler Takata 1-for-2, run; Grant Smith 1B, RBI; Kurt Vergara 2B, 2RBI.

**3/3/07 Moraga Nationals 8, Orinda Rivercats 3**

Nationals highlights: JD Ratchford 3 innings pitched, 5 strike outs; Connor Rosenbaum 2 hits, 2 runs; Mason Windatt 3-for-4, 2 runs. Rivercats highlights: Conner Nyman 2-for-3, 2 runs; George McConnell 2-for-3, 2B.

### Mustang Division

**3/10/07 Orioles 7, Rangers 5**

Orioles highlights: Ben Skinner 2-for-3, 2 runs, 5SB, 2 innings pitched, no runs, no hits, 6 strike outs; Matthew Tuan 2-for-2, 2B, run, 2SB; Noah Bagley 1-for-2, 2RBI; Marty Cunnane 2 runs, 2BB, 4SB. Rangers highlights: Tyler Bartis 3-for-3, 2/2B, run, RBI, 2SB; Brendan Purtill 1-for-3, run, 2SB; Ryan Geisreiter 1-for-3, run, RBI, 3SB.

**3/10/07 Red Sox 8, Yankees 5**

Red Sox highlights: Nicky Fafoutis 2-for-3, 2B, 1B, 2 runs, 3 RBIs; Scottie Smoot 1-for-3, 2 runs; Perry Walker 1-for-2, run, RBI; Brendon Gordon 1-for-3, 1B, run. Yankees highlights: Ramin Nazeeri 1-for-3, 1B, 2 runs; Kevin Lehman 3-for-3, 1B, 2RBI; Caleb Whalen 1-for-3, 3B, run; Sean Pappa 2-for-3, 3B, run.

### Pinto Division

**3/10/07 Cardinals 12, Padres 8**

Cardinals highlights: Erik Wenning 4-for-4, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Will Rack 3-for-4, 2B, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Dylan Thomas 2-for-3, 2 runs, game ending sliding catch. Padres highlights: Jake Rolfe 3-for-3, 2/2B, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Dylan Caro 3-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI, run; Tomie Vega 2-for-3, 2B, RBI, 2 runs.

**3/10/07 Giants 14, Diamondbacks 13** Giants highlights: Samuel Levy 2-for-3, 2/2B, run, RBI; Harry Curtiss, 4-for-4, 2/2Bs, run; David Cushing, 3-for-4, 2Bs, 2 runs. Diamondbacks highlights: Erin Neustrom 2-for-4, run; Andrew Holloway 4-for-4, 2B, 2 runs, 3 RBI; Jake Oxendine, 2-for-4, 2 runs, 2 RBI.

## Gaels Baseball Heads into Four-Game Set

by Jennifer Wake

With a record of 12-8-1, Saint Mary's will put its 10-game unbeaten streak on the line when it hosts Southern Utah this weekend. First pitch of the four-game set is scheduled for Friday, March 16 at 2 p.m. at Louis Guisto Field. "Our week off has given us some time to heal some

ented team and look to continue the success at Saint Mary's in years to come," he said. Soto has had 11 players earn West Coast Conference honors including three first-team selections in 2005 and six overall selections in 2006, the most at SMC since the 1994 season. In addition to

0 record at the end of February, including a win over then-No. 9 ranked Oregon State at the River City Classic in Sacramento. The sophomore batted .438 (7-for-16) on the week, with a home run and nine RBI. He added a triple, double, and 13 total bases as the Gaels stretched their winning



minor bumps and bruises," said head coach Jedd Soto, who recently signed a multi-year extension to stay with Saint Mary's. "We hope to continue to stay hot on the field and are excited to host Southern Utah this weekend."

Hired on July 1, 2003 as a unanimous choice of the players, coaches, administrators and the search committee, Soto at age 29 was the youngest head coach hired in Division I baseball. In just his third season at the helm, Soto has turned the program around and made it one of the top contenders in the West Coast Conference, with Soto leading Saint Mary's to its best season in 15 years, compiling its first winning season since 1991.

"We have a young, tal-

the conference awards, Soto had six players selected in the amateur draft in the last two seasons with eight players having been selected in previous drafts.

Saint Mary's sophomore infielder Joel Staples was named to the All-WCC Freshman Team and Second-Team All-WCC last season and was named the West Coast Conference/Rawlings Player of the Week on Feb. 27. This marked the first time in Staples career that he was named the Player of the Week.

"Joel had a good freshman season for us being named to the All-WCC second-team and he looks to continue on that success this season," Soto said.

Staples helped lead Saint Mary's to a perfect 3-

streak to six games. Staples was a home run shy of the cycle with four hits in the recent win at Nevada, and drove in a pair of runs in the 4-1 victory over the Beavers.

This year, the Gaels will play a school-record 33 home games, with 12 WCC games at home, including three against rival Santa Clara on May 4-6.

"Saint Mary's is a quality place to play baseball," Soto said. "The institution features great things on the field and in the classroom. Our system is designed for the student-athlete to succeed on and off the field."

For game times, ticket information and more sports news, visit the Saint Mary's College Athletics website: www.SMCGaels.com.

"In the Saint Mary's College baseball story, background information was inadvertently included with the text of the article."



(925) 383-1477  
Call for a  
**FREE**  
Market Analysis

**Billy Perlstein**  
Realtor Associate

Don't you wish all Realtors treated their clients like Royalty?

**Prudential**  
California Realty  
51 Moraga Way  
Orinda, CA 94563

billyperlstein@prurealty.com • www.prurealty.com/theperlsteins

THE SUREST WAY TO  
STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOUR  
**1031 EXCHANGE**  
IS TO START LOOKING FOR ONE

- Diversification
- Tax Deferral and Depreciation
- Single Tenant Triple Net



David Waal, Principal  
(925) 407-4747  
2950 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 300  
Walnut Creek, California 94597

We help 1031 Exchange Investors and Private Clients acquire Net Leased and Tenant-in-common properties.

**PRESIDIO**  
EXCHANGE ADVISORS  
1031 Replacement Property Solutions

Lamorinda Resident for 31 Years

Securities offered through OMNI Brokerage, Inc. • Member/NASD SIPC

a branch of  
**OMNI Brokerage**