

SPORT

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORT NEWS



Best Showing in 27 Years, But "No Cigar" for the Dons

By Jaime Zepeda

A lot can change in three weeks. The unseeded Bishop O'Dowd team that Acalanes beat on March 3rd, by 17 points, for the North Coast Section Divi-

11 rebounds and 3 crucial blocks.

The first half ended with both teams dead-locked at 20 pts.

Gordon Chraska, a fan coming who came

trouble with the three pointers...He really hurt us."

In the third quarter it was still anyone's game. The Dons played aggressively, drove to the basket

Even though Justin Fillmore was shut out by O'Dowd, other Acalanes players' stepped up to the ball.

With the fourth quarter winding down, the

Dragons up 49-45, and, with a little over two minutes left, Baker made two key free throws that brought the Dons to within two. With less than 32 seconds left, the ball went to Baker. He caught the pass, stopped and dialed a crowd-rocking three-pointer. The Dons were still alive and trailed by only three points.

Next, Justin Brue was sent to the foul line for the Dragons, and made both free throws. It is now a two possession game with less than 24 seconds left.

Joe McGlynn brought the Dons back alive with a three pointer that set the crowd ablaze. Bishop O'Dowd led by only two points.

Chants of "OT! OT!," began to surface from the blue-laden crowd.

On their next possession, Bishop O'Dowd was called out of bounds because they accidentally stepped on the line. The Dons had the chance to win.

They in-bounded it to Joey Anderson, who delivered so many times this game. He drove once more for a layup. It flirted with the rim, but bounced out. Two more Dragon free throws sealed the game. On St. Patrick's Day, the luck of the Irish went to Bishop O'Dowd.

The Dragons won, 55-51, in a nail-bitter.

After the game, Joey Anderson was awarded the Sportsmanship award. He finished with 16 points, Brooks Baker with 17.

This is the 5th Northern California championship for Bishop O'Dowd. And if their post-game t-shirts—"State or Die!"—mean anything, they are not satisfied yet.

Up next for Bishop O'Dowd is the State Championship, next Saturday in Arco Arena.

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sion III championship looked like a different team on the 17th, in the Stockton arena. Acalanes, seeded second in the finals, was relentless in their pursuit for a repeat win against the Dragons and a chance at the CIF Northern regional Division III Championship. This season was Acalanes' best showing since 1980.

The Dragons, however, defeated the Dons, 55-51. The "6th man" for both teams was definitely present. Fans on either side challenged each other over who could be the loudest in respective "Go Dons," and "B-O-D" chants.

Pressing the ball forward and never letting Bishop O'Dowd's defense wear them down, the Dons kept the game very close.

Bishop O'Dowd's defense was a strong presence in the arena. They held one of the Dons' stars, no. 15 Jordan Fillmore, to only two points the entire game. The only time his shot tasted net was with two minutes left in the first half. Fillmore's contribution, instead, came defensively where he had

from Antica, noted the superb playing from both squads. "I am enjoying the quality of play," Chraska said, adding that he thought this Bishop O'Dowd team was the "best I've seen in years." He also pointed out what many other fans would easily agree with: that Bishop O'Dowd's defense was "amazing."

The second half was welcomed by deafening cheers on either side.

Acalanes began it with a great steal, by no. 40 Joey Anderson, that resulted in a breakaway layup. This briefly shifted the momentum toward the Dons. They used the momentum and pressed the paint, pressuring Dragon forwards, no. 21, Shawn Lewis, and no. 11, Jon Bowler.

Shawn Lewis was truly amazing throughout. He had 27 points in the game, including a Northern California championship record-tying 5 three pointers. Acalanes' head coach, Russ Scheibley, recognized that one of the reasons the Dons fell to the Dragons was because, "Lewis kept giving us

and drew fouls.

The tug-of-war between these two teams increased the intensity exponentially. At one point, both teams shot back to back three pointers. And neither team gave much leeway.

Brooks Baker, no. 11 for the Dons, was a good example of the Dons' will. In the third and fourth quarter, Baker kept his team in the game with great drives to the basket, which often drew fouls and added free throws to the play.

The third quarter ended with both teams unwilling to let up. No less than 5 seconds after Joey Anderson from the Dons made an off-balance layup, the Dragons' no. 22, Dejon Smith, returned the favor with one of his own at the last second.

In the fourth quarter, Shawn Lewis continued to shine. His three pointers frustrated the Acalanes defense. He was helped by no. 25, Justin Brue, of Bishop O'Dowd, who started the quarter by making a huge block, and finishing a lay-up on the breakaway.



Wildcats Can't Scratch Bulldogs

By Jaime Zepeda

The Orinda Wildcats met their match in the Orinda Bulldogs. As parents were still catching up and attendees hadn't even poured ketchup to their hotdogs, the Bulldogs began their offensive attack.

The Wildcats' starting pitcher, no. 7, Meghan Reed, quickly ran into trouble in the 1st inning. With two Bulldog runners on 1st and 3rd, a tipped swing and error on 3rd base brought in two runs.

The Bulldogs added one more run in the inning. Their momentum slowed momentarily, however, when the Wildcats' catcher, no. 11, Matt Moran, was in-

jured by a foul ball. Although initially taken out, he re-entered later in the game.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, they are unable to produce any runs in the 1st inning. But, thanks to Meghan Reed's clutch pitching in the 2nd inning; they were still only 3 runs behind the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs also had their fair share of good pitching with no. 12, Milan Winter, who shut out the 2nd inning for his team. This good pitching was carried on by no. 4, Jarrett Perches, who tallied 5 strikeouts in the game.

In the 3rd inning, the Bulldogs attacked again.

Erik Nyman, no. 1 for the Bulldogs, had a great slide at home after a wild pitch and added another run to the scoreboard.

However, the Bulldog offense was not finished. In the 4th inning, no. 3, Bryce Hummer, brought in a run with a sacrifice squeeze at first. At this point, the Bulldogs were now up 5-0. But, it was not over as the Wildcats brought back Matt Moran, who left the game injured in the 1st inning.

In the 5th inning, after fending off a Bulldog attack that had runners on 2nd and 3rd, Matt Moran came to bat. With a solid swing, Matt Moran hit a

line-drive to left field that resulted in a triple and shifted the momentum toward the Wildcats. Despite not being able to capitalize with any runs, the triple brought a spark back to the team.

Once again, the Bulldogs attacked in the 6th, and loaded the bases. With three Bulldogs ready to run home, Matt Moran maintained his composure and left the inning unscathed. No runs for the Bulldogs, much hope for the Wildcats.

The bottom of the 6th inning began with no. 2, Coleman Fine, of the Wildcats getting hit by a pitch, putting a runner on 1st.

Fine went on to steal not one, but two bases, and ended up on 3rd base. Another Wildcat hit put runners on the corners. No. 3, Will Richardson, drove in the first Wildcat run of the game. Tommy Hensley, no. 6 for the Wildcats, quickly added another run with a great slide into home.

Ultimately, the Bulldogs pushed back a Wildcats surge, and defeated them 5-2. One parent correctly noted how "serious [both teams] are about baseball." The Bulldogs and Wildcats played a great game, and gave the crowd more than what they expected.

Heads Up,
Lamorinda Players, Coaches, and Fans

We want your game scores, highlights, and photos.
Please send your game reports, including player names and digital photos to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com.

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