

## Second Half Surge Lifts Acalanes Over Campolindo

By Kevin D. Shallat



Brooks Baker for Acalanes, Connor Breslin for Campo

Photo Gavin Schlissel



Bo Richter with the ball for Campolindo

Photo Gavin Schlissel

The Acalanes Dons made the short trip to Moraga for Campolindo's homecoming game last Friday, with each team needing a win in a big way. A second league loss for either team would dash any hopes for a division title. Unfortunately for the Cougars, it was not the homecoming

they were hoping for, as Campolindo was edged by the Dons, 25-21.

The game started off with hard hits from each team, as both teams tried to establish their toughness. The first play of the game was a turnover after Campolindo made a hit on a pass play, which knocked the ball up into

the air for a Cougar interception. Campolindo running back Kawa Kazaz didn't waste any time running around the end and into the end zone for a quick score.

Acalanes running back Tyler Malley started off the game with a few nice runs, but was limited in rushing

yardage for the rest of the game. After the turnover by Campolindo, Acalanes quickly aired it out to wide receiver Brooks Baker for a long touchdown pass, tying the game at 7-7.

Campolindo's defense was very strong in the first half. They were able to limit the scoring by Acalanes, and completely shut down their running game. Strong safety Tyler Ritte-nour and cornerback Fern Fadelli had impressive, loud tackles throughout the game.

In the second quarter Campolindo quarterback Andrew Ertola threw a nice pass to Nick Mascheroni for a 64-yard touchdown. The Dons immediately answered back after a nice catch over the middle from tight end Hunter Hewitt. With 7:38 left to go before halftime, Malley ran the ball in to tie up the score. The score would only get to 14-13, however, as the Dons missed the first of three PATs on the night. Campolindo grabbed the momentum back on an eight yard run by Andreas Antono, bringing the score to 21-13 in favor of Campolindo until the half.

There were a combination of factors in the second half that led to the Acalanes win. Campolindo shut down their passing attack and ran the ball for the majority of the second half, but were unable to score any points. Acalanes quarterback Robbie Pestal got back on track and found a way to get the ball to his favorite targets.

"Robbie's one of the most accurate passers I've ever played with," Hewitt said.

Baker caught his second touchdown pass of the night to get the Dons within two points of the Cougars. With 4:57 left in the game, Pestal found tight end Hewitt in the end zone for the game-winning touchdown pass.

"I wasn't on tonight in the first half, so we went back to what we've been doing successfully, which was throwing the short routes, making them come up, and then going deep by hitting Brooks and Hunter," Pestal said.



Anthony Fadelli on defense for Campo, Brooks Baker for Acalanes

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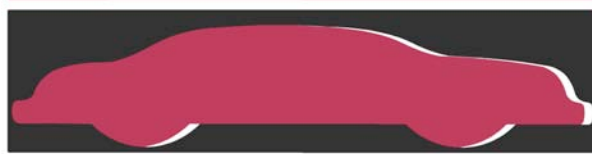
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