

Tough Tournament Ends with a Blast

By Alex Crook



Loomis Stephen shoots for the second Campo goal

Photo Andy Scheck

The 2007 Acalanes Water Polo Tournament was held at Campolindo High School. Play began on a rainy Friday and ended with a thrilling Campolindo victory on Saturday as the Cougars boys' water polo sunk the competition at this two-day event.

Campolindo started by defeating Clayton Valley in the first round, bringing them into the quarterfinals against Northgate. Another win brought the Cougars to the semifinals against Santa Margarita, where they prevailed 6-3.

The championship featured host Campolindo against visiting St. Francis. Campo caught the Lancers early and pulled to a 2-0 first quarter lead. With 2:17 left in the first, St. Francis woke up, beating keeper TJ Barni to cut the lead in half. One additional goal for each side left the score 3-2 in favor of the Cougars at the quarter.

The Lancers came back strong and found themselves leading just 1:02 into the second half. Helped by a beautiful backhand goal, St. Francis took control for the first time, leading 6-5. The Cougars came back in the fourth quarter with junior Chris Dyer scoring easily on a 5-meter penalty shot to tie the game at 6. Campo then pulled ahead at the 2:00 mark on a key goal from Dyer. With only 10 seconds left, St. Francis forced overtime with a game-tying goal. In overtime, however, Chris Dyer was at it again. With 2:42 left in sudden death, Dyer finished off St. Francis, winning the tournament for host Campolindo.

In all, Dyer finished with four goals in the championship game, leading his team to victory.

In the third place match, De La Salle prevailed over the Santa Margarita Eagles, a team

who made the long trip from Southern California. In the fourth quarter, De La Salle found itself with a 5-2 lead, but the Eagles rallied and scored another with 1:36 left. But one late goal was strictly enough for the De La Salle defense, and the Spartans held on and were awarded third place.



Chris Dyer shoots for the goal

First round:

Acalanes defeats (d.) Pinole Valley
Santa Margarita d. Drake
Campolindo d. Clayton Valley
Northgate d. Las Lomas
St. Francis d. Berkeley
Marin Catholic d. Ygnacio Valley
De La Salle d. Alhambra
Monte Vista d. Novato

Quarterfinals:

Santa Margarita d. Acalanes
Campolindo d. Northgate
St. Francis d. Marin Catholic
De La Salle d. Monte Vista

Semifinals:

Campolindo 6, Santa Margarita 3
St. Francis 9, De La Salle 5

Championship Game:

Campolindo 8, St. Francis 7 (in overtime)

Third Place Game:

De La Salle 5, Santa Margarita 2

Fifth Place Game:

Acalanes 10, Monte Vista 3

Seventh Place Game:

Northgate 7, Marin Catholic 6