



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Saint Mary's Tip-Off Classic: One Rout and One Barn Burner

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Saint Mary's Men's basketball season got underway this past weekend, as they hosted the Sonoma State Seawolves on Friday, Nov. 8, and the Drake University Bulldogs on Saturday, Nov. 9. The Gaels beat the Seawolves 82-57, and corralled the Bulldogs 72-66.

The fans got a good first look at Saint Mary's guard Patrick Mills from Australia, as he scored the first points of the season for the Gaels. He's been described as "lightening in a bottle" by fans. It's been five years since a freshman started his first game for the Gaels, and Mills did not disappoint, as he racked up 17 points, five assists, and four steals in his first contest.

Gaels forward Diamon Simpson had a typical game as he recorded a double-double with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Center Omar Samhan and guard Tron Smith also contributed for the Gaels.

The second game was a tightly contested game. St. Mary's is known for their frontcourt, but it was their backcourt that saved the day in this game. Drake has a talented but smaller squad than the Gaels, but they compensated for it by their athleticism and shooting ability. The Gaels got away from attacking the basket and kicking out to the perimeter in the second game, even though this style worked well for them in their game against Sonoma State. The Bulldogs were able to drive to the basket against the Gaels in the first

half, but Saint Mary's did a good job of shutting down those lanes in the second half.

The Gaels addressed their shooting concerns from last year, having clearly improved in that category. Among those contributing to this improvement is guard Carlin Hughes, also from Australia. Hughes, a transfer from Montana State, was unstoppable Saturday night. In this game, Hughes looked to be the fastest player on the court. He was also deadly from the perimeter, hitting five of eight 3-pointers on the night. The performance by Hughes Saturday was reminiscent of former Gael guard David Sivulich's record game of eight 3-pointers set back in 1995.

The game would go back and forth, with each team taking relatively small leads that would not stick. At one point in the second half the Gaels would trail by eight points, but managed to shoot their way back. The game would get locked up at 61 a piece with two minutes remaining. Yusef Smith was able to get a nice put back and a foul with 1:52 left in the game that put the Gaels up 64-61. However, just when the Gaels looked to put the game away, the Bulldogs would crawl back and get within two points, bringing the score to 65-63. Shortly thereafter, Todd Golden would hit his fourth and final 3-pointer on the night, putting the Gaels up by five with 46 seconds to go, which in essence sealed the win.

(See pictures page 1)

### Saint Mary's Women Show Depth in OT Win

By Kevin D. Shallat



Suzie Davis (12); Serena Benavente (20); Lindsay Ekki (25) Photo: Tod Fierner

Saturday, Nov. 3 was the season opening game for the Saint Mary's women's basketball team as they took on Loyola University of New Orleans at McKeeon Pavilion. The Gaels outmatched this New Orleans team in almost every way, but Loyola found a way to come back and send this game into overtime. With the combination of a proven rebounder, a freshman rising star, and a fifth year senior, Saint Mary's won the game in overtime, 93-86.

It looked as if the Gaels were going to put this game away in the first half. Fifth year senior guard Serena Benavente did a good job of controlling the tempo of the game for the Gaels. She made a number of tough shots in traffic when Saint Mary's needed it the most. Benavente's clutch shooting, as well as her six assists and control of the ball, enabled the Gaels to get everyone involved. "Everybody's buying

into our new defense and it's up tempo style, in your face, pressure all the time kind of style," said Benavente.

The men's team isn't the only squad with a highly touted Australian recruit. Gaels forward Louella Tomlinson came over from Melbourne, Australia, and is only a freshman, but was able to make quite an impact in her Saint Mary's debut. Tomlinson was 10 of 13 from the field, scored 22 points, grabbed nine rebounds, and had five blocks in only 29 minutes of action. She also added two steals and three assists in her near triple double opening performance. Tomlinson was able to catch the ball up high throughout the game, and either pass it or shoot it without putting the ball on the court. "She's versatile where she can go inside and outside, and if you get bigs on other teams that try and guard her, she can drag them out (of position)," said Benavente.

Saint Mary's junior Jontelle Smith also had a nice game, as she scored 13 of her 21 points in the first half. Smith led the team in minutes and was able to track down seven rebounds in 38 minutes.

Loyola was able to keep the score close in the second half by a strong performance from Trenese Smith, who scored 37 points in 41 minutes. The score was 69-63 in favor of the Gaels with only 5:21 left to play in regulation when the Gaels called for the substitution of several starting players. Shortly

thereafter Loyola would close the gap and get within two points before Benavente hit a free throw to go up by three with 12 seconds to go. Loyola's Christine Mainguy hoisted a 3-point shot as the horn sounded and the shot clock light went off. Despite being heavily guarded by Gaels forward Maija Lahde, the ball dropped in to send the game into overtime. Lahde would get her revenge though, as her defense and rebounding would single handedly propel the Gaels in overtime to give Saint Mary's the win.

### Campo Harriers Triumph

By Douglas Chudler

On Nov. 7, the Campolindo cross-country team coached by Chuck Woolridge raced triumphantly at the DFAL Cross Country Championships to prove, once again, that they are one of the top high school running programs in the area.

The league championships were held at Shadow Cliffs Recreation Area in Pleasanton. The varsity 3-mile course, as well as the freshman/sophomore and JV 2-mile course, were relatively flat with minimal hills. Runners were thus given the opportunity to run their best race of the season and exhibit their full potential.

The two varsity races showcased some truly exciting performances by the Campo Cougars. The girls race was held first. Prior to the race, senior Hillary Tomas reflected upon the girls' season: "It's been kind of hard because of all the injuries, but for the most part, we've done really well and we're still undefeated."

During the race, freshman Grace Orders was in the lead, battling side-by-side with College Park's top runner. Although the College Park runner eventually broke away to win the race, Orders finished second. This is a spectacular finish for Orders who is just a freshman.

"Well, I just got off my injury, and I just got second, so I was really happy with my race," said Orders. She is among several freshman girls, including Sarah Mostatabi and Rachel Faoro, who stepped it up as the season progressed and landed them spots on the varsity squad. The combined efforts of each runner gave the team a first-place finish in the championships. This is made more exceptional by the fact that during mid-season, the girls team was plagued with injuries. The girls successfully bypassed these obstacles to close out the season

still undefeated.

The varsity boys race followed next.

For most of the race, junior Robert Pulford stayed just behind some of the greatest runners in the state. His great pacing allowed him to finish sixth. Juniors Michael Brondello and Ross Geiger positioned themselves at the front early in the race to push the team to a third-place finish. The Cougars lost to College Park and Acalanes, but defeated Las Lomas, who had beaten Campo in the early part of the season. The Campo varsity boys overcame a lack of discipline early in the season to prove themselves serious and focused athletes. Sophomore Paul Jackson, the youngest runner on the varsity squad, was excited about his 18th place finish: "I did everything I wanted to do in this race. It was my best race, and now I'm number four for Campo."

The Campolindo JV and frosh/soph teams also generated positive results at the league championships. While the frosh/soph girls achieved the perfect culmination to their season with a first-place finish, the frosh/soph boys finished in third. On the JV side, five Campo runners finished in the top ten for the boys, who concluded the season undefeated, while the girls acquired a third-place finish.

The varsity squads now look to the postseason. "We're hungry for redemption," said junior Colby Pines. The first postseason meet will be the North Coast Section Championships on Nov. 17. While the girl's look to defend their NCS crown, the boys look to take their relatively young team to the next level.

"I'm preparing myself mentally and physically," said boys varsity team member Jason Budge. "As the Asics ad says, 'Sound Mind, Sound Body.'"

### Miramonte Defeats State

#### Champion Campolindo

By Kevin D. Shallat

The defending women's state volleyball champion Campolindo Cougars hosted the Miramonte Matadors on Thursday, Nov. 8, as the two teams faced off for the second time this year. There was a good sized crowd on hand. However, like the first match-up, the home team lost. Miramonte pulled off a monumental upset as they beat the defending state champions, 3-1.

In the game a month ago, the Cougars won because they had a more balanced offensive attack. In that game Miramonte relied heavily upon outside hitter Juliana Stivanicevic, yet they had trouble getting more people involved. This was not the case Thursday night, as setter Mary Diamantidis played inspiring volleyball where she was able to get many of her teammates involved. "It was a lot of painful repetitions for her, but she really stepped up, I'm so proud of her and the way she's played so far," said Miramonte head coach Andy Jee.

Diamantidis was in the zone while racking up assists to her fellow teammates. One of those recipients was Miramonte outside hitter Kari Johnson. In the first meeting between the two teams, Johnson's highlights were centered around her serving. In this game it was her play above the net which helped elevate her team's performance. Campolindo's duo of Chandler Moore and Anni Isaacs, both outside hitters and middle blockers, had a terrific game defensively. However, with Johnson stepping up her play around the net, Campolindo couldn't account for both Johnson and Stivanicevic.

Perhaps the happiest player on the court was Miramonte's Stivanicevic. Stivanicevic, a transfer from Campolindo, seemed to be having the most fun out on the court, and it seemed to carry over to the other players.

The Matadors were able to get the visiting crowd rocking on a few stellar spikes after a few long relays. As good as Miramonte was in this first game, they won by a mere two points, beating the Cougars 25-23. The Matadors had won a game early in the first matchup, so there was some guarded optimism from the crowd. Diamantidis and the Matadors would continue their assault, as she continued to throw pinpoint assists to outside hitter and middle blocker Kelsey Freeman, middle blocker Haley Sayres, and outside hitter Kelsey Ross.

After Miramonte took the second game 25-23, it was apparent that the match was the Matador's to lose. The Cougars were able to fight back in the third game, as they wouldn't go down without a fight. Campolindo freshman setter Mary Vaccaro did all she could to keep Campolindo in this match. Cougar libero Alessandro Neason kept many rallies going by diving for impressive digs. Campolindo would mount a comeback in the third game and win 28-26, but would eventually lose steam in the fourth game and drop this final game of the match 25-17.

"I really hope we go to state. We may not be the best physical team, but I think we have the most heart, and I think that we can go all the way," said Diamantidis.

#### High school boys DFAL championships

2.95 miles at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, Pleasanton  
Team scores: College Park 62, Acalanes 74, Campolindo 77, Las Lomas 78, Dublin 133, Alhambra 163, Miramonte 179, Northgate 203, Concord 226

**Top 20 finishers**  
Attarian (D) 14:48, Beach (Aca) 15:03, Grace (D) 15:18, Blattler (Alh) 15:31, Drosky (LL) 15:34.0, Pulford (Cam) 15:34.9, Stinnett (Aca) 15:52, Rubio (CP) 15:54, Chaidze (CP) 15:55, Cameron (CP) 15:57.0, Brondello (Cam) 15:57.5, Jamieson (LL) 16:03.0, Walton (N) 16:03.4, Bickert (CP) 16:05, Green (LL) 16:11, Geiger (Cam) 16:13, Troxel (Aca) 16:15, Jackson (Cam) 16:19, Gracely (LL) 16:22, Cantrell (Aca) 16:23

#### Women's Cross Country DFAL Championships Meet Results 11/7/07

High school girls DFAL championships  
2.95 miles at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, Pleasanton

Team scores: Campolindo 36, College Park 59, Miramonte 87, Acalanes 104, Las Lomas 110, Alhambra 139, Concord 215, Dublin 221, Northgate 239

**Top 20 finishers**  
Cridebring (CP) 18:10, Orders (Cam) 18:37, Rosenthal (Cam) 18:51, Tanski (M) 18:56, Berge (Aca) 19:05, Brokaw (LL) 19:06.6, Andrews (Alh) 19:06.9, Finnegan (Cam) 19:13, Mostatabi (Cam) 19:14, Smedebush (Con) 19:17, Smith (CP) 19:24, Tsao (M) 19:29, Crawford (CP) 19:33, Brennan (Cam) 19:45, Parker (Alh) 19:51, Shidara (CP) 19:52, Caine (Aca) 19:54, Gallagher (CP) 19:58, Ota (CP) 20:07, Shearer (Aca) 20:16

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