

SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Running Game Powers Cougars to Another Win

By Alex Crook

"You guys love playing on the road." Those were the words of 12th year Campolindo coach Kevin Macy before his Cougars cruised to an easy 28-8 win over the Encinal Jets in Alameda on Friday night. The air was cold at Willie Stargell Field, which looked like it could have been a 1970's Pop Warner field. It had natural grass, no hash marks, and yard lines every five yards across the entire length of the field.

The spotlight was on senior running back Bo Richter that night when he ran in all four Campolindo touchdowns. The first quarter ended 14-0 Campo. The Cougars allowed the Jets only one offensive play in the first 12 minutes. That's because Campo's Tyler Rittenhour successfully recovered an onside kick from Giorgio Tavecchio following a 1-yard score from Bo Richter to open the game.

Encinal got on the scoreboard in the second quarter when Luke Crossley received a bad snap from John Petrovich. The ball sailed over the punter's

head and into the end zone where a blue jersey pounced on it to put the Jets on the board with a safety. The half then ended 21-2 Cougars with the help of a 7-yard touchdown run from Richter to extend Campolindo's lead.

In the third quarter, the Jets exploded with a 57-yard touchdown pass from Jonathan Brown to Dominique Sashington for the last Encinal highlight of the night. After the missed extra point, the score stood 21-8 Cougars. To finish off the Jets in the fourth quarter, Bo Richter converted on yet another 1-yard score to put Campolindo up by 20.

Late in the 4th a Campo fumble was picked up by Tyrone Duckett and ran back for the Encinal score. But two flags against the Jets crushed their hope of stopping the red-hot Cougars, and the touchdown was denied. Encinal then got a little ticked off with Campo and landed a personal foul, driving the Jets back 15 yards. With 44 seconds remaining, Tyler Ritten-

hour sealed it by picking off Brown's pass. The Cougars finally ran down the clock to eliminate Encinal from the NCS Playoffs.

Campolindo has only lost once on the road all year, that being Week 4 against the College Park Falcons. The Cougars ended up on the short side of a 34-32 heartbreaker in Pleasant Hill back on Sept. 28. Campo is 6-1 away from Cougar Stadium.

This week's game will be a rematch with the Las Lomas Knights in Walnut Creek. On Saturday afternoon, Las Lomas took down the visiting Ygnacio Valley Warriors. Campo will be thinking payback after what happened with the blown call in Moraga a couple weeks ago. In fact, the Cougars haven't trailed a game since they hosted Las Lomas on senior night. The Knights held on to a late 20-13 lead to take the win.

The winner of Friday night's game will play for the NCS title. Campo has never been to the final.

Saint Mary's Men Win In Final Five Seconds

By Kevin D. Shallat



L to R: Coley Heldreth (2), Kurt Thompson (26), David Blanchard (7)

Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's men's soccer team finished up their season Sunday, Nov. 18 on a high note against the Loyola Marymount Lions. The Gaels came from behind to score a goal in the last five seconds of regulation to break up the tie and win this game, 2-1.

The Gaels beat the Lions in Los Angeles in October, but found themselves down 1-0 in this game mid-way through the first half. Loyola Marymount's Rafael Baca took a shot that caromed off the cross bar, but leaked back into the field of play where Steffen Canty was there to kick the ball into the upper right corner of the goal for the Lion's lone score of the game.

The Gaels nearly tied the score in the first half after a wild succession of headers. Corey Heldreth was able to head the ball to teammate Justin Kim who headed the ball on a line toward the goal, but the Lion's Alex Proano was standing inside the goal line where he took one step out and headed the ball away in what would have been a sure goal for Saint Mary's. Despite a seemingly equal time of possession, the Lions would keep the lead and head into the half with 1-0 advantage.

It was senior day for the Gaels, and the last game of the season for both squads, so the game was very physical, and the referees called the game accordingly. There were a total of 32 fouls in the game, including two red cards. The Gaels actually had two more fouls in this game than

the Lions, but the Gaels were able to capitalize on the penalties. The Lions may have been frustrated by their tough season, as two of their players received red cards, and were ejected from the game.

Some of Loyola Marymount's frustration may have come after the Gaels tied the score. Nick Cashmere took a shot that was deflected, and Mark Araujo hit a header that bounced off the cross bar and towards the goal line. The Saint Mary's fans thought that the Gaels were robbed, but rejoiced after a controversial call from the referee, who motioned that the ball dropped inside the goal line for a game tying score.

The Gaels got another

penalty call in their favor with five seconds to go in regulation, with the game tied at 1-1. Justin Kim looked like he was going to be the one to kick the penalty shot, but at the last second Eric Robert kicked a screaming shot that tailed back into the goal and into the upper middle portion of the net for an untouched game winning goal. "We put our best left footer on it, one of our most confident strikers. He saw the upper corner and put it home for us," said goalkeeper Brian Mason.

Mason also wanted to thank his teammates, as this was his last game as a Gael. "Thank you for a wonderful, wonderful, amazing experience," said Mason.

Saint Mary's Upends 12th Ranked Oregon Ducks

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The game went back and forth in the first half, as neither team was able to break away. The Gaels headed into the locker room at halftime with a 38-35 advantage over the Ducks.

The high flying and energetic duo of Samhan and forward Diamon Simpson would come up big in the second half. Simpson would finish with 18 points, 12 rebounds, two blocks, and two steals. Samhan would finish with 16 points and five rebounds. When the score reached 68-56 in favor of the Gaels, the gym took on a frenzied atmosphere, with one half of the gym yelling "go,"



Patrick Mills (13)

Photo Tod Fierner

and the other half yelling "Gaels." However, the fans would soon become quiet as Leunen was able to make a lay-up for Oregon to cut the lead to 72-64.

Saint Mary's received a quick boost from forward Lucas Walker, who came off the bench and scored back to back lay-ups. With the help of Mills' record breaking performance, and Todd Golden's rock

steady defense and heads up play, the Gaels took this game in convincing fashion, 99-87.



Go Gaels!

Upcoming Sports Events at Saint Mary's College

Men's Basketball vs. Seton Hall Saturday, Dec. 1 at 4:05 p.m. McKeon Pavilion

Men's Basketball vs. Furman vs. CS Fullerton Friday, Dec. 28 at 5 p.m. McKeon Pavilion

For information about upcoming season schedules, visit the official Saint Mary's athletics website at www.SMCGaels.com.

Cougars Pass First Test to Stay Alive

By Alex Crook

Apparently, a season-ending visit to Concord wasn't the end of the line for Campolindo varsity football.

It started a couple weeks ago, when Campo took their turn in the opening round of the 2007 NCS 2A Championships. They were scheduled to face heavily favored Heritage High School on their home turf in Brentwood at Patriot Stadium. Before the game in the locker room, Cougar coach Kevin Macy told his guys that not them, but Heritage should be under pressure that night. It was their home turf, and they were expected to win. And Heritage did everything-except win.

On the opening kickoff, Campo's Michael Hoffman, one of several junior varsity players to move up to varsity next year, returned the kick all the way to the Heritage 17. About 4 minutes later, senior wide receiver Nick Mascheroni caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from future varsity quarterback Tommy Stephens, one of 4 of the wide receiver's touchdown catches in Campo's 42-14 rout of the "host" Patriots. Mascheroni's longest touchdown reception that night was a 30-yard bomb from Stephens. Nick later took a break from the spotlight to let lightning fast fullback Andreas Antonio pound his way 15 yards into the end zone for yet another Cougar score.

The half ended 28-7 in favor of Campolindo but for Coach Macy, that wasn't good enough. At the break, Macy told his team a

story of how in one game, Campo led 35-21 at halftime. The final score was 38-35. Campo lost. Even on this night against the Pats, the coaches were all in the players' face about how not to give up a comeback and not letting the first drive of the second half slip away from the defense. And coming out of the locker room, Heritage was hungry.

With 10:13 left in the 3rd quarter, the Patriots marched all the way to the Cougars' 1. On 4th and goal, quarterback Kyle Golinveaux capped the drive with a QB sneak into the end zone, cutting the lead to 28-14 Cougars. After an incomplete pass to Luke Crossley on 4th down, the Patriots drove the ball all the way back down deep into Cougar territory, this time to the 5 before Anthony Fadelli intercepted Golinveaux's throw in the end zone and took it back 100 yards down the sideline for the touchdown to make it 35-14 Campo. That was the turning point of the game, and Heritage never looked up again.

Nick Mascheroni ended the scoring in the 4th quarter with a beautifully lobbed 10-yard touchdown reception from Andrew Ertola.

Last week, Campolindo went on to defeat Encinal High 28-8 (see story above) after the Jets ended Acalan's season with a 46-7 win over the Dons in Lafayette. The No. 7 Cougars will face No. 1 Las Lomas on the Knights' home turf at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30.

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