

# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



### Cougars Push Forward after Acalanes Upset

By Conrad Bassett

There are a couple of adages in basketball: "Games are won and lost at the free throw line," and "You live and die by the three." The Campolindo and Acalanes boys teams got to experience both in person on Feb. 6 as the Dons beat the Cougars 56-50 at Acalanes.

Acalanes (16-7, 7-4 DFAL) scored the first eight points of the game with Joey Anderson scoring six of his game high 21 points in the first three minutes. Campo (16-7, 9-2 DFAL) finally scored with 4:44 to go when Chris Dyer hit a lay-up and followed with a three point shot. Jack Trotter passed out assists to Brian Sanders and Jamie Fox and the Cougars tied the game at ten. Then the Dons went on a 7-0 run to end the period with Brian Perkins scoring twice and Anderson hitting a three.

In the second period the Dons continued to pad their lead with Anderson hitting Brooks Baker for a score and a 25-15 lead. Ryan Fruin hit a three and Trotter added two to cut the lead to five but a Donovan Christensen basket and a Hunter Hewitt shot just before the period ended sent the Dons off to a 29-22 halftime lead.

The second half started much like the first with Anderson scoring back-to-back baskets and the Dons led by eleven. The Cougs stayed within striking distance and had the lead down to six before David Masi scored at the buzzer for a 43-35 Don lead.

The fourth quarter would come down to the aforementioned free throws and threes. Adam Mancebo hit a three for

the Cougars and following a Rashan Flowers follow shot, Trotter scored twice and Campo had the lead at 46-45. Not to be undone, the Dons kept their composure and Flowers hit a short jumper and Perkins nailed one from the baseline and the Dons were ahead to stay at 49-46. The Cougars stayed within three before the last couple of minutes when the free throw shooting "contest" began. Hewitt hit two of two and Anderson three of four sandwiched around a double clutch jumper from Flowers while the Cougars missed some threes and the Dons had the six point win.

On the evening, Campo hit only five threes which is well below their season average and the Dons were 9 of 10 from the line while the Cougars could only muster 8 of 21 from the charity stripe. Trotter finished with 20 to lead Campolindo with Dyer adding 11.

The Cougar loss as well as the Las Lomas win over Miramonte gave the DFAL a four-team tie at the top with each of these teams and Dublin with three games to play.

After losing earlier in the week to Acalanes, as well as falling into a four-way tie for first place, Campolindo had to travel to Walnut Creek on Feb. 8 to take on the Las Lomas Knights, who earlier beat the Cougars in overtime in Moraga. Campo scored early and often, fought off several Las Lomas challenges and then came from behind to beat the Knights, 65-59.

On Feb. 15, it was Senior Night in Moraga as the Campolindo boy's basket ball team met up with an improving Northgate team that had beaten a good Miramonte team just two days before. The Cougars, with a win would be the DFAL champions for the second time in three years.

They did not disappoint as the pulled away from the Broncos (12-14, 7-7 DFAL) in the second half 75-53. Trotter capped his regular season Campo career with a triple double . . . a career high 41 points, 16 rebounds, and ten blocks. Shields finished with 16 and ten rebounds and Dyer his consistent 13 points to go with eight assists and six rebounds. Ryan Fruin followed his own miss with a score and Brett Banard scored his first varsity points in a three after a Chris Bassett-Bouchard pass to complete the scoring.



Chris Dyer (10) Photo Gavin Schlissel

### Lamorinda Schools Top NCS Seeding

All three Lamorinda High Schools boys' teams will be playing in the post season as the North Coast Section announced their seedings on Sunday for Division 3. Campolindo (19-7) earned the top seed and a first round bye and will host either Encinal or Del Norte (Crescent City) at 7:30 on Friday night. Miramonte (20-6) was chosen as the three seed and also has a bye in the first round and will play either Dublin or Analy at home on Friday at 6:30 pm. Acalanes (18-8), the four seed, received a first round bye and will play

Friday night against the El Cerrito/San Marin winner. Game time is to be announced.

The Bentley Girls have the No. 8 seed in Division V Girls and play at home on Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. against Urban.

The Division 3 boys and Girls finals will be held on Saturday, March 1 at Saint Mary's College. The NCS tournament is single elimination, however traditionally both finalists do move on to the Northern California tournament beginning March 3.

### Long-Time Miramonte Fans Keep Cheering Over the Years

By Jennifer Wake

A group of gentlemen affectionately known as "the Miramonte Grandpas" have made a place for themselves in the stands and in the hearts of hundreds of players over the past 20-plus years at Miramonte High School sporting events.

After his wife passed away in 1982, Jim Stockton (also known as Grandpa Jim) began to attend the local sports events following an invitation from his neighbor, whose son played for the Mats.

"My neighbor Barney's son was on the baseball team and invited me along," Stockton said. "After that, I used to be active in everything. I was at sports events every day of the week, routing for the teams."

As he continued to attend the events, Stockton built a group of regular supporters he

calls "the Grandfather Group," which includes Al Simonsen (former MHS Parents' Club president and Moraga Citizen of the Year), Ray Doorack (former MHS vice principal), John Mayer (who prefers to be called a Miramonte "father," according to Stockton), and Paul Nordine.

Not only does the group follow girls' basketball and other Mats sports, but they have become such a part of the teams that they are invited to pre-game pasta feeds and are allowed to go down on the court or onto the field to help the teams out.

Although he is very close to his own family, Stockton said he has "made a life of being 'Grandpa Jim of Miramonte'."

"We're a pretty good group. I've gone through four principals and they've been

wonderful to me," he said. "The coaches have been wonderful to me, too."

Al Simonsen – one of the "Grandpas whose three children attended Miramonte and who has been involved in local sports for years, including running LMYA sports for years and coaching soccer – is a U.C. Berkeley alum, but he says he would rather see Miramonte win than Cal.

"The Miramonte games are more intimate," said Simonsen, who is a retired airline captain and who occasionally substitute teaches at OIS, JM and Miramonte. "It's fun to watch these kids grow up. They're like an extended family."

Stockton agrees. "I'll keep it up as long as I can," he said.



From left to right are John Mayer, Jim Stockton (MHS Snack Shack named in his honor), Al Simonsen (former MHS Parents' Club president), Paul Nordine



### Go Gaels! Upcoming Sports Events at Saint Mary's College

- Men's Baseball vs. Towson Friday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 23 at 11 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 24 at noon
- Louis Guisto Field
- Women's Tennis vs. San Francisco Friday, Feb. 22 at 3 p.m.
- SMC
- Men's Basketball vs. Kent State

- Saturday, Feb. 23 at 9 p.m.
- McKeon Pavilion
- Women's Softball vs. San Jose State Sun., Feb. 24 at noon and 2 p.m.
- SMC
- Men's Basketball vs. San Diego Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:05 p.m.
- McKeon Pavilion
- Women's Basketball vs. Portland Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.
- McKeon Pavilion
- Men's Baseball vs. UW-Milwaukee Friday, Feb. 29 at 2 p.m.
- Louis Guisto Field

- Women's Lacrosse vs. Mount St. Mary's Friday, Feb. 29 at 3:30 p.m.
- Saint Mary's Stadium
- Women's Basketball vs. Gonzaga Saturday, March 1 at 2 p.m.
- McKeon Pavilion
- Men's Tennis vs. UC Davis Saturday, March 1 at noon
- SMC
- Women's Lacrosse vs. Boston College Sunday, March 2 at 1 p.m.
- Saint Mary's Stadium

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



Jack Trotter (34) Photo Gavin Schlissel

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