

Campo Overtakes Mirmamonte at Semi-Finals

By Steven Johns



Ryan Kimura (18), Jason Kimura (19), Ryan Schori (15), Doug French (5), Parker Wells (30) Photo Jordan Fong

On a cold Wednesday night beneath a lunar eclipse, the Campolindo Cougars and the Miramonte Matadors took the pitch in a NCS semi-final matchup. The first two times these two boys soccer teams met ended in 1-1 ties. This time, however, the Cougars dominated the game and won 2-0.

The game started with the Matadors getting two early scoring chances. Both shots were stopped by Campolindo's junior goal-keeper Noel Raine. The Cougars rushed down the field, but could not get a shot off.

A few minutes later Campolindo got its first chance at a goal when senior Thibault Deichler had a break away. Deichler ran down the field, past Miramonte defenders, and took a shot. The ball sailed left of the net, and the game remained 0-0.

The Cougars continued to pressure the Miramonte defense, getting two more good chances. They finally took advantage of those chances with 27:32 left in the half. Sophomore Ben Rudolf threw the ball in from the left side-line right to senior Parker Wells, who booted the ball past goalie Stephen Church to make the game 1-0 Cougars.

The Cougars gained all of the momentum after a controversial foul call on Wells. The foul occurred in the goalie box, thus giving the Matadors

a penalty kick. Senior Phil DaSilva wound up and kicked the ball towards the bottom right corner of the net. Raine dove to his left and blocked the shot, keeping the score 1-0 Cougars.

After this blocked penalty kick, the Cougars would not let the Matadors have any chances for the rest of the half.

The second half started with a bang. Deichler had yet another break away, but fell down, on what appeared to be similar to the foul that gave Miramonte a penalty kick, and missed the goal.

The Cougars appeared to take a 2-0 lead when Rudolf threw the ball towards the net from the sideline. The ball bounced into the net, but without being touched, thus keeping the game 1-0 Campolindo.

Miramonte's hopes of coming back were destroyed when Wells tipped in a shot from Rudolf to give the Cougars a 2-0 win. This goal gave Wells his second of the day. "My teammates set me up perfectly and I was able to get my foot on the ball" stated Wells.

Campolindo was able to keep the pressure on the Matadors and did not allow many shots to reach Raine. "We knew [Miramonte's] strategies and we were able to shut them down" explained Wells. Campolindo's great execution of their game plan put them in the finals.