

## Cougars Take NCS Title with Double Digit Win

By Conrad Bassett

**B**ack on January 22, the Dublin Gaels boys basketball team came to Moraga for a DFAL game and were crushed by Campolindo 91-49. This time the location was across town at Saint Mary's College for all of the marbles and the NCS Division 3 championship on Saturday night but the results were essentially the same...a double-digit Cougar win.

Campolindo (22-7) scored first and were never headed as they captured their third NCS championship in four years by defeating Dublin (23-7) 69-51 before a capacity crowd of nearly 3,500 raucous fans. The win assured the Cougars of a first round home game in the CIF Northern California championships.

The Cougars jumped off to a 7-0 lead with Jack Trotter scoring all of the points including a ferocious dunk. Dublin's Tyler Murphy and KJ Scott scored baskets to cut the lead to three. The teams traded baskets before Trotter got inside and dunked again. Chris Dyer hit a three and following a Tyler Worthley three, the Cougars went on a 11-2 run to end the period and a 25-13 advantage. Dyer, Will Shields and Miles Macy hit threes for Campo.

In the second period the Gaels outscored Campo by 11-10. The teams essentially traded baskets but as close as Dublin would get was 33-24. Trotter scored eight in the period despite being double-teamed and was the recipient of several good passes.

In the third, Campo scored a couple of times to each score for Dublin and continued to increase the margin. Adam Mancebo started the scoring hitting a basket and Trotter added ten in the period. Tom Wraith assisted Dyer on two threes and Bryan Reinke and Brian Sanders also scored. Brent McHone tried singlehandedly to keep the Gaels in the game by scoring nine in the period but it was too little and too late and heading into the last eight minutes it was 58-37 Campolindo.

In the fourth period with the outcome not in doubt, each team made frequent substitutions and the lead stayed around 20 before the final horn when the Campo faithful stormed the court to congratulate their classmates.

Trotter again led all scorers with 33 points and was a force inside on offense and on defense blocked and altered several Gael shots. Dyer finished with 14 points. Tim and KJ Scott both finished in double figures for the Gaels who also advanced to the CIF NorCals.



Jack Trotter (34)

Photo Gavin Schlissel