



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

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 goalkeeper 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.

Mats Make it to NCS Soccer Finals, Clinch Title

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Miramonte women's soccer team hosted the NCS match against Bishop O'Dowd on Wednesday, Feb. 20, on the night of a total lunar eclipse. The moon may have been obscured Wednesday, but there was no disguising the talent of the Matadors' soccer team. The Mats may have preferred to record more goals in this match, but they were able to dominate the Dragons in this game in almost every statistical category. The one first half goal in this game was enough to secure another NCS victory, as the 1-0 win allowed Miramonte to continue on to the NCS finals.

Miramonte got off to a slow start in this game, as they controlled the ball, but remained on their own side of the field for a good portion of the opening minutes. Bonnie Zeiger and Marisa Rowland were very active for the Mats in the opening period, but were unable to turn some nice passes into goals. In the twelfth minute of play, the Mats had a breakdown on their defense, which set up a point blank shot for O'Dowd. Luckily, the O'Dowd player missed her shot high, as the ball bounced up and over the field goal cross bar. Shortly thereafter the Mats kicked it into gear, and were able to respond with a goal. Rowland set up a beautiful pass to Kendall Pegan, who took a shot on goal that was partially blocked by the O'Dowd goalkeeper. Pegan kept her cool and stayed with the play, as the ball leaked out from under the goalie's grasp. Pegan calmly kicked the loose ball into the net for the go ahead goal.

Despite scoring a goal in the first half, the Mats were lucky that O'Dowd could not take advantage of some Miramonte miss-cues. On one play, Miramonte tried to play it safe by kicking the ball back to the goalie. The play almost backfired, as Miramonte was just able to secure the loose ball. Seconds later an O'Dowd player



Julia Hurwitz (8) Photo Jordan Fong

had the easiest shot of the game, and again, the point-blank shot was missed, as it sailed wide right.

The second half was a much cleaner period for the Mats. The whole second half appeared to be played in Dragon territory, as Miramonte applied the pressure. Conversely, the Dragons were hard pressed to get a shot on goal against the Mats.

Rowland was everywhere for Miramonte Wednesday night. If there was a shot on the Dragon's goal, chances are Rowland had something to do with the shot, or the set-up. However, Rowland

was not alone, as she had plenty of help. Elaine Tanski had a solid game for the Mats, as she was active on the offensive and defensive ends of the ball. Miramonte's Alex Seclow also did a nice job of setting up her teammates in this match with a number of nice passes down the line.

"It's nice to finally get through the semi-finals to go to the finals, because I think we really deserve it," said Pegan.

The Mats went on to beat Piedmont (21-1-1) at the finals on Saturday, Feb. 23 at Acalanes High School, clinching the NCS title.

Cougars Boys' Soccer Land NCS Title

By Steven Johns



Parker Wells (30), Ryan Kimura (18) Photo Jordan Fong

On Saturday, Feb. 23, the Campolindo Cougars battled the Piedmont Highlanders in the NCS Championship game.

Despite beating Campolindo 1-0 earlier in the year, Piedmont was no match for the Cougars in the Championship game. On a stormy night the Cougars dominated the Highlanders in a 6-1 win to give them the NCS Championship.

The game started out with Piedmont getting many chances at scoring. In the first five minutes they were able to get four shots off at Campolindo goal-keeper Noel Raine. Great goal tending and good defense prevented the

Highlanders from scoring.

When the Cougars settled down they began their domination. After a close call on a free kick Campolindo started its scoring barrage. With 22:20 left in the half junior Arika Okamitsu had a free kick from mid-field. He launched a shot towards the net where senior captain Max Smith-Gee headed the ball past the Piedmont goalie to put the Cougars up 1-0.

A few minutes later the Cougars had another free-kick. This time Smith-Gee shot the ball towards the net where sophomore Ben Rudolf put the ball in the back of the net to put the Cougars

on top 2-0.

After seven minutes of back and forth the Cougars again showed their dominance. Rudolf threw the ball in from the left side-line to senior Parker Wells, who booted the ball for the Cougars third goal of the game. This goal gave Wells his third goal in two games. With a 3-0 lead in favor of the Cougars, the championship game was all but over.

Campolindo came out in the second half like the game was still 0-0. The Cougars were getting shot after shot against the Highlanders.

With 26:10 left in the game Campolindo got yet another goal. Senior Thibault Deichler raced after a ball for a chance at a break away, when the Piedmont goalie came out and tried to clear the ball. He kicked the ball towards mid-field and right to Campolindo senior Georgio Tavecchio, who launched a 40 yard shot into the back of an empty net to give Campolindo a 4-0 lead.

The goals kept coming for Campolindo with 23:12 left in the game. Freshman Jason Kimura kicked the ball from 30 yards away towards the net. After a high bounce the Piedmont keeper tried to stop the ball, but caught it inside the net. Kimura's goal gave the cougars a 5-0 lead.

The Cougars final goal came when junior Andrew Choi shot a rebound into the back of the net.

The Highlanders added a goal late, but Piedmont's deficit was too large to overcome.

As the final second ticked off the clock, the Campolindo fans stormed the field to celebrate an historic season. After beating Las Lomas and Miramonte in the quarterfinals and the semifinals respectively, the Cougars took the NCS title with a dominating 6-1 victory over Piedmont.

After a long season, the 2007-2008 Campolindo Cougars are the NCS Champions for the first time in their long history.

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