



## Cougars Comeback Falls Short at Quarter Final

By Conrad Bassett



Jack Trotter (34), Bryan Reinke (3)

Photo Doug Kohen

**B**ack on Dec. 6, the Campolindo boys basketball team opened their season on the road in Santa Rosa and fell behind 35-12 at halftime. The Cougars came back in that game and lost by only two points. In their Division 3 Northern California quarter final against Sacramento High on March 4 they faced a similar challenge – this time with less than five minutes to go in the game.

But, as in December, the Cougars comeback fell short and they lost to the Dragons 66-63.

Sacramento scored the first four points behind Bobby Evans and Chase Tarpley. Each team traded turnovers before Campo got on the board on a Jack Trotter hook shot at the 5:38 mark. The score seesawed back and forth before Campo took its first lead at 8-7 when Trotter scored on a layup to start a Cougar run. Chris Dyer went coast-to-coast on a layup and followed with a three. Chris Avenant hit a baseline jumper for the Dragons then Miles Macy drained a

three and then was fouled on a layup where he willed the ball up and over the rim on an amazing shot. Evans made a tip in and Trotter a layup before Kyle Allen scored for Sac and Campo led after one at 20-13.

Campo's lead quickly evaporated at the beginning of the second as Tarpley hit a three followed by baskets by Kyle Allen and Avenant and the score was tied at 20. Campo coach Chris Whirlow called a time out to slow the momentum down. Macy calmly hit another three and the Cougars led again. Tarpley answered with an improbable three from the baseline that actually hit the backboard. The lead changed hands a few more times before Tarpley hit a free throw. Campo came back down the court and Trotter was called for an offensive foul (his third) near the end of the period and Sacramento led 28-27 at the break.

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Chris Dyer (10), Jack Trotter (34)

Photo Doug Kohen

In the second half, Trotter hit a follow shot and Campo would have the lead for the last time in the game. The Dragons made attempts nearly every time down court to get Trotter his fourth foul and Tarpley went to work inside scoring 13 of his game high 28 points in the period. By the time the horn sounded, Sacramento had pushed out to a commanding 57-38 lead.

The fourth period was one of the most exciting ever played on Campolindo's court. Sacramento continued to work inside and padded their lead to 65-43 when Evans dunked a shot with 4:47 to play. Then, the Cougars went crazy. Dyer buried a three and before Trotter went to the line at 3:31 to go, Campo was down by 19. Trotter hit both ends of the one and one and then the fireworks began. Will Shields, who had been defended very well by Avenant much of the game, stole a pass and got the ball to Dyer who returned it to Shields who hit a three.

Dyer then made a steal and scored and with 2:27 to go and a 12 point lead. Trotter was fouled and hit two free throws and following a Campo defensive stop, Shields again hit a three from the corner and it was 65-58 with 1:51 to go. Sacramento turned over the ball on a three-second call and Dyer was fouled. He hit one of two free throws and the Cougars were within six. Tom Wraith made a steal and Dyer made another layup. The Cougars had scored 18 unanswered points.

Allen made a free throw for the Dragons and Dyer came right back down and scored on a layup and improbably Campo was within three with 34 seconds to go. The Cougars fouled Avenant who calmly sank two free throws but the Cougars were not done as Dyer arched in another three and Campo called a time out with four seconds left and a two point deficit. Needing to get the ball back, they fouled Avenant who made the first of a one and one; then missed the second. Dyer scrambled for the rebound but his heave at the buzzer from the far base line came up short.

The packed house stood and gave the team a rousing standing ovation. Trotter ended his Campolindo career with 26 points, 19 rebounds and nine blocks while Dyer, who will return next year finished with his own double-double with 21 points, ten rebounds and a handful of assists and steals. Macy had a career high of 13 points and seven steals. Evans finished with 13 for the Dragons as did Avenant who had career highs in both scoring and rebounding where he had ten.