

Cougars Fall to Falcons

By Steven Johns

On Tuesday, March 18 the Campolindo Cougars took the field against the College Park Falcons, who were trying to extend their winning streak to three games.

In their first match-up of the year the Falcons were able to convincingly beat the Cougars 6-2.

The Cougars, trying get back over .500, started off the game well. Senior David Wirth came out throwing strikes and retired the first three Falcons in order. In the bottom of the inning, Sam Gregory singled up the middle and Anthony Fadelli drew a walk. Their rally abruptly stopped when Chris Hilk grounded into a 4-6-3 double play.

In the second inning, however, the Cougars started their free-fall. Wirth gave up a single to Chaz Vink, who then advanced to second on a wild pitch. Wirth seemed to get back on track when he struck out Johnny Wells, and got an out on a fielder's choice off of the bat of Travis Smith. With two outs in the inning the Campolindo defense fell apart. On an attempt to steal second Hilk threw the ball down to second for what would be the third out of the inning. However, the ball was mishandled and Smith was safe at second.

After the error, Tommy Holcomb singled to left, scoring Smith. After Holcomb stole second, Julian Ornellas singled up the middle to plate Holcomb and give the Falcons a 2-0 lead. After yielding a bunt single, Wirth was able to retire Jimmy Gardner to limit the damage.

In the third inning Casey Goonan singled and stole second

and third base. Goonan was later driven in by Wells to give College Park a 3-0 lead.

In the fourth inning the Falcons blew the game open. It seemed like Wirth was going to have an easy inning, when, with two outs and nobody on, Ornellas hit a towering home run to left field. Julian Fiammengo reached first on his second bunt single of the game and was moved over to second after an error. Fiammengo scored after a Josh Nuyten single.

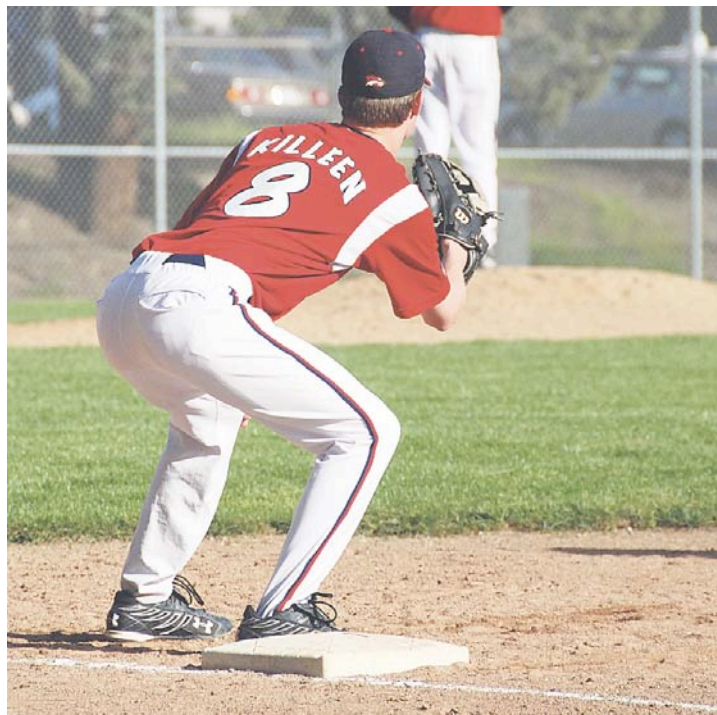
With runners on first and third and the score 5-0 in favor of College Park, the Cougars had their biggest lapse of the game. The runner on first took off for second before the pitcher threw the pitch. As the runner on third broke for home, Wirth wheeled around to throw to second. However, Wirth then tried to turn and

throw home to avoid giving up another run. By this time however, the run had already scored, making the game 6-0 College Park. Wirth got out of the inning by striking out Wells with the bases loaded.

The Cougars were able to get two runs late, but could not muster enough offense to overcome their large deficit.

The star of the game was College Park starter Casey Goonan. Goonan was able to cruise through the Cougars' offense without any problems.

"[Goonan] was unhittable," Campolindo's Jamie Fox said. "We just couldn't convert when we needed to." The outstanding performance by Goonan and the defensive miscues caused the Cougars to drop to 3-4 overall and 1-2 in DFAL.



Chris Killeen Campolindo (8)

Photo Gavin Schlissel