

Campolindo, Miramonte Golf Teams Finish 9, 10 in NCS Finals

By Jack Fernbacher



Jack Middlebrook

Photo Jack Fernbacher

The Campolindo golf team edged out its cross-town rival Miramonte by one stroke to place ninth at the NCS/TOC championships. Campolindo fired a five-man score of 402 at Franklin Canyon Golf Course, which is the home course for the Alhambra Bulldogs. The top 20 teams from the NCS south and north qualifiers competed for three spots to advance to the NorCal Tournament.

Senior phenom Jack Middlebrook led the Cougars posting a 5-over 77. The Monday before at the NCS qualifying round Middlebrook tore up the course and shot a 75.

“I got into a groove late in the season and started swinging well,” Middlebrook said. “I practiced really hard and got my game going. I wanted to help our team do as well as we could, and beating Miramonte at the end felt really good.”

Campolindo’s Sophomore Bjorn Kallerud, the Co-MVP of the DFAL, and senior Ben Alexander shot a pair of 79s. Senior Alex Berber started his round off strong with a 1-under front nine, but couldn’t keep his

score in the red, and finished with an 83.

At NCS qualifying the week before, Campolindo shot an identical 402 and easily qualified at Monarch Bay Golf Course. Miramonte made it a little more difficult and barely squeaked by to qualify for NCS.

The top ten teams from the qualifying round the week before got the bid for the TOC tournament, and Miramonte tied for tenth place. In an event of a tie, the winner goes to the team with the lower six-man score and Miramonte’s sixth man Cole Speers shot an 88 to edge out California’s 89.

Miramonte proved that they should be at the TOC by firing up a score of 403 and placing tenth. Miramonte’s low scorer was senior Scotty Williams who shot a 76. Junior Cole Speers came through in the clutch and shot a 77, an 11-stroke improvement from the previous week at NCS qualifying.

“It hurt to lose to Campo by one stroke,” Williams said. “We have been fighting against them all year and can’t stand losing to them.”

Other teams from the DFAL who played in the TOC were Acalanes and Alhambra. Alhambra placed 15th with a score of 420 and Acalanes placed 20th with a score of 434.

Cardinal Newman High School from Santa Rosa took first place with a score of 376, San Ramon Valley placed second shooting 387, and Monte Vista took the last qualifying spot with a 389.

Local individual qualifier John Hasse from Berkeley High School was the number one NorCal qualifier with his score of 71. Justin Gabbert from Foothill also qualified for NorCal with a score of 72. Foothill didn’t qualify as a team this season after coming off last year’s win at the State championship. Along with Foothill, powerhouse De La Salle didn’t qualify for NorCal, missing the cut by one stroke.