



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Cougars Start Season with a Roar

By Guy Dotan



Anthony Rodriguez, "Rocket" (20)

Photo Doug Kohen

Football season has officially begun for the Campolindo Cougars, and the team started off this new season in grand fashion. In what was supposed to be a game about discovering the

team's strengths and weaknesses, the players worked together with such precision, it was as if they had been playing together for years. Campolindo demolished Livermore 35-22 in a game that

featured success on all fronts for the Cougars.

It only took one play for the Cougars to get onto the board as senior and three year letterman Anthony Fadelli returned the

opening kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown. The return was a thing of beauty as Fadelli caught the kickoff, ran upfield toward his blockers, right through the hole they created for him, and then

into the endzone untouched.

The Cougars never looked back. A seven yard touchdown run by senior Anthony "Rocket" Rodriguez and a punt block and recovery in the endzone by Ty Fach kicked the door wide open as the Cougars built a 21-0 first quarter lead. In the second quarter, the Campo offense was led by big runs from senior Kawa "Cookie" Kazzaz and capped off by a 1 yard touchdown run by Rodriguez. Shutdown defense complemented the effective running game, and the Cougars had a 28-0 halftime lead.

During the second half of the game, the Cougars played a bit passively at first but were able to hold off a late fourth quarter Cowboy surge to put the game away. All in all, every element of the team played well, from the offense led by junior quarterback Tommy Stephens; to the defense, which held the Cowboys scoreless in the first half; to the special teams that scored two touchdowns and were a perfect five for five in extra points by junior Ben Rudolph.

"As a team I think we brought great energy and focus to the game," Stephens said after the game, "Our special teams were phenomenal along with our de-

fense. I thought our offensive line did a great job up front being physical in the run game and our backs ran hard."

Junior wide receiver and safety Patrick Wirth said, "Although we performed well in the first half, we really didn't execute to our expectations in the second half. We played well overall, but we still have a lot of work to do."

There is still a long way to go in the season. Campolindo fared well in their first non-league game, but what really matters are the DFAL matchups soon to come. The camaraderie between the players is essential in keeping them focused and entertained at the same time.

"On the field, the older players help (the younger players) out and try to make us as good as possible. Off the field, we are all great friends and they are a lot of fun to hang out with," Wirth says of the team's chemistry.

As for the rest of the year, Stephens is confident in the team's "strong core of guys that are excited for everyone to contribute and play together. We know that we'll need to continue to improve in all areas if we want to compete each week, but we are all working hard to get better."



Kawa Kazzaz "Cookie" (25)

Photo Doug Kohen

### Campo Stomps Northgate for Win Number Two

By Alex Crook

It was, in a way, an easy game for the Campolindo Cougars varsity football squad Friday as they opened DFAL play against visiting Northgate.

Campo was coming off a 35-22 season-opening victory against Livermore, while the Broncos were trying to avenge a 22-19 loss to Tamalpais.

The first quarter saw almost no action until late in the period, when junior quarterback Tommy Stephens marched his Cougars down the field. The drive set up a one yard score by Anthony "Rocket" Rodriguez as time expired, and the quarter ended 7-0 Campo.

The second quarter was a little bit more exciting with another Cougar score, a sack, and two runs for 10-plus yards. That was the only score of the second, and the teams went into halftime with Campo up 14-0.

Rodriguez was primarily in charge of the running game with Kawa "Cookie" Kazzaz entering his senior season as a Cougar.

After the break, Kazzaz executed a perfect 40-yard run, only

to be waved off by a Campolindo penalty. A minute later, Stephens connected with Tyler Rittenhour for an on-target 25-yard touchdown catch in the back corner of the end zone to extend Campo's lead to 21-0. After what looked like a Northgate fumble recovered by Campo, the referees agreed that the ball carrier's knee was down. The very next play, Northgate put the ball on the ground again, and this time, it was actually a fumble picked up by the Cougar defense.

Campolindo was then able to capitalize on the fumble. Stephens again took his Cougars downfield, this time hooking up for 15 yards with Miles Macy, just making things worse for Northgate. Following Ben Rudolph's extra point, the scoreboard read 28-0 Campo.

The final quarter was when Northgate began to find their groove, but unfortunately for the Broncos, their groove came a little too late.

Late in the quarter, the Broncos were able to drive down the field and punch the ball into the end zone from one yard out, ruining the

Cougars' shutout.

Northgate's onside kick bounced out of bounds, and Patrick Wirth came in at QB for the Cougars, only to run out the clock and seal the 28-7 Cougar victory.

A couple of former Cougars were in attendance, including Nick Mascheroni, former Cougar wide receiver from last year's East Bay 2A runner-up team. Mascheroni is slated to play rugby for Cal next season.

With the win, Campo improved to 2-0 and the Broncos watched their record slip to 0-2.

This year Northgate actually resides in the DVAL instead of the DFAL. Other teams taken out of the league include College Park, Mt. Diablo and Concord.

Next week, Campo looks to continue its winning ways as the team tries to stretch to 3-0 against visiting El Cerrito. Campo has yet to play a road game this season.

The winless Broncos, on the other hand, will try to pull themselves together as they head to Walnut Creek to try their luck with DFAL powerhouse Las Lomas.

### LMYA Basketball Sign-Ups

Submitted by Gint Federas

LMYA Winter Basketball registration will be open September 20 through September 30. All 2nd through 8th graders are invited to join. Boys and Girls sign ups will be available online at <http://www.lmyasports.com/basketball/registration.html>. Players signing up after September 30 will be assigned to teams on a space-available basis.

Registration fee is just \$175 and includes a uniform. There are discounts for 3 or more players from the same family.

Evaluations are scheduled for Sunday, October 19. Practice kicks off November 17 with the last game scheduled for February 28.

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The Gael Rail Shuttle provides late night service between Lafayette BART and Saint Mary's College via Moraga Road on Thursday - Sunday evenings\*. The schedule is written to meet the last BART train arriving at Lafayette BART.

**\* Service will operate on Monday, Sept. 1, Labor Day, on the Sunday schedule.**

**FARES**  
This service is FREE for Saint Mary's students with a valid student ID. The fare for the general public is the regular \$1.75 fixed-route cash fare.

**SERVICE HOURS**  
Thursday evenings 9:30 PM - 1:25 AM, Saturdays 6:30 PM - 1:25 AM, and Sundays 12:00 PM - 1:25 AM

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15-passenger vans will serve all posted bus stops along the route, but will also allow passengers to get on or off the vehicle between stops. To board the van, simply flag down the driver, and the van will pull over at the nearest safe location.

**FOR SCHEDULE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CCCTA.ORG OR CALL 943-1829**

*The County Connection*