



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Stellar Campo Cross Country Season Ends 2nd in State

By Matt Atwood



With Campolindo's fastest finishing time of 15:41, Senior Robert Pulford came in 16th out of over 200, having helped set a team pace to secure the Cougars 2nd place finish at the California State Meet in November Photo Matt Atwood



Campolindo's Paul Jackson, a junior, takes a hill alongside Acalanes senior Ethan Mark. Mark's 6:21 5K time was the Dons' fastest in the race Photo Matt Atwood

Have you seen a pack of high school boys running around Moraga? Most likely it is the Varsity boys cross country team from Campolindo High School, and they go by the names of Robert Pulford, Ross Geiger, Michael Brondello, Colby Pines, Paul Jackson, Tim Baffi and Nate Cox. Most of these boys have been running together for the last three years, and they knew that this year was going to be special.

After training all summer, the boys went into the season excited and with a positive attitude. Their work ethic, along with Coach Woolridge's support and instruction, paid off at the Stanford Invitational, with the Varsity boys' taking first as a team, and Robert Pulford finishing second for his individual time in the Division III category.

From there, the team only got better. They came in the first in the league championship, DFALS. Then, winning by only five points over Petaluma High School, the boys came to another stunning victory again in North Coast Section.

Next stop was the California State Cross Country Meet in Fresno on November 30th. Four of the seven Campo runners finished within a 24 second span, taking 16th, 19th, 23rd and 31st in a field of over 200 5-K runners, based on individual times. The remaining three Campo runners weren't far behind.

As a team, the Cougars took second place in Division III, behind only Barstow. Campo was, however, the fastest 5-K team ever to come from North Coast Section.

Cougars Advance, then Finally Fall

By Alex Crook



Tommy Stevens (8), Cookie Kazzaz (25) Photo Doug Kohen

All was well for Campolindo football until the Cougars faced #1 seeded Cardinal Newman in the third round of NCS Division II playoffs.

Second Round -- Campo v. Ygnacio Valley

Campo came off a bye week going into the second round home game match-up with Ygnacio Valley on November 29. To start the game, the Warriors carried the ball slowly down the field in the first quarter to score on an 8-yard touchdown run from Sapaund Khan with 10 seconds to go in the quarter. Campo's equal-

izer came in the second quarter with Cookie Kazzaz running for an 8-yard touchdown, leading to the half-time score of 7-0.

In second-half play, Tommy Stephens' 21-yard beauty to Anthony Fadelli put the Cougars up 14-7. With just under a minute left in the 3rd, Ygnacio's Khan scored on a 3-yard run, tying the game at 14 going into the 4th. Campo started the 4th quarter at the Warriors' 45. Two runs from Kazzaz put them on the 8, and he then ran it into the end zone for a 21-14 Campolindo lead.

Campo started to wear down the Warriors' ensuing possession, coming up with a 4th down sack to give the Cougars the ball. Ben Rudolph's 38-yard missed field goal put life back on Ygnacio's bench, only for Campo once again to take it away, and the final score of 21-14, advanced the Cougars into the next playoff round, a Friday night game against Cardinal Newman on this tough competitor's Santa Rosa home field.

Third and Final -- Cougars face Cardinal Newman

#1 seeded Cardinal Newman came to this third round Division II playoff game undefeated with an 11-0 record compared to Campo's 10-1, the Cougar's only loss coming early in the season.

Cardinal Newman came out of the gate explosive. About 4 minutes into the contest, Newman quarterback Randy Wright scored on a 6-yard touchdown run with Wright adding the extra point to give his Cardinals an early 7-0 lead. 52 seconds later, Casey Miller recovered the Campo fumble and the Cardinals took over at Campo's 13. This time Cardinal Newman coughed up the ball, so with the teams exchanging turnovers, the Cougars took over from their 1 yard line.

Cardinal Newman later struck again with a 2-yard run from Jeff

Badger to extend the lead 14-0, and that's how the quarter ended.

40 seconds into the 2nd quarter, Campo got on the board with a 2-yard run from Cookie Kazzaz, to pull within a touchdown, 14-7.

The Cardinals answered right back with a quarterback keeper for a 24-yard touchdown run from Randy Wright. With 3 seconds left, Wright converted a 24-yard field goal, so the halftime score read 24-14, Cardinals.

Early in the 3rd, Jeff Badger was at it again with another 2-yard touchdown run. It was 31-14, Cardinal.

In the final quarter, Campo came up with a big 4th down stop, but the Cougars couldn't capitalize, and they had to punt back to Newman, who later converted. Joe Ferguson ran in a 24-yard touchdown to put his team up 38-14. Kazzaz came back with a 4-yard score, plus the 2-point conversion. The Cougars had cut the lead to 38-22.

Campo then scored on a 7-yard pass to Garrett Holmes, but Michael Knott picked off the 2-point conversion to kill Campo's chances of winning. Cardinal recovered the onside, and Campo finally fell from the Division II playoffs.

A tough loss against a tough competitor, but a Cougar season well played.

Miramonte NCS Playoffs



Miramonte's captains Andrew Rivin (54) Jake Kaplan (44) Scott Penskey (60) and Conor Lowery (2) get ready to start the NCS semifinal game against Novato

Photo Jordan Fong

VARSITY HOME GAME Calendar ••• High School Varsity @ Home •••			
Wednesday, December 10	Boys Soccer: Northgate @ Campo, 6pm Acalanes @ Miramonte, 6:15pm	Girls Soccer: Miramonte @ Acalanes, 6:15pm	Wrestling Miramonte @ Acalanes, 6pm
Thursday, December 11	Girls Soccer: Cal High @ Campo, 6pm	Wrestling: Campo @ Miramonte, 6pm	Friday, December 19 Girls Soccer Dougherty Valley @ Miramonte, 6:15pm
Friday, December 12	Boys Soccer: Alameda @ Acalanes, 6pm	Wrestling: Alameda @ Acalanes, 6pm	Saturday, December 20 Boys Basketball Acalanes v. Salesian @ Saint Mary's College, time TBA
Saturday, December 13	Girls Basketball Hayward @ Campo, 8pm	Monday, December 14 Boys Soccer Alameda @ Acalanes, 6pm	Monday, December 22 Girls Basketball Concord @ Acalanes, 7pm
Monday, December 15	Boys Soccer: Miramonte @ Acalanes, 6:15pm	Tuesday, December 16	Wednesday, December 17 Boys Soccer: Alhambra @ Acalanes, 6:15pm Dougherty Valley @ Campo 6:15pm Dublin @ Miramonte, 6:15pm
Thursday, December 18	Boys Basketball San Ramon Valley @ Acalanes, 7pm	Friday, December 19	Wrestling Miramonte @ Acalanes, 6pm

Patricia Battersby, Ashley Battersby, Joan Cleveland, Joan Eggers, Joan Evans, Linda Friedman, Marianne Greene, Pamela Halloran, Dexter Honens II, Debbie Johnston, Hal Kaufman

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