



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Campo Defeats Acalanes in Moraga

By Conrad Bassett



Campo's Adam Mancebo goes for the lay-up surrounded by Acalanes defenders (L to R) Zach Bloom, Steve Maze, and Tyler Caldwell. Photo Doug Kohen

The Campolindo boys and girls basketball teams concluded the first half of the Diablo Foothill Athletic League season by beating Acalanes last Friday. The Cougar girls beat the Lady Dons 56-42, while the Cougar boys hung on for a 52-49 victory.

In the girls' game, Campolindo jumped off to a 32-18 half-time lead and were not really challenged the rest of the way. Amanda Forshay led the team with six steals and added 12 points while Annie Ward scored 19 to lead all scorers, including hitting five 3-point baskets. Coach Clay Kallam was able to liberally substitute in the second half. Ashlie Neff led Acalanes with 13.

On the boys' side, Campolindo scored early and often, holding off a furious Acalanes comeback to win. In the first period, Campo opened up a 17-11 lead, led by Chris Bassett-Bouchard's eight points, including two 3-point shots. The Cougars padded the lead in the second and took a 29-18 lead into intermission.

In the third period, the Cougars increased the lead, and early in the fourth led by 15.

Then back came the Dons. The Cougars committed several fouls, allowing the Dons to get to the free throw line where they finished 10 of 14. Campo led by six with less than 15 seconds to play when Acalanes' David Gomez hit a three from the corner.

Acalanes fouled Campo. After Campo missed both free throws and with less than two seconds to go, Chris Dyer deflected a desperation shot by the Dons, and Campo had the win.

The Dons' Steve Maze led all scorers with 14 points before fouling out. Chris Dyer finished with 12 points, seven rebounds and seven assists to lead a balanced Cougar attack. Kellen Ito added nine rebounds.

The first half of the DFAL basketball season is now complete with the three Lamorinda boys' teams, Miramonte, Campolindo, and Acalanes in 1st, 2nd and 4th place, respectively, among the seven teams in the league. On the girls' side, Miramonte, Campolindo and Acalanes are 2nd, 3rd and 5th, respectively.



Lady Cougar Rose Fruci takes it to the hoop. Photo Doug Kohen

Shoot Out at Acalanes

By Chloe Hull

It was a good day for the Lamorinda high school girls' basketball teams at the Acalanes Shoot Out, held at Acalanes High on January 24th. Although Acalanes lost a thriller at the buzzer, both Campolindo and Miramonte decisively won their games.

Fourteen teams from around the Bay Area competed in the tournament, which has been put on annually for the last ten years. This year's tournament was marked by the return of Corrie Mizusawa, who played for Acalanes in 1999, the first year of the tournament, and returns now as head coach of the Acalanes girls' basketball program.

The Acalanes Dons, currently 10-10 overall (2-4 DFAL), lost a heartbreaker to Hayward's Moreau Catholic, whose overall record is 15-5. After a tough battle with seven lead changes throughout the game, each team made several clutch free throws as the game clock wound down.

Acalanes freshman Sophie Taylor brought victory within reach of the Dons by making a key play late in the fourth quarter, drawing a shooting foul and sinking both free throws. Unfortunately for Acalanes,

Moreau ultimately prevailed, 64-61, as they successfully converted two free throws to seal the win at the end of the game.

Earlier that day, the Campolindo Cougars faced University of San Francisco High School in the first game of the tournament. The Cougars, with a 16-4 overall record (4-2 DFAL), convincingly won the game, 76-54. Campolindo pulled away immediately, moving ahead 27-8 by the end of the first quarter and never relinquishing the lead.

"Though we got off to a good start, we relaxed a little in the second quarter and allowed them to get close," said Coach Clay Kallam. "We need to maintain our intensity for 32 minutes a game, not just 20 or 24."

The Cougar's center, junior Meghan Ringer, dominated the low post, scoring 14 points and pulling down nine rebounds. Overall, Campolindo controlled the boards with 40 rebounds to University High's 21, which allowed the Cougars to maintain control of the game.

The Matadors of Miramonte, currently 14-6 overall (5-1 DFAL), played Pleasanton's Amador Valley, and successfully stomped the competition, ending with a score of 60-40.

Head Coach James Kizzie commented, "We dominated the first half by holding the opposition to 5 points in each of the first two quarters, although I was a little concerned about our turnovers in the second half."

Despite their turnovers, the Matadors' post players dominated the paint and their guards handled the ball with finesse, ending with a comfortable victory for Miramonte.

In other Shoot Out games, Dublin beat El Camino (67-46), Berkeley beat St. Mary's High (54-63), and Deer Valley beat St. Patrick-St. Vincent (62-29).

This year's Shoot Out was successful from both athletic and financial standpoints. East Bay girls' basketball fans enjoyed seven strong match-ups, while the hosting schools raised funds to support their teams.

For the first time since 2000, the Acalanes and Campolindo girls' basketball programs co-hosted the event, which enjoyed support from many local businesses. Funds raised were shared equally.

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Lamorinda Middle School Girls Win League Tournaments

By Sophie Braccini and Gint Federas



8th grade tournament champions Stanley Wildcats (pictured left to right): Front Row (L-R): Marie Paladino, Lauren Fruci, Liz Kroetch, Jamie Jacobs; Back row: Assistant Coach Sarah Day, Molly Pines, Grace Francis, Kathryn Hill, Sam Anderson, Coach Joe McElroy, Katie Greer, Nicole Shimotake, Molly Martin, Meghan Hill. Photo Naomi Jacobs



7th Grade Tournament Champions JM Marauders (pictured left to right): Front Row: Dana Wong, Marissa Monopoli; Back row: Jiwon Chung, Megan Adachi, Samantha Garcia, Jenny Leserman, Meredith Stone, Andrea Lucacher, Katie Coates; Rear: Coach Costello; Missing from picture: Antonia Harold. Photo Gint Federas

Lamorinda middle school girls' basketball teams won both the 7th and 8th grade league tournaments this year. Each advanced to their respective January 22 championship games by competing against teams from schools that span Contra Costa, Alameda, and Solano Counties, though not every middle school within those borders is in the league. Orinda Intermediate, for example, isn't on the list.

In the final games, Joaquin Moraga's 7th grade team beat Stanley, 43-39, while Stanley's 8th grade team defeated Albany, 36-17.

The Lady Marauders (8-4, regular season) overcame a tough Stanley Wildcat squad (12-1, regular season) in the 7th grade league championship game, held this year at Foothill Middle School in Walnut Creek. This hard-fought battle

was tied 23-23 at the half. Dana Wong led Moraga with 27 points, including a crucial 3-pointer that pushed JM ahead of Stanley by two points. Near the end of the game, another three-point attempt gave her 3 shots at the line, prompting the Stanley coach to call for timeout. After play resumed, JM kept the lead until the final buzzer.

"In all the years I have coached, I have never seen such unselfish players," said Terry Costello, the JM coach. "They played to make the team win. They passed. They strategized. Only the result counted, not who was the one scoring."

At the awards ceremony, Costello singled out Megan Adachi with a special trophy, saying that Adachi was the "heart" of the team. At the 8th grade tournament,

held this year at Stanley Middle School, the Wildcats enjoyed home court advantage as they triumphed over the Albany Cobras, 36-17, in the 8th grade girls' championship game, having advanced to the finals by beating both Piedmont and Joaquin Moraga.

"We had a powerful defense and pressed efficiently," explained Coach Joe McElroy, about the championship game. "Albany, which is a great team, didn't get many opportunities to shoot."

Lamorinda high school girls' basketball fans take note - 10 of the 12 girls on the Stanley 8th grade championship team are headed to Acalanes.

"I'm sure that most will continue playing there with the same spirit," said McElroy.

Send sports stories and ideas to:
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