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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Acalanes Falter Against Amador Valley

By Steven Johns



Photo Doug Kohlen

After a first round bye in the ANCS playoffs, the Acalanes women's lacrosse team took the field on May 16 to take on Amador Valley.

The DFAL champs were the favorites coming into the game, but did not play like it as they lost to Amador Valley 12-3.

The game started off in a defensive battle. The teams were going back and forth across the field but neither team was able to put the ball in the back of the net for the first seven minutes of the game.

With 18:37 left in the first half, Amador Valley got on the board with a goal by Teresa Li. Li had been fouled close to the goal and received a free shot at point-blank range. Acalanes' goaltender had no chance at stopping the hard shot.

With 12:11 left in the half, Amador Valley put themselves ahead by two goals with a score from Helen Cai.

The Dons got their first goal

with 8:20 left in the first half. Co-captain Laura Harris scored after being fouled near the Amador Valley goalie.

Amador Valley then went on an offensive outpour and ended the half with a 5-1 lead.

The second half was much worse for the Dons. Amador Valley built a 7-1 lead before Rebecca Frank netted her first goal of the game.

Unfortunately for the Dons, Amador Valley was just too good and the game quickly got out of hand. Frank scored her second goal of the game with 5:06 left in the game, but it only got the Dons within seven.

"We started out off and we just could not get on. It's definitely not the way you wanted to end your season" said head coach Kelly Haso.

The Dons looked flat and played without intensity that Acalanes fans are used too. The

Dons also had troubles with Amador Valley's outstanding goaltender, Caroline Federighi. "Caroline Federighi is amazing. Getting around her, we knew was going to be one of the hardest parts of this game" said Haso.

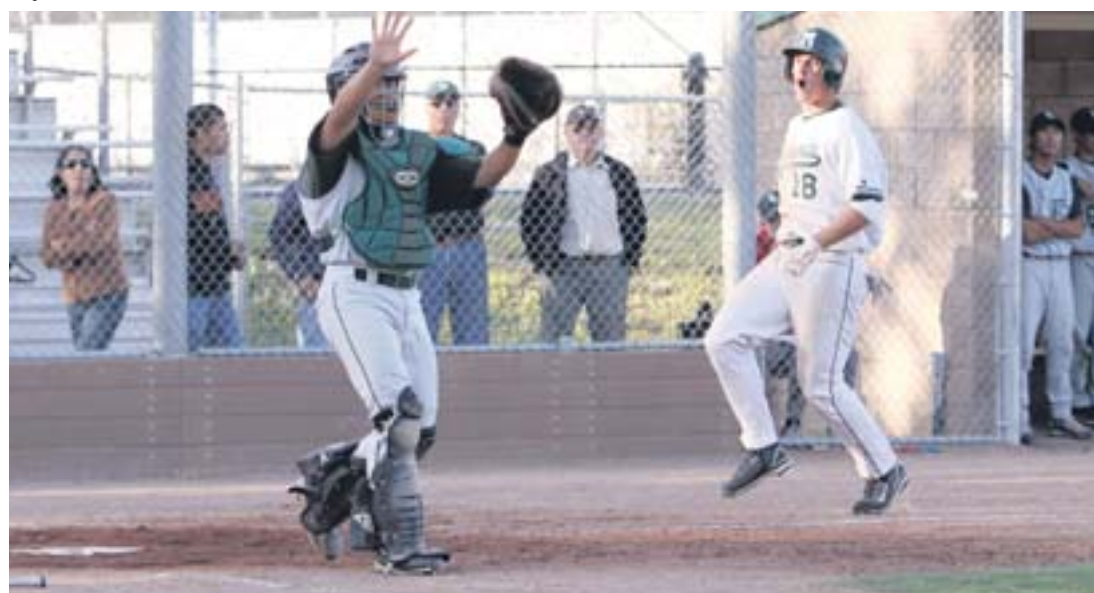
Despite an unhappy ending, the 2009 season was a very successful one. The Dons won DFAL after playing one of their best seasons. Midfielder Katie Mitchell was named DFAL's Most Valuable Player.

Don's Men Fall to Berkeley

After the women's game the men's lacrosse game played their first NCS playoff game. Unfortunately for Acalanes fans, the men also lost to the lower seeded team. Acalanes fell to Berkeley 6-5 and was eliminated from the NCS playoffs. Defender Robert Mull was named DFAL's Most Valuable Player.

Miramonte Outduels El Cerrito

By Jack Fernbacher



Joey Epperson gets excited after scoring the only run of the game

Photo Jordan Fong



Pitcher Andrew Kjar Photo Ohlen Alexander

Miramonte's game plan going into its first NCS playoff game on May 22nd was to capitalize on El Cerrito's mistakes. And the strategy paid off.

No. 1 Miramonte defeated No. 8 El Cerrito 1-0 after scoring its lone run of the game in the bottom of the sixth inning. In the sixth, senior right fielder Matt Lloyd hit into what should have been a 6-3-1 double play, but El Cerrito failed to convert the throw from second and senior centerfielder Joey Epperson crossed home plate.

Senior Andrew Kjar pitched

brilliantly for the Mats as he only gave up one hit and struck out twelve in a complete game.

"Andrew was our whole offense and our whole defense," said head coach Vince Dell'Aquila. "He kept us in the ball game, and allowed us to take the lead with just the one late run."

Miramonte had a good chance to score in the first inning when it had the bases loaded with two outs, but senior shortstop Mike Reuvekamp was caught stealing home.

Throughout the game, the Mats were aggressive on the base paths. Two players were picked off and two were caught stealing.

"We were trying to be really aggressive," said Dell'Aquila. "Our goal was to have them slip up and make mistakes."

Epperson was aggressive on the bases and at the plate with three hits and one stolen base. The Mats blew some early chances to score runs and only mustered five hits in the game.

"We made some adjustments in our offense. Our players knew it was a big game, and were anxious

at the plate. Because we are the number one seed, there is a lot of pressure for us to win."

El Cerrito's ace Mark Kolding also pitched a complete game and held Miramonte scoreless for five innings, despite three errors behind him. Neither team had an extra-base hit in the game, as the batters mostly hit ground balls or struck out.

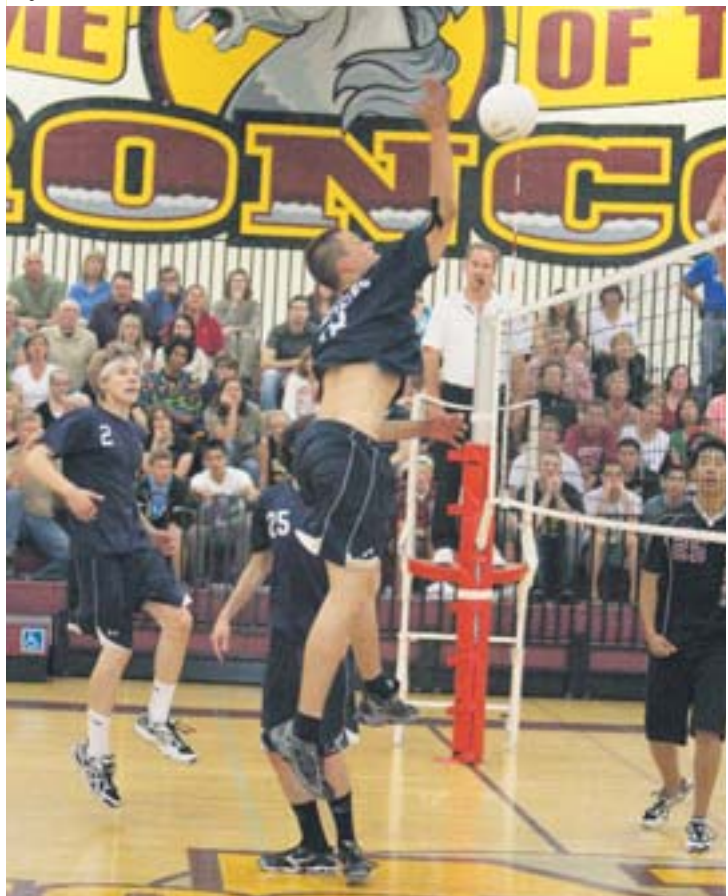
Miramonte's small-ball ended up being enough for the Mats to win the quarterfinal game and advance to the next round.

Next Up in NCS Baseball:

The DFAL champion Miramonte Matadors took on the 5th ranked Analy Tigers after press time on Tuesday night. Check our website for updates: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com>. If the Mats prevail, they will play for the NCS Championship at the end of the week against the winner of Wednesday's game between Sir Francis Drake (ranked #3) and Novato (#7). Also in NCS baseball, after a first round bye the #2 ranked Campolindo Cougars lost to Novato in round 2 last Saturday.

Cougars Fight but Fall to Top Seeded Northgate

By Alex Crook



Dylan Blackstone (18) goes for the kill

Photo Doug Kohlen

As the lone Lamorinda contender in the NCS Boys' Volleyball competition, the Campolindo Cougars rode into Walnut Creek on May 14 with high hopes of upsetting division 2 top seed Northgate. For a high school volleyball game, the atmosphere was intense, seeing the gym half full for this NCS match.

The Broncos came out of the gate hitting everything, which was too much for the Cougars who gave up the first two points. Northgate jumped out to an 8-2 lead in Game 1 before Campo called the game's first timeout. The Cougars called time twice in Game 1 to try and shift the momentum, with the second one coming after one of many kills from Bronco's senior hitter Jeremy Kong. Campo regained hope with points from co-captain Jake Partlow and sophomore Carl King, but it wasn't enough as Northgate took Game 1, 25-13.

The second game served as a wake-up call for Campolindo, who

forced a Northgate timeout after jumping out to a 4-1 Cougar lead. Campo continued to rule with a 9-3 lead after several players recorded kills to give Campo some breathing room. Northgate eventually woke up, but their alarm went off too late as Campo evened the score at 1 with a 25-16 win in Game 2.

Game 3 was still Campo's with junior setter Scott Standing tallying the game's first 3 points. Following Dylan Blackstone's beautiful kill for the Cougars, the two teams maintained a long rally before Northgate worked their way to the point. It was close, but Campo took Game 3 as well, 25-22.

The fourth game alternated points, including the match's first ace from Bronco senior Kevin Woods. Campo trailed late, but their fans still felt an upset was possible. The Broncos however marched to the end and finished out to force a fifth game, 25-22.

In the tiebreaker, the energy was felt all around the gym from both benches to the stands. The score bounced back and forth, and both squads held their own, but Campo finally gave in at the wrong time. From a 12-11 lead, they saw themselves behind 14-13 at game point. On the final rally, Northgate served, and a bunch of blue jerseys anxiously struggled to cross the ball over the net. The ball finally became tangled in mesh, and the match was over.

Bronco players "stampeded" the court as Standing lay motionless, face down in disappointment. It was a hard fought game, and either team could have had the win. Northgate went on to win the division, defeating Las Lomas in straight games on May 16th.

The young Campolindo team, which graduates only two seniors this year (Partlow and Scott Fournier) played a good season, finishing 20-8 overall. Partlow, Standing and junior Zach Dashner took roster spots on the DFAL all-league team. Look for Standing and Dashner, along with sophomores Blackstone and Alex Mangles and junior Teddy Geoghegan to keep up the momentum next spring.



Jake Partlow (2) Photo Doug Kohlen

Acalanes Wraps Up Season at NCS



Back row (left to right): coach Larry Gray, Taylor Gray, Grace Lovell, Hannah Wilbur, Ashly Borrelli, Nicole Graham, coach Victor Silva; second row: Siena Del Ponte, Courtney Crakow, Katy Trent, Maile Hoyt. Front row: Tara Wilson, Sheyenne Greer Photo submitted by Larry Gray

Congratulations to Boys NCS Swimming/Diving Champions, the Campolindo Cougars!



Tommy Dowley Photo Doug Kohlen

At the NCS Championships in Concord May 14-16, the Campolindo Boys Swim Team claimed the title for the fifth year in a row. The boys garnered a total of 239.5 points with strong performances by seniors Tommy Dowley, Chris Chuck, Sean Malley, Jeremy Chang and Andrew Melton, sophomore Jeffrey Strausser, freshman Robert Ashby and the 200 and 400 meter relay teams.

It was a Lamorinda sweep of the Boys Championships, as Miramonte and Acalanes took 2nd and 3rd place, with 199 points and 155 points respectively. The Mats posted the best time in the 400 yard freestyle relay and the Dons came in first in the 200 yard medley relay. Miramonte's Sean Haufler, Nick Deaver and Bret Lathrop, and Acalanes' Nick Hoversten and Piankhi Gibson added points to

the board. In the Girls competition, Campolindo took 2nd place with 203 points. Campo juniors Rachael Cleak and Andrea Ward, sophomores Courtney White and Dana Holt, seniors Shelbi Luchini and Caroline Lukins and the Campo girls relay teams swam

well. In the Dive portion of the competition, freshman diver Maren Kjell contributed points to the total. Miramonte came in 11th and Acalanes 20th (out of 36 teams.)

Congratulations to all of our local swimmers and divers! L. Borrowman

Cougar Football



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