

LAMORINDA SPORTS

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Lamorinda High School Basketball Season Ends

Three Teams Compete in State Tournament

By Conrad Bassett



Senior Spencer McDonald of Miramonte goes up against two Bishop O'Dowd defenders. Photo Jordan Fong

The three Lamorinda high schools produced some exciting moments and a lot of success during the recently concluded basketball season.

On the boys' side, Campolindo won the Diablo Foothill Athletic League championship going undefeated (12-0) on their way to a season record of 23-5. They were upset at home by rival Miramonte 57-45 in their final game—a North Coast Section quarterfinal.

Acalanes finished second in the DFAL with a 9-3 record (16-11 overall) and also advanced to the NCS playoffs where their season ended in a 55-40 loss at El Cerrito.

Miramonte finished third in the DFAL with an 8-4 record but advanced the furthest in post-season play.

Following the upset of Campolindo, they traveled to Sebastopol and avenged their 2009 NCS title game loss by beating Analy 70 to 67 in overtime. Senior Chris Hatfield led all scorers with 26 and senior Spencer McDonald and sophomore Ross Anderson added 12 apiece. In the overtime, senior Davis Louie scored eight of his 11 points to put the Mats over the top.

In the NCS Division III championship game on March 5th at Saint Mary's College, the Matadors

played close against top seed Bishop O'Dowd for the entire game before falling 60-50. The Mats played tenacious defense with nearly every starter picking up at least one block on the taller Dragons. They held their opponents scoreless for nearly three and a half minutes and scored the first three points of the game. The game stayed close with neither team leading by more than four points throughout the first three periods.

In the fourth period, the Dragons got some unlikely scoring help from their guards and opened up a 13 point lead, but the Mats did not quit. Louie hit a three and two free throws while McDonald added off-balance three, all in less than a minute. The effort reduced the lead to six with 36 seconds to go. The Mats had to foul and the Dragons made their last four free throws on their way to the final ten point advantage. Louie led all scorers with 14 while Anderson added 12 and McDonald and Hatfield each had ten.

By virtue of their strong NCS runner-up showing, the Matadors were selected to host a first round Northern California CIF game against Burlingame of the Central Coast Section. The game held on March 19 was another nip and tuck affair—with another overtime finish—something Miramonte has been used to. This time, the Panthers scored the last two points in regulation and they headed to extra time tied at 49. McDonald hit a baseline jumper for the Mats to put them ahead with the first score in overtime and they hung on for the 57-51 victory.

On Thursday, the Mats took their game on the road to visit Sacramento High. This was another barn burner but the Mats were on the short end of an 87-84 nail-biter. Hatfield finished with 28 points and Anderson added 20 to lead Miramonte who finished at 18-14 on the year.

The Lamorinda girls' teams

also fared very well in the regular season and in post season play. All three participated in the NCS playoffs with Campolindo and Miramonte advancing to the semi-finals and to the Northern California playoffs. Acalanes finished at 15-12.

Over at Campolindo, the Lady Cougars won their first two NCS games. The Cougars' NCS run ended in the semi-finals when they lost to top-seeded Bishop O'Dowd. Finishing in the semi-finals of the NCS tournament qualified the Cougars for the Northern California CIF championships. Campolindo headed across the bay to face St. Ignatius. The Wildcats prevailed 67-53 and the Cougars finished a very successful year with a record of 20-10.

Miramonte's NCS run ended when they were edged by Dougherty Valley in the semi-finals 57-54. Junior Alyssa Johanson led the team with 13 points while senior Stephanie Golden added 12. And, along with making it to the semi-finals of the NCS, the Lady Matadors were rewarded with a long trip up to face Enterprise in Redding on Tuesday where they beat the Hornets 60 to 48.

This was a streaky game as Miramonte took an early 14 point lead and Enterprise came right back to take the halftime lead. In the second half, the Lady Mats picked up the pace outscoring them 38 to 25. Golden led the Mats with 15 points and Johanson added ten rebounds. And their prize for winning was another road trip to play St. Mary's of Stockton, a team that defeated them 82-42 in February.

St. Mary's came into the game ranked as the number one girls team in the United States. In the rematch it was much closer as Miramonte fought back from an early 11 point deficit and actually led by 34-33 early in the second half, but St. Mary's went on a 13-0 run and eventually won 75-53. Golden again led the Mats with 16 points. The Lady Mats finished at 22-8.

Orinda Spartans Win Two

Submitted by Tom McConnell



Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Orinda Spartans got in the win column on Saturday, twice, taking both ends of a doubleheader against the San Ramon Slammers on Saturday afternoon. In game one, the Spartans won a see-saw battle by the final score of 9-6. In the nightcap, the Spartans dominated their opponents and glided to a relatively easy 9-3 win. With the two victories, Orinda evened its league record at 2-2.

The Spartans' bats came alive on Saturday with the team pounding out a total of 25 hits in the two games, 13 in game one and 12 in game two. Danny Ritelli was one of the hitting stars, accounting for five hits. Ritelli went 3-for-3 in game one with two doubles and a single. He knocked in two runs and scored another. In game two, Ritelli went two for three with another double and one more RBI and run. The Slammers finally retired Ritelli in his last at-bat of the day, when he popped out to first base. Clayton Stehr also went 3-for-3 in game one and recorded a fourth hit in game two. Stehr scored all four times he reached base. Andrew Deaver had three total hits on the day with two RBIs and three runs scored. Ryan Anderson also had three hits, in-

cluding an RBI double and a run scored.

The pitching was also outstanding, led by starter Ben Hoxie's strongest outing of the young season. Hoxie pitched three incredible innings, limiting San Ramon to just one run on two hits in the process. Ritelli finished the fourth inning for Hoxie and then pitched a strong

fifth before yielding to closer Dylan Kronenberg who took the squad the rest of the way, pitching two shutout innings, without allowing a hit. He walked two batters. Clayton Haskell and Clayton Stehr made a number of strong plays from the left side of the infield and Will McConnell threw out a would-be base stealer in the sixth inning.

In the nightcap, Eric Nyman got the start and he did not disappoint. Nyman threw two shutout innings before tiring in the third and giving up two runs. McConnell came in to relieve Nyman and struck out the only batter he faced in that frame to end the further scoring threat. McConnell then went on to throw two more strong innings. Connor Jackson then earned the save, pitching the sixth and seventh innings and allowing only one run in the process. Tyler Larsen threw out a would-be base stealer of his own in the seventh inning to give Jackson and his teammates the lift they needed to finish the game strong.

Opening Day Community Service

Submitted by Laura Traxler



Photo Laura Traxler

Orinda Baseball Association (OBA) families came to Opening Day ceremonies with gently-used sporting equipment, board games, and arts and crafts supplies. These items were donated to the young families at the Kawaihae Transitional Housing Project on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Two Orinda families, the

Shepards and the Richardsons, organized the event and will bring the collected equipment and games to Hawaii with them over Spring Break.

Steven and Kevin Shepard and Kady and Will Richardson also manned the bake sale table to raise money for additional purchases in Hawaii.

Lamorinda All-League Award Winners

BOYS Co-MVP: Kellen Ito (Campolindo) Sr.; Adam Mancebo (Campolindo) Sr.
First Team: Chris Hatfield (Miramonte) Sr.; Corey Collins (Acalanes) Sr.; Spencer McDonald (Miramonte) Sr., Jay Fowler (Acalanes) Sr.
Second Team: Pat Wirth (Campolindo) Sr.; Brian Sanders (Campolindo) Sr.; Zach Bloom (Acalanes) Sr.
Honorable Mention: Davis Louie (Miramonte) Sr.; Tyler Caldwell (Acalanes) Sr.; Carl King (Campolindo) Jr.;
GIRLS Co-MVP: Stephanie Golden (Miramonte) Sr.
First Team: Liza Katz (Miramonte) Jr.; Emani Harrison (Acalanes) Jr.; Meghan Ringer (Campolindo) Sr.
Second Team: Kiara Harewood (Acalanes) Jr.; Annie Ward (Campolindo) Jr.; Amanda Forshay (Campolindo) Jr.; Alyssa Johanson (Miramonte) Sr.
Honorable Mention: Kristine Miller (Miramonte) Sr.; Taylor Kizzie (Miramonte) So.; Janine Loutzenhiser (Miramonte) So.

March Madness



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