

SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Saint Mary's Women Secure Second Place Finish

By Caitlin Graveson



Leanna Richey (#21), Louella Tomlinson (#2) and Suzie Davis (#12) celebrate Senior Night. Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's basketball closed out the final games of the regular season with a 2-1 record to secure a second place finish in the West Coast Conference. The second place finish not only fulfills preseason expectations, but gives the Gaels a bye until the semi-finals of the WCC tournament this weekend. The Gaels also secured an automatic bid to the Women's National Invitational Tournament (WNIT) if they do not qualify for the NCAA tournament. The Gaels closed out the season with wins over the University of San Diego and the University of Portland, and a loss to #23 Gonzaga.

Saint Mary's hosted USD for their final home stand on Saturday, February 19. The Gaels celebrated PinkZone for Breast Cancer Awareness, wearing their pink jerseys, and Senior Night. Saint Mary's said goodbye to Leanna Richey, Courtney Dunn, Suzie Davis and Louella Tomlinson.

"It was pretty awesome. I am satisfied with how with how the last four years went and it was great that everyone came out to support me and the girls," Tomlinson said after the game.

USD put up a tough fight against the Gaels, opening with a 2-13 lead. Saint Mary's redshirt junior guard Jasmine Smith remained unfazed and sparked a 12-0 run for the Gaels. Smith notched 10 of the 12 points. The run gave SMC the lead which they held onto heading into the locker room up, 42-36.

The Toreros opened the second half much like the first, with a 7-0 run. Again, the Gaels fought back with a 10-2 run. The game remained close until the final minutes when Saint Mary's found themselves up just four points. Tomlinson hit a bucket to extend the lead to six and the win was

sealed from there, 77-69.

Smith had a career high 31 points. Tomlinson added 16 points and ten rebounds.

Saint Mary's hoped the momentum from the win would carry them into their rematch against #23 Gonzaga on February, 24. Head Coach Paul Thomas said their strategy against Gonzaga was focused on maintaining control and limiting guard Courtney Vandersloot's influence. "You aren't going to stop Vandersloot, so you have to contain her," Thomas said.

Unfortunately, that goal was not executed and Vandersloot notched 22 points and 13 assists in the Gaels 66-106 loss. Smith had 24 points and Tomlinson had 10 points.

Saint Mary's was able to quickly bounce-back from the loss to defeat the Pilots on Saturday, February 26. The Gaels got off to a slow start, but Portland did not take advantage and SMC was only down 2-7 early. The first half remained close and the Pilots had 27-25 lead at halftime.

The Gaels fought back in the second half with a 10-0 run to reduce the deficit. A layup by junior guard Alex Carbonel gave Saint Mary's the lead with about nine minutes to play. Saint Mary's maintained the lead to win, 62-52.

Carbonel had a career-high 20 points. Smith had 20 points while Tomlinson notched a double-double with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

"We stepped up defensively... Alex did a great job giving us a spark off the bench, while Louella and Jasmine did what they do... a great team win," Thomas said.

Saint Mary's basketball returns to action in Las Vegas in the semi-finals of the WCC Tournament on Sunday, March 6 at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Campolindo Soccer Wins NCS Championship

... continued from page A1

Campolindo defeated John F. Kennedy of Fremont 4-0 in the first round, Ygnacio Valley 2-1 in the second round and Albany 5-0 in the semi-finals to reach the championship. Acalanes defeated John F. Kennedy of Richmond 1-0 in the first round, Pinole Valley 1-0 in the second round and Dublin 6-0 in the semi-finals to reach the finals.

All three girls' teams qualified for the tournament. Campolindo drew a fourth seed but was upset in the first

round by #13 Berean Christian, 1-2. #6 Miramonte hosted #11 Acalanes in the opening round and defeated the Dons' 3-1. The Lady Mats lost in the second round to Piedmont in double overtime, 2-1. C. Graveson

(Front page photo—Campolindo players: #6 Matt Reshke, #16 Timmy Coleman, #18 Jaison Kimura, #3 Harlan Raine, #25 Sam Palano; Acalanes players: #16 Austin Deback, #17, #21 Austen Grassin, #4 Adrian Chow-dane, #9 Cam Carda, #15 Max Omick)

SMC Gaels

Home Game Schedule



www.SMCGaels.com

Thu, Mar 3 WTEN Pacific 1:00 PM
Fri, Mar 4 BSB UC Irvine (Louis Guisto Field) 2:00 PM
Sat, Mar 5 BSB UC Irvine (Louis Guisto Field) 1:00 PM
Sun, Mar 6 BSB UC Irvine (Louis Guisto Field) 1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 8 MTEN Louisiana-Lafayette 1:00 PM
Fri, Mar 11 WTEN Loyola Marymount 2:00 PM
Fri, Mar 11 MBB Weber State McKeon Pavilion 7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 13 WTEN San Diego 10:00 AM
Sun, Mar 13 MTEN Texas-Arlington 12:00 PM
Sun, Mar 13 WLAX Lafayette Saint Mary's Stadium 1:00 PM
Mon, Mar 14 MTEN Northern Colorado 3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 15 BSB Nevada Moraga, Calif. (Louis Guisto Field) 3:00 PM

Schedule is subject to change. Confirm at www.SMCGaels.com

Lamorinda Basketball Post-Season Review

By Conrad Bassett



Amanda Forshay #14 scored 11 points in the win over Tamalpais

Photo Doug Kohen

The Campolindo and Acalanes boys' basketball teams were selected for post-season play. As was the case the last two seasons, two Lamorinda teams met early in the playoffs—this time Acalanes traveled to play Campolindo on Tuesday, February 22nd. Campolindo defeated their Lamorinda rivals to progress to the second round, but lost on the road to Analy.

All three of the Lamorinda girls' basketball teams made it to the NCS playoffs with top-five seeds. Campolindo and Miramonte were selected for second and third seeds, respectively and received a first round bye. Acalanes was given a #5 seed and played in the first round. All teams have advanced to the semi-finals and will play tonight, March 2nd. Campolindo hosts Miramonte at 7:00 p.m. **First Round, Tuesday, February 22nd:**

The Campolindo and Acalanes boys split their first two meetings in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League regular season, each winning on the road in two close games. The "rubber match" turned out to be close as well, coming down to the final minute.

Dons' senior Stephen Collins hit a free throw to tie it at 53 with 59 seconds to go. Twenty seconds later, Cougars' sophomore John Schmitz drilled a three pointer from the wing to give Campolindo a lead they would not relinquish. Campo won 59 to 53.

The Cougars were led by senior Carl King who finished with 16

points. Junior Robbie Wirth chipped in 13. Acalanes was led by Collins who finished with 15 points and junior James Griffin who had 11.

With the win the Cougars progressed to the second round to take on Analy. The Dons finished their season at 14-13.

On the girls' side, Acalanes, who finished fourth in the DFAL, was slotted with a home game against Drake High from Marin County.

The Lady Dons opened up a 19-7 lead after one period and never looked back as they blasted the Pirates 69 to 40. Senior Kiara Harewood had 19 points, junior Sophie Taylor dropped in 15 while senior Emani Harrison scored 13. Sophomore Marie Paladino added two three-point baskets.

Second Round, February 25th:

The Campolindo boys took the court against Analy in Sebastopol. A perennial power, the Tigers looked to be a tough challenge. Campolindo played strong and at the half they had the lead, 26-25. Analy came back in the third to take the lead heading into the fourth, 41-39. Analy remained ahead and ended the Cougars season, 59-54. Campolindo finished at 19-9. The loss eliminated the last Lamorinda boys' teams from the post-season.

On the girls' side, the stakes were high as the winners of each of these games would not only get to the semi-finals of the NCS, but would also qualify for the Northern California CIF tournament.

The Lady Mat's traveled to

Analy. The ride up on Friday night apparently did not tire the Lady Mats as they crushed the Tigers 75-46.

Analy started strong and led by five after the first period but a 16-2 run at the end of the second period, put Miramonte ahead to stay. Coach Kelly Sopak was pleased with the effort and noted, "We are healthy and playing well and the kids are enjoying the ride."

Senior Alyssa Johanson and freshman Breanna Alford both had double doubles with 17 points and 14 points respectively. They each had ten rebounds.

The Acalanes girls took their team on the road to Hayward to meet the Moreau Catholic Mariners. Acalanes beat Moreau 56-46. After trailing at the half by two, the Lady Dons came on strong behind a monster game by Taylor who led all scorers with 22 points to go along with 14 rebounds. Harewood scored 21. The Lady Dons will travel to take on the #1 seeded Bishop O'Dowd Dragons on Wednesday, March 2nd.

Campolindo's girls hosted Tamalpais. The Lady Cougars scored early and often and easily downed the visiting Tamalpais Hawks 74-29. Junior Mallory Brown opened the scoring hitting a three point shot and senior Amanda Forshay scored twice, and the Lady Cougars were up 7-0 and they never looked back. The Hawks hit a layup and then Campo went on a 17-0 run. Campo led by 24-6 after one.

The second period started the same way with junior Annelise Ito making another steal and lay up and Campo led by as many as 26. Ito, who finished with five steals, credited her teammates for giving her the opportunities. Ito said, "My teammates created great pressure and cut off all of Tam's possibilities so I was able to step in and make a lot of steals."

At 6:15 of the fourth, Ito hit two free throws and the lead was 41 and the clock would not stop again. Ito finished with 14 and Amanda Forshay added 11.

Campo was scared by the loss of both Annie Ward (sprained and swollen wrist) and Mallory Brown (stitches on her chin) to injuries. Both left the game and did not return. However, head coach Clay Kallam believes, "Both will be good to go on Wednesday."

This win, along with the Miramonte thrashing of Analy, has set up the third meeting of the year between the Campolindo and Miramonte girls—tonight, Wednesday, March 2, at Campolindo at 7:00 p.m. Campo won the two DFAL regular season meetings.

All three girls' teams qualify for the NorCal tournament which will begin the second week of March.

CYO Champions

Submitted by Robert Becker



Santa Maria's eighth grade boys' CYO team recorded a 12-0 record this season to become the National Division champions. (Top left, clockwise): Peter Jackson, Andrew Lewis, Connor Jackson, Jack Kovalik, Michael Zheng, Scott Kovalik, Mark Laughton, CJ Novogradac, David Becker, Kyle Weikert, Matthew Tom.

Photo Ting Zhang

U-13 Lamorinda Girls Soccer Gold Team Play in State Cup Finals

Submitted by Jeanna Brown



With two decisive wins in State Cup quarter and semi-finals 6-0, and 5-1 respectively, the U-13 girls cruised into the final game of State Cup against Sonoma County Alliance. The Lamorinda girls fought hard, but ultimately fell to Sonoma, 3-4, in a tight but physical game.

From left, back row: Coach Joey DeVenuta, Jane Buckley, AJ Morgan, Emily Holbrook, Gina Crosetti, Meghan Casey, Ally Ikeya; front row: Alina Tully, Rosalind Fraser, Sarah Cella, Jesse Mano, Sophia Settle, Erin Nolan, Gabby Diaz-Valdez, Bailey Yuen, Danielle Brown. Photo Alan Ikeya