

Campolindo Volleyball Wins NorCal, Plays in State Finals

By Simon Trynza



Sophie Seiberth (12), Kelley Wirth (9) and Kirsten Sibley (11) block Cathedral's hitter, Tatiana Durr, who had 18 kills in the match. Photos Cindy Kitahara

One of the banners hanging in Campolindo's gym commemorates the 2010 girls' volleyball team, who won the state championship, defeating the Cathedral Catholic Dons. To those who follow the sport, it was no surprise that the Dons made it back for the 2012 title game—it was their fifth in a row. It may have been a surprise that the Cougars were back so soon, hoping for their second title in

three years. "They exceeded my and many people's expectations," said head coach John Vuong. "They inspired many young athletes and represented our program and school well."

The journey back began with the team winning the NCS and earning the No. 1 spot in the NorCal bracket of the state tournament. The top seed meant home court advantage, and the

crowd did not disappoint, showing strong support in each round.

"Playing in front of our home crowd played a huge role of our success in the post-season tournaments," said Vuong.

In the first round, the Cougars hosted No. 8 Shasta High School. Behind a strong defensive effort, they swept the Wolves in three sets, 25-19, 25-12, 25-19. Stellar performances by senior captains Annie Shurtz, Sophie Seiberth, and Cassidy Abel pushed the Cougars into a second round match with No. 5 Sacred Heart Cathedral.

"Our seniors did a great job of leading our young players," said Vuong. "The captains did an excellent job of motivating and keeping the team together as one unit."

The Cougars came out strong in the first set against the Fighting Irish, winning 25-19 after a kill by Abbey Healey. Despite dropping the second set, Campolindo was able to jump out to an early 7-3 lead in the third set, winning the pivotal set, 25-20.

Shurtz showed the crowd why

she was crowned DFAL MVP when her timely kills propelled a 5-1 run that saw Campolindo pull away from the Irish in the fourth set.

However, Sacred Heart stormed back to tie the match at 15. Each team traded points, until a net violation gave the Cougars a 23-10 set lead. A Shurtz kill gave the Cougars match point at 24-21. Campolindo won the match as a Sacred Heart kill attempt landed wide in the stands.

Standing in between the Cougars and a berth in the State final were the Valley Christian Warriors. Although the gym was packed with a fired-up crowd, the Cougars got off to a slow start, dropping seven of the last nine points to lose the first set, 25-20.

The slow start carried over as the Cougars quickly fell behind 5-1, but behind strong blocking by freshman Kirsten Sibley, Campolindo was able to take a 22-14 lead, holding on for a 25-22 win.

With the match tied at one set apiece, the Cougars fell behind 16-11, but multiple errors by the Warriors allowed the Cougars to hang on to take the third set, 25-23.

Valley Christian fought hard in the fourth and with Campolindo trailing for the majority of the set, it took a beautiful block by Gaby Gryko to tie the set at 21. The Cougars earned the 27-25 set win, sent the crowd into a frenzy, and punched the Cougars ticket to Irvine to participate in the state title game.

"We just wanted it so badly - we knew we could do it and we went out and did what we've done all season," said senior hitter Shurtz.

Starting outside hitter Sibley was very excited about how the team has come together. "I've absolutely loved playing with the older girls," she said. "It's been a great experience. Going to State is just icing on the cake!"

Playing away from Moraga at Concordia University in Irvine, the

Cougars fell behind early. However, they were never behind by more than a few and were able to tie it up at 19. After two consecutive points by the Dons, the Cougars won six of the last eight points, to take the set.

The Dons evened the set count with a 25-21 win in the second set.

The Cougars were looking to pull away in the third, and were leading 19-16, but the Dons went on a run of their own to go up 22-20. Cathedral Catholic hung on for a 25-23 win.

In full desperation mode, the Cougars were given an opportunity when a Dons' service error evened the match at 18. However, Campolindo was overmatched and lost the next seven of ten points to give Cathedral Catholic the set and the State title, 23-25, 25-21, 25-23, 25-21.

"Winning NorCal was unbelievable," echoed Vuong. "We went through tough teams and had to fight back for most of the sets played. Being at state representing NorCal was a dream for us."

Publisher's note: Special thanks to Campo grad Cindy Kitahara (née Wake) for taking photos for us.



Kelley Wirth #9

Miramonte Boys' XC at State Finals

Submitted by Alison Zamanian



From left: Jimmy McFeely, Dennis Finger, Mark Tamminga, Charlie Zamanian, Dillon Reed, Tyler Hanson and Miles McCaulou Photo provided

Miramonte's varsity boys' cross country placed eighth overall at the State Championships. Hanson led the effort with a fourth place finish and a personal best of 15:32. His finish marks the highest finish for Miramonte in 26 years. Dennis Finger earned the most improved honor, shaving off 30 seconds from his best finish last month.

Tyler Hanson SR NCS 15:32
Mark Tamminga SR NCS 16:26
Charlie Zamanian JR NCS 16:40
Jimmy McFeely SR NCS 16:41
Dennis Finger SO NCS 17:13
Miles McCaulou JR NCS 17:24
Dillon Read SR NCS 17:51

Acalanes girls, led by Amy Hollshwandner (33rd), finished eighth overall. Campolindo girls, led by Brigid Leach (13th), finished ninth overall.

Campolindo boys, led by Aidan Goltra (1st) finished sixth overall. Acalanes, led by Keenan Byrne (30th) finished 19th overall.



From left, back row: Coach John Vuong, coach Dave Chen, JV coach Devon Farrell, Rachel Hua, Abbey Healey, Annie Shurtz, Emily Larrick, Kenzie Brown, Kaylyn Murray, Julia Partlow, Kirsten Sibley, Kelley Wirth, Gaby Gryko; front row: Maddie Browning, Annie Doyle, Natalie Meniktas, Cassidy Abel, Sophie Seiberth, Lauren Gaskin

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Music Lessons

Piano/guitar w/ Robbie Dunbar
All levels welcome!
I travel to your home.
M. A. Music Composition
Piano tuning as well!
925-323-9706
robbiednrb@gmail.com

In Home Fitness

Senior Fitness & Massage
In your home, I will help you improve your balance, flexibility and strength. 17 yrs exp. Refs.
Colleen Ross, CMT, CFT
510-965-1978

House Cleaning

www.totalclean.biz
Serving Lamorinda since 1985.
Insured and bonded 376-1004.

Construction

SWARTS CONSTRUCTION
• Free Estimates • Seismic Retrofit
• Drainage • House Leveling
• Remodel • 35 yrs. Lamorinda
925.250.6610
www.swartscoco.com
INSURED BONDED Lic# 975406

Handyman

Fix, Paint, Repair anything.
Professional & Reliable
Call Terry 925-788-1663

Piano Lessons

Piano Lessons in Pleasant Hill
Specializing in early year students.
"Miss Shirley" 925.954.1837
www.shirleyschwartz.com

Insurance

Totalintegrityinsurance.com
20+yr Lamorinda resident.
My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you.
Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liab, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. (925) 247-4356 0E90108

Monica's Cleaning
Residential & Commercial Janitorial Services
Lic. Free Estimates (925) 348-3761

Windows & Gutters

Reliable Window Cleaning
Friendliness & remarkable results.
Windows, Gutters, Pressure Washing. (925) 254-7622
ReliableWindowService.com

Rusty Nails Handy Man Service
Repair • Restore • Revamp
Call Rusty- (925) 825-6997

Computer lessons

On-Site Computer Service
• All Major Brands • Troubleshooting • Wireless Networking • Data Recovery • Website Design & Hosting • Technology Consulting • Virus/Spyware Removal
• Affordable Rates • Certified Technicians
925-322-9577 • 510-225-5061
www.fastteks.com • wli@fastteks.com

Legal Services

WILLS/TRUSTS/PROBATE /ESTATE PLANNING
Elizabeth Johnson, J.D.(Juris Doctorate), LL.M.(Master of Law in Taxation), is an attorney with over 20 years of experience. She provides legal services in the areas of Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning, Probate Administration, Advance Health Care Directives, Elder Care issues, and Guardianships. Her legal expertise and personal approach allow you to confidently plan for your future and the future of those dear to you.
Please call 925-362-1010 or visit www.johnsonestateplanning.com

Rain gutter

Vickers Rain Gutter
Installation, repair, roof & gutter cleaning
Serving Lamorinda since 1984, Many styles of gutters with soldered downspouts....Senior discount....free est....lic 677426. I do the work myself & take pride in it....Ken 925-687-8831

Plumbing

LeapFrog Plumbing
WE HOP TO IT!
(925) 377-6600
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Painting

LET ME BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME!
Specializing in high quality interior painting
Lic.#953962/Bonded/Insured
AN INSIDE JOB
Mark Alexander
Owner
I'm local, and I'm a very nice guy!
(925) 370-6558 • (925) 787-6684 cell
grizzmark@sbcglobal.net

Computer Service

COMPUTERS' BEST FRIEND
Home & Office Computer Service
• ONSITE REPAIRS • VIRUS REMOVAL
• WINDOWS TUTORING
• HARDWARE UPGRADES
• NETWORK SETUP AND SUPPORT
• REMOTE DESKTOP/TELEPHONE SUPPORT
www.computersbestfriend.com
925-682-3408 • 510-938-1881

Tree Service

East Bay Tree Service.
377-8733. Fine pruning, large tree removal, stump grinding
License #805794

Tree & brush removal.
Poison Oak removal. 376-1995,
Licensed, insured & bonded

Hauling

FLO'S HAULING
Quick & easy - reasonable rates
(925) 521-4767

reach 60,000+ with your ad

reach 60,000+ with your ad