

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Down to the Wire

By Caitlin Graveson

Saint Mary's men's basketball program has won its share of thrillers this season but could not repeat the magic in the second round of the NCAA tournament. In a match-up against No. 6 Memphis on March 21, the No. 11 Gaels fell 54-52, ending their season 28-7.

Saint Mary's trailed by five with about three seconds remaining when sophomore forward Eividas Petrulis hit a three-pointer. The Gaels forced a Memphis turnover with 1.9 seconds to play. On the in-bound, senior guard Matthew Dellavedova put up a potential game-winning three, but it was long.

Dellavedova hit a game-tying three against USD and a game-winner against BYU this season.

After the game, sophomore forward Brad

Waldow, who had a game-high 17 points, spoke of Dellavedova's last game. "He's just a great person like all around," he said. "He taught me how to be like a winner on and off the court and a great role model, great person."

Dellavedova has the school record for most points, three-pointers, assists, and highest free-throw percentage.

Saint Mary's qualified for the NCAA tournament by winning the play-in game. The Gaels were pitted against Middle Tennessee State on March 19. Led by Dellavedova, the Gaels cruised to a comfortable 67-54 win over MTSU. Dellavedova had 22 points. Junior guard Stephen Holt contributed 18 and junior forward Beau Levesque added 13 points for SMC.



Matthew Dellavedova

Photo Tod Fierner

Riding the Win-Streak

By Michael Sakoda



Matt McCue

The Campolindo boys' basketball team's season appeared to be over, but the Cougars got a second chance and made the most of it. Despite losing an NCS playoff game to San Marin, Campolindo (22-9) qualified for the CIF tournament when Bishop O'Dowd was moved to the open division.

"The night of our loss to San Marin, Coach Watson texted me,

telling me there was still a chance we would make the tournament," said Cougars' senior guard Jack Evans. "We focused on staying alive."

Surprising everyone but themselves, they made a run all the way to the Nor Cal Finals before falling to Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Senior guard Matt McCue was excited to get the news. "We had one more chance to redeem ourselves," he

explained, "[to] show everyone how good we truly were."

It was a great reward for an even better season. After opening the season with a series of tough road games, the Cougars sat with a losing record, dropping games to Cardinal Newman, Montgomery and Granite Bay.

Campo responded to the rocky start going 15-2, stringing together three five-game winning streaks.

"One of our greatest wins was our second game against Las Lomas at home," Evans said. "We used that game to remind ourselves of the kind of basketball we needed to play to win games."

In the waning weeks of the regular season, Campo suffered two straight losses, including a heartbreaker at league rival Miramonte, but they closed DFAL play with a 3-0 burst.

In a season of winning streaks, the Cougars were prepared to go on another streak in the playoffs.

They stormed into the CIF Tournament, winning three straight road games—at Burlingame, an overtime thriller at El Cerrito, and at Enterprise, becoming only the second team in school history to reach the Northern California Championship game (the 2005 team reached the mark).

The Cougars rolled into No. 2 El Cerrito's house with confidence, and pulled out a tremendous 69-65 win. "I'll never forget Walter Brennan hitting an NBA range three to put us into overtime against El Cerrito," McCue commented.

The Cougars lost an overtime heartbreaker 55-52 in the Nor Cal Finals of the CIF Tournament to Sacred Heart Cathedral on March 16. Evans hit four three-pointers including a clutch basket with 44.1 seconds left in regulation to lead the Cougars, but it wasn't enough to propel them to the school's first State Finals appearance. "I couldn't be more proud of what these guys accomplished this season. They did a hell of a job," said head coach Matt Watson after the game.

Watson was proud of his seniors' effort. "Matt McCue, he's a freaking stud. The kid's five nine, a buck fifty,

and all heart," he said. "Jack Evans is an incredible senior leader. He knocked down some big shots tonight, made some great plays, got some big defensive stops. (Our) seniors are going to be missed tremendously."

The Cougars lose four players to graduation this year—Evans, McCue, and forwards Tyler Garrison and John Schmitz—but the future looks bright, as they return four starters, sophomores Chris Hansen and Matt O'Reilly, and juniors Justin Dunn and Andrew Zolitakis.

Baseball Rivals Faced-Off Last Week



Junior outfielder Cody Kiriaze beats the throw in Campolindo's 2-1 loss to Acalanes on March 19. Campo bounced back to beat Miramonte 3-1 on March 21. The Cougars are 4-3 this season, while the Dons are 5-4.

Photos Ohlen Alexander



Miramonte baseball is off to a 4-3-1 start.

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