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Campo Dominates Boys' Volleyball

By Marissa Harnett



Stephen Buhl goes up watched by Yize Dong
Photos Ohlen Alexander

First, they won the DFAL title. Next, the Campolindo boys' volleyball team took their third straight NCS championship. Finally, on May 25 at Dublin High School, the Cougars captured their sweetest title yet: the first-ever Division II CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) Nor-Cal Regional Championship.

"We're all feeling pretty happy. It's really surreal to pull off the win," said head coach Dave Chen. Campolindo defeated No. 2 Whitney High School, 25-17, 22-25, 25-15, 25-21 in the championship.

With an overall record of 39-2 entering the tournament, Campo earned the No. 1 seed and showed why they deserved the top spot. Chen felt honored by the top seed, but recognized that they were a target.

"The biggest thing for us to stress is that we don't need to be perfect, we just need to be consistent," Chen explained. "The playoff run is a test of consistency in performance, but also emotional control and mental stability."

One of the challenges Campo faced was size.

"We are probably the shortest team of all the Nor-Cal qualifiers," Chen said. However, Campo made up for its lack of size with solid, consistent defense.

Campo's road to the finals began May 21 with sweep of No. 8 Sir Francis Drake High School (25-18, 25-18, 25-12). The Cougars immediately took the lead in the first set and never looked back. The second set started better for Drake. They kept it close early tying it at 5-all, but then Campo took charge. In the final set, Campo rarely missed and kept a comfortable 10-point margin for most of the set.

In the semi-finals, Campo faced No. 4 St. Patrick/St. Vincent, which proved more of a challenge. Campo held the lead through most of the first set, but SPSV battled to even the score at 19-19 and managed to close out the set, 25-23. Regaining their stride in set two, the Cougars strung together powerful serves and decisive kills to secure the set, 25-13. SPSV gave them more trouble in the third, keeping the score even deep into the set. At 17-17, Campo went on a run and captured the remaining eight points almost consecutively to win the set. Campo carried the momentum into the fourth set to seal the win.

With little rest, Campo moved on to the final match against Whitney. The Cougars gave up one set to win in four, 25-17, 22-25, 25-15, 25-21. Campo came out strong in the first set. Set two saw Whitney regroup and defend better, which earned them the set. Campo came back again in the third and grabbed a lead that secured them the set. The fourth set was close.

"We couldn't get much separation from them. It was the big play of Charlie Mattox to come in and serve four consecutive points on two separate occasions as well as contribute three digs in those sequences which helped to secure the win," Chen detailed.

Chen is proud of his players. "All season I've been very hard on them about playing as a team and questioning their toughness and mental stability," he said. "They really found a way to bring it together and play well especially when they weren't playing their best game. That speaks volume of their character."



Ryan First #7 goes up for the hit.

Lafayette Little League Box Scores

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division

May 23

Cardinals 6 Blue Jays 3

The Cardinals rode the dominant pitching performance of Eddie Burns to victory in a playoff elimination game. The flame throwing Burns struck out nine in his three innings on the hill. Keziah Smith and Nikki Wixom led the Red-bird offense with two hits apiece. Brett Donat rapped out two hits for the Jays to support the solid pitching of Luke Miles.

AAA Division

Brewers 15 Cardinals 6

In a three-hour marathon at Buckeye Field, Nathan Enrici helped the Brewers stave off playoff elimination with a perfect four-hit day. Jake Myers starred on the mound for the winners, striking out four in two innings of work. Slade Woerhle made the defensive play of the game, robbing Oliver Lane of extra bases with a diving grab in left field. The Cards were led by Joe Evans' bases clearing triple and defensive gems turned in by Lane and Drew Lashinsky.

MBA Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

Mustang Division

May 22

Mustang A's 3, Yankees 16

A's Highlights: Matthew Wong (2-for-3, Run, 2B), Jack Daugherty (1-for-3, Run, RBI), Kimo Okamura (1-for-3, RBI), Max Rittmann (2-for-2) and Jack Williams (1-for-2, RBI).

Yankees Highlights: Alex Clare (2-for-3, 3B, 4 Runs, RBI), JT Clarke (2-for-3, 2 Runs, 2RBI), Casey Linden (3-for-3, 3B, 2 Runs, 3RBI), Ben Oxendine (2-for-2, 2B, 2 Runs, 2RBI), Evan Yabu (1-for-3, Run), Jack Keogh (1-for-2, Run, RBI), James Murray (2 2/3 IP, 2 Runs, 4K), Alex Clare (2 1/3 IP, 0 Runs, 3K), and Xavier Esquer (1 IP, 1 Run, 1K).

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Acalanes Girls' Lacrosse Wins NCS Championship

Submitted by Lucy Amaral



Pictured: Niki Quinn, Maggie Chan, Katie O'Keefe, Gabrielle Palffy, Brooke Balfrey, Maddie Cooper, Mikaela Maron, Piper Keeley, Calen O'Neill, Bella Gotts, Chloe Landry, Kate Fellner, Kate Hansen, Morgan Samaniego, Ruth Shaffer, Holly Fleischmann, Alyssa Mueller, Ellie Higgins, Caith Wright, Caroline Newman, Blake Balfrey, and Sabba Jweainat, Camila Mendez-Otero and Katie Welsh.

Photo provided

The Acalanes girls' lacrosse team defeated University High School of San Francisco 18-9 at home on May 25 to capture the North Coast Section championship.

For the fifth year in a row, the program

finished its league season undefeated. The No. 1 Lady Dons headed into the post-season with a 15-5 overall record. Acalanes faced Miramonte at home for the semi-finals, taking that match with a 19-10 victory.

Final Match Stats:

Chloe Landry—six goals and three assists
Kate Fellner—four goals and two assists
Caroline Newman—three goals and two assists
Katie O'Keefe—three goals
Sabba Jweainat—nine saves (goalie)

Acalanes boys' lacrosse also won the NCS Championship in a tough match against Marin Catholic. The Dons earned a 9-8 victory on May 24 at Dominican University.



Photo Gint Federas

The Numbers Lie in NCS Softball Tournament

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In the third round, they were tested. The Cougars traveled to Eureka, where they went to extra innings against the No. 3 seed. In the top of the eighth, senior captain Shelly Suhling, with an 0-2 count, hit a home run over the right field fence, winning the game 3-2.

Campo moved on to face Terra Linda in the NCS Division III Championship on June 1.

It was a battle of pitchers. Terra Linda's freshman-phenom Ashley Bottomley struck out five and gave up only three hits in the first five innings. Through six innings, Cougars pitcher Suhling was working on a shutout—86 pitches with 32 strikes, two strikeouts, two walks, only four hits and 0 earned runs.

The score remained 0-0 until the top of the fifth when the Cougars went on a run. Sophomore first baseman Charlotte McNeil drew a walk to lead off the inning. McNeil advanced to second on a wild pitch, but after two more outs, she remained there. The next batter, senior captain and short stop Becca Crisp was hit by a pitch, which brought up freshman third baseman Zoe Marrott. With the count 2-2 Marrott blasted a triple to left field, scoring two runs. Marrott was brought home by a 1-0 double by junior catcher Kristin Ghamghami.

Campolindo led 3-0 going into the bottom of the fifth.

Campo stranded two in the top of the 7th, and Suhling faltered in the bottom. She hit the

lead-off batter with the first pitch, but she seemed to regain her composure, notching her third strikeout on her 91st pitch.

But Terra Linda wasn't done. The Cougars allowed a second runner on base, which brought up Cheyenne Cooper who hit a 3-run homer over the left field fence, tying the game and forcing extra innings.

Senior Tela Zemsch led-off the eighth for Campo, hitting a 2-2 single. Sophomore Danielle Thomas hit a 1-0 double to left field with one out, bringing senior captain Sarah Reynolds came to the plate. With the count 0-2, Reynolds hit an RBI double, scoring Zemsch.

The game rested on Campo's defense. The game rested on Suhling's arm.

"Shelly pitched a great game until the seventh inning where she hit the lead-off batter and then made an error throwing for an out at second base," said an amused McLaughlin after the game. "When we scored that run, I walked up to her and said, 'You just got a second chance, and she goes, 'I know. Don't worry, I'm on it.'"

Suhling retired the side, adding two more strikeouts to her total, and winning the title for the Cougars.

"This is as good as it gets," McLaughlin said after the game. "These girls believed in themselves, and they didn't give up. They believed, and that's all that really matters."