

Dons, Mats Fight for DFAL Lacrosse Title

By Scott Wu



Chloe Landry and Kate Fellner

Photo Gint Federas

Midway through the girls' high school lacrosse season, two Lamorinda schools are battling for the league title. Acalanes and Miramonte sit atop the DFAL standings. The undefeated Dons have a slight edge on the Mats who are 5-1. Meanwhile, Campolindo is looking to rebuild for the future.

Miramonte (8-2 overall) hosted Acalanes on April 15, looking to give the Dons (8-4 overall, 7-0 in DFAL) their first league loss in three seasons.

Fans from both sides filled the stands, awaiting the most anticipated league match of the year. The match was close throughout. No team earned a lead over three goals and there was a total of five lead changes throughout the game.

Mats' junior Caroline Tague and Dons' Kate Fellner led their teams, scoring four goals apiece. Both Tague and Fellner recorded hat tricks before the first half ended.

Sophomore goalies Sommer Veverka of Miramonte and Acalanes' Sabba Jweinat made spectacular saves throughout the game, limiting what could have been an offensively dominated game.

In the end, Acalanes went home

with the 12-10 victory, once again proving their sheer dominance in the DFAL.

Head coach Whitney Campitiello is proud of her team's commitment to success. "The girls have proven that they will overcome any mental or physical obstacles in their path," Campitiello said.

The Dons have important play-off experience and a deep roster. Senior captains Kate Fellner and Chloe Landry were both part of the 2013 squad that won the NCS Championship. Landry was named the DFAL MVP of the 2013 season. Fellner earned All-league first team honors. Jweinat was the only freshman to receive DFAL All-team honors for the 2013 season.

Despite the strong start, Campitiello notes the team needs to continue to remain focused. "While we've been successful for the past few years, we still need to keep a determined attitude and work harder than ever," Campitiello stated.

Led by new head coach Melissa Humphrey, Miramonte is excited with their start. Still, Humphrey recognizes the value consistency and improvement.

"I'm glad we have had such a

solid start to our season, but I continue to remind the girls that it's not about how you start, but how you finish," Humphrey explained.

With senior captains Hannah Friel, Rachael Purcell, Mica Zimmerman, and Kady Richardson leading the team on the field, there is no doubt that the program can make a deep run into the NCS playoffs.

"We're pushing the girls to get better one step at a time and to make every day count," Humphrey stated.

Meanwhile, Campolindo, 2-4, is in the midst of a tough season. Still, the Cougars look forward to improving throughout the remainder of the DFAL season.

"The girls will have to focus on the goals they've set for themselves, which is to work hard and stay concentrated on the ultimate goal of making the NCS playoffs," head coach Jessica Hoffschneider commented.

Senior captains Jacqueline Guelfi, Megan Adachi, and Grace Carrick have been especially strong defensively this year, and continue to provide valuable leadership.

"Our team captains have worked hard to keep the girls inspired," Hoffschneider stated.

Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

Pinto Division:

March 22

Pirates 23, A's 12

Pirates Highlights: Andy Moon 5-for-5, 3B, 2-2B, 5 RS, 2 RBI's; Hudson Pergamit 4-for-4, 2-3B, 2B, 4 RS, 4 RBI's

A's Highlights: Max O'Balle 3-for-4, 2B, 3 RS, 2 RBI's; Max Robeson 3-for-4, 1 RS, 2 RBI's

A's 14, Cardinals 5

A's Highlights: Max Robeson 3-for-4, 3 RS, 4 RBI; Nate Habas 1-for-3, 2B, 2 RS; Connor Naughten 2-for-3, 2 RS.

Cardinals Highlights: Adrian Blumberg 3-for-3, RS, 3 RBI; Parker Smith 2-for-3; Leighton Jay 2-for-3, 2 RS, 1 RBI.

Yankees 11, Giants 12

Yankees' Highlights: Corey Nelson 3-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI; Thatcher Cattell 3-for-3, 1 RS; Lleyton Osteen 3-for-3, 1 RS

Giants' Highlights: Will Will McCurdy 3-for-3 3B, 3 RBI, 3 RS; Kyle Ting 2-for-2, 2 RS; Danny Beckwith 1-for-2, 1 RS; Luke Bonardi 3-for-3, 3 RS, 2 RBI

March 27

Cardinals 8, Yankees 4

Cardinals Highlights: Adrian Blumberg 4-for-4, 1 run scored; Jack Mooradian 2-for-2, 2 runs; Parker

Smith 2-for-3 two runs. Yankees Highlights: Jake Spencer 3-for-3, 1 run; William Myers 3-for-3, 1 run; Tim Daugherty 2-for-3, 2 runs

April 8

Yankees 19, Red Sox 10

Yankees Highlights: Corey Nelson 3-for-4, GS HR, 7RBI's; Tim Daugherty 4-for-4, 3 RS; James Giordani 3-for-3, 3 RS

Red Sox Highlights: Josh Batra 3-for-3; Cooper Chang 2-for-3; Scott Lyons 2-for-3; Isaiah Ortiz 2-for-3, 2RBI's

April 9

Angels 16, Cardinals 17

Angels Highlights: Sam Whipple 4-for-4, 2 2Ba, 2 RS; Charlie Murrin 2-for-4, 3 RS; Teo Spiropulo 2-for-2.

Cardinals Highlights: Chase Colvin 1-for-2, 2B, RBI; Ryan Lee 2-for-3, 2 RS, 2 RBI's; Clayton Naffziger 2-for-3, 3 RS.

Red Sox 16, A's 3

Red Sox Highlights: Doug Ellery 4-for-4, 3 RS; Scott Lyons 3-for-4, 3 RS; Isaiah Ortiz 3-for-3, 2 RS; Josh Batra 3-for-3, 2 RS

A's Highlights: Jack Harper 1-for-3, RS; Rylen Salvi 2-for-2, RS; Connor Naughten 1-for-2, RS

April 12

Angels 13, Giants 10

Angels Highlights: Charlie Murrin 3-for-4, 3 Runs, 2 RBI, 2B; Joe Revelos 3-for-4, 4 Runs, 2 RBI; Nolan Paul 2-

for-3; Sam Whipple 4-for-4, Run, 8 RBI, 2 2B, HR

Giants Highlights: Jason Ruckel 4-for-4, 2 2B; Will McCurdy 4-for-4, 3 Runs; Braden Purcell 2-for-3

April 15

Angels 12, Pirates 9

Pirates Highlights: Cole Miller 2-for-3, RS; Rex Pastore 2-for-3; Will Vranesh 2-for-3

Angels Highlights: Peter Appleton 2-for-3, 2 RBI, 1 R; Thomas Colpo 2-for-3, 2 R; Ben Whipple 2-for-3, RBI

Redsox 13, Giants 9

Redsox highlights: Scott Lyons 3-for-3, 3 RS; Isaiah Ortiz 3-for-3, 2 RBI's; Colin Rutzen 2-for-3, 2 RS; Drew DeFrancisci 2-for-2, 1 RS

Giants highlights: Will McCurdy 3-for-4, 2 RBI's; Landon Fly 3-for-3, 1 RS; Braden Purcell 2-for-3; Tommy Beckwith 2-for-3

April 16

Yankees 10, Cardinals 5

Yankees Highlights: Tim Daugherty 3-for-3, 3 2B, 3 RS; Cort Wilson 2-for-2; Corey Nelson 3-for-3, 1 RS.

Cardinals Highlights: Ryan Lee 2-for-3, 2 RS; Parker Smith 1-for-3; Chase Colvin 1-for-2.

Mustang Division:

March 22

Giants 10, Red Sox 11

Red Sox Highlights: Phillip Jagard 2-for-3, 1 RBI, 2 Runs; Robbie Mascheroni 2-for-2, 2 Runs; Luke Berry 1 for 2, 2 RBI's

Giants Highlights: Scott Linden 1-for-1, 1 RBI, 3 Runs; Nick Buck 2 for 2, 3 RBIs, 2 Run; Max Rittmann 1-for-2, 1 RBI, 1 Run

March 24

Cubs 3, Yankees 2

Yankee Highlights: Ben Jules 1-for-2, 2B, 2IP, 6Ks; Ryan Erickson-King 2IP, 4Ks; Justin Rodriguez 1-for-2, 2B, 2IP, 3 Ks; Jack Erickson-King 1-for-2, Run, 3B

Cubs Highlights: Tyler Kivelson BB, 2 stolen bases, 1IP, 1K; Wiley Winkler 1-for-1, Run, BB, 6 stolen bases; Jack Beatty 2-for-2, Run, 2IP, 5Ks

April 9

Cubs 12, Giants 7

Cubs Highlights: Jack Beatty 2 IP, 4 Ks, 0 ER; Mason Fara 1-for-2, 1B, 3 RS; Michael Coane 3-for-3, 2 RBI, 2 RS.

Giants Highlights: Will Studebaker 2 IP, 6 Ks, 0 ERs; Max Rittmann 2-for-3, 1B, 3B, 2 RBI, 1 RS; Zach Donovan, 1-for-1, 2B, 2 RBI, 1 RS.

Cardinals 7, Yankees 6

Yankees Highlights: Xavier Esquer 1-for-3, 2 RBI, Run, 3B; Justin Myers 1-for-3, 2 RBI, Run, 2B; Vito Crudele Run, RBI, BB; Justin Rodriguez Run, BB

Cardinal Highlights: Logan Robeson

3-for-3, 2 Runs, RBI, 2 2B; Dylan Wilkalis 2-for-3, Run; Ryan Sintchak 1-for-3, Run, RBI, 3B; Rhys Pullen 2-for-3

April 12

Cardinals 11, Giants 3

Cardinals Highlights: Dashiell Weaver 2-for-3, 2 RS, 1 RBI; Logan Robeson 2-for-3, 3 RS, 4 RBI; Cooper Lenahan 3-for-3, 2B, 1 RS, 4 RBI; Cooper Alford 2-for-2.

Giants Highlights: Zach Donovan 1-for-2, 2B, 1RS; Nicolas Buck 1-for-2 1 RS, 1 RBI; Grant Roesch 1-for-2, 2B, 2 RBI's; Andrew Pak 1-for-2.

April 15

A's 8, Cardinals 5

A's Highlights: L. Rago 2 IP, 5 K, 0 ER; A. Harper 2-for-2, 2 RS; S. Meehan 3 RBI; D. Castilla-Liu 1-for-1, BB, 2 RS.

Cardinals Highlights: N. Powers 2 IP, 5 K, 0 ER; D. Weaver 3-for-3, 2 RS; C. Lenahan 2-for-3.

April 16

Yankees 15, Giants 8

Yankees Highlights: Xavier Esquer 2-for-2, 1B, 2B, 1 RBI & 4 RS; Andrew Pan 2-for-3, 3 RBIs, 1 RS; Justin Myers 1-for-4, 4RS

Giants Highlights: Ben Martson 1-for-2, 1RS; Andrew Pak 1-for-2, 2 RBIs, 1RS; Hayden Prizeman 1-for-2, 1RS, 1 RBI

Dons "Ace" Out Their Rivals

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"It's not going to be an easy path through DFALs, but it's certainly going to be a fun one," said Cardiff. "We'll have some fun out there, and potentially do some damage."

Campolindo's season, on the other hand, started out rocky after losing some of last year's standout players. Over the past six years the Cougars (4-7 in DFAL) have consistently held first or second in league, but this year the team consists of relatively young members with less experience.

"We're at a rebuilding phase," said Campolindo coach Petro Petreas. "The last two years in a row we've lost a lot of seniors. So we now have to adjust to being at the middle of the pack in DFAL play."

The setback has encouraged the Cougars to improve their skills, in the hope of rebounding to their top-tier position. Junior Oliver and seniors Bailey Wu and Dylan Brodsky have stepped in to lead the team.

"Even though our season doesn't show it, I think that all of our players have improved drastically," said team captain Wu. "Every individual stepped up and did everything they could this season."

The Miramonte Matadors also lost five standout players, but the Mats have managed to maintain a top spot in the DFAL. The defending 2012 and 2013 DFAL and NCS champions, have an overall record of 10-5.

According to coach Michael McCollom, juniors Peter Martin and Neil Weikert and sophomore Alex Huang have become prominent players this year. In doubles' play, the Mats are led by Kyle Rechnitz and Bryce Hummer.

As of press time, the Mats had lost only to top teams: twice to Acalanes, twice to dominant Dougherty Valley, and once to Tamalpais.

"All of those teams are among the top five teams in the area, so it's not an insult to lose to them," said McCollom. "It's hard to replace good players. You're left with kids who don't have as

much experience in big moments, so you lose tight matches."

Nevertheless, the Mats remain hopeful for success in the upcoming DFAL and NCS tournaments, beginning in May.



Freshman Ryan Cardiff has been key to Dons' success.



Tilden Oliver gives Campolindo experience and leadership. Photos Gint Federas