

# Girls' High School Tennis Swinging Strong

By Marissa Harnett



Jessalyn Simon-Parker

Photo Gint Federas

The Lamorinda high school girls' tennis teams have been working hard since August, refining their strokes and strategies. Their efforts are beginning to be tested in league play, which started last week.

**Miramonte** (6-1) has started strong, defeating their first two league opponents, Alhambra and Dublin, 9-0.

Coach Michael McCollum acknowledges that the competition will only get tougher. "It sure looks like Dougherty Valley is the best team in NorCal and could very well defend their NCS title. Acalanes will certainly have a strong group making the DFAL one of the power conferences in NorCal," he said.

As in years past, Miramonte enjoys deep talent. "We have a very experienced team with eight seniors, led by captains Taylor James, Cece Andrews and Jen Stanten," McCollum explained. Two all-conference juniors, three all-conference sophomores, and three solid freshmen round out the squad.

Miramonte looks to best last year's quarter-final finish in NCS. "The Mats look forward to returning to the NCS team tournament and we hope to reach the semis," McCollum said.

**Campolindo** heads into a second year of rebuilding after graduating seven seniors. In 2013, the Cougars lost 13 seniors, but still finished fourth in the league.

"We ended the year in the middle of DFAL [standings]," coach Steve Robinson said. "The girls did improve steadily throughout the year which is always our goal."

This year, Campo will concentrate on gaining experience and getting better. "[Because] this year's team is still young and inexperienced, the team will look to returning seniors and varsity players Emma Price, Sophia

Marino, Grace Roberts, and Nicole Finney to provide leadership and mentoring for the younger players," Robinson continued.

Coach Sunun Faulkner added, "As a re-building team, making the team spirit, being a "family," and being a good citizen while improving the skills are more of the focus rather than just winning matches."

Despite being young, Campo is off to a great start, winning their first two league matches against Dublin (8-1) and Alhambra (9-0).

**Acalanes'** team is built of 12 returning varsity players, four top junior varsity players who moved up, and two "very strong" freshmen who were added. "Our more seasoned seniors and juniors are already showing great leadership potential, which will just add to the cohesiveness and spirit of this already positive group of girls," said head coach Ellie Kann.

Last year, Acalanes (0-5) finished 10-8 overall and earned the No. 12 seed in their first showing in the North Coast Section tournament in more than a decade. Last year, junior Isabella von Ebbe led the Dons, placing fourth overall in singles in the NCS.

The Dons struggled with consistency in their doubles line, however. Kann explained, "This year our talent will be more evenly distributed from top to bottom. We hope to work on learning more doubles strategies and establish consistent[ly] strong doubles partners."

So far this season, the Dons have faced stiff competition. They suffered a regular season loss to Las Lomas, 2-7. While the team sustained some early losses, the coaches remain unfazed.

"We expect to be competitive this season with the depth and versatility of our players," Kann said.



Quinn Harrington

# Karate Chop the Competition

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



Brothers Logan and Trevor Simpson returned from the Fiestas International Karate Championships in Los Angeles with trophies recognizing their top finishes. Logan took first in Kata and Kumite. Trevor took first place in his Kata division.

Photo provided

**Submit stories to  
sportsdesk@  
lamorinda  
weekly.com**

*(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)*

# Campo Frosh Take Title

Submitted by May Lo Yick



Back row, from left: Terra Murray, Grace Huber, Kate Miles, Jessica Thomas, Grace Schmidt, Payton Fraser, Ashley Mulakaluri, Emily Barlow, coach Daniella Inzerillo; front row: Jillian Yick, Isabel Artiaga, Sophie Hein, Mia Schaffel

Photo provided

The Campolindo freshman girls' volleyball team earned a thrilling 25-16, 21-25, 15-13 win over Monte Vista to take first place in the 16-team Dougherty Valley Tournament on Sept. 13. To reach the finals, Campo beat Berkeley, College Park, Alhambra, Amador Valley and Acalanes, all in two-set matches.

# Mats Win Rival's Tourney

Submitted by April Murphy



Front row, from left: Lava Fleischauer, Frankie Veverka, Kelly Murphy, Skylar Savar, Clair Manrique, Nicole LeCour; back row: coach Noel Murphy, Kelly Peyovich, Kylie Morrison, Megan Miller, Brigid Berndt, Kendall Hemming, MC Metherd, Lucy Conner, Cassie Zulch, Sophie Smith, Aoife Tejada

Photo provided

The Miramonte girls' junior varsity 2014 Acalanes Invitational Water Polo Tournament on Sept. 12-13. The Mats took first place in the

# Water Polo Top Honors

Submitted by James Vazquez-Azpiri



Ginny (third from the left) and Ava (red cap) stand with their teammates. Photo provided

Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri and Ava Donlevy earned USA Water Polo 2014 Junior Olympic All-American first and second team honors, respectively. The girls compete on the 10U Lamorinda water polo team.

# Back-to-Back Champs

Submitted by Matt Hansen



Back row, from left: Coach Billal Samy, Nickolas Geannacopulos, Seji Minowada, Owen Hansen, Jamiel Liu, Brett Donat, Andrew Sturgeon, Kade Shipp, Ben Clark, Emilio Heredia, Giovanni Sponzilli, Joel Kofman; front row: Renn Strandberg, Christian Ramsey, Edward Danielyan, Kellen Clancy, Thomas Boyden, Sean Donovan, Erik Voss, Kai Digrande

Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U13 boys repeated their success at the Walnut Creek Summerfest tournament on Aug. 23-24. The team won the tournament last year and finished as champions again this year.

Lamorinda came out firing on the first day, defeating Pittsburg Youth 3-0 and Alternativo Futbol Brasil 10-0. The next day United's possession-style game earned them a 1-0 victory over their rivals, Walnut Creek Arsenal. After going 3-0 in pool play, the team earned the top seed in its bracket. After giving up a goal minutes into the game, the U13 boys fought back to equalize by halftime. United dominated the second half and scored a second goal to beat the Richmond Sol Cobras 2-1.