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Rivalry Matches Tough for Mats

Campo, Acalanes face off in DFAL finals

By Michael Sakoda



Chad Johnson completed an 80-yard touchdown.

Photo Gint Federas

Miramonte (2-7, 1-4 DFAL) went 0-2 in rivalry games as they continued to struggle with turnovers and penalties.

On their second drive of the game, Miramonte had a first and goal from the 5-yard line, but a false start pushed them back to the 10.

"It was really upsetting that we drove down there, had first and goal, then had a snap infraction, moved back and threw the interception," said Miramonte head coach Jack Schram.

From there, the teams traded blows, and Miramonte tied the score, 14-14, with only 29.2 seconds left in the first half.

Acalanes scored 14 unanswered to open the second half, but Miramonte threatened late as Lindberg found junior Clayton Stehr for a 35-yard touchdown.

On the kickoff, Miramonte appeared to have recovered an onside kick, but the Mats were early. Their second onside at-

tempt had no chance, and the Dons were able to run out the clock.

"We fought back, but really we didn't give ourselves a chance," said Schram. "That's pretty much how our season has gone."

Junior Nathan Edwards finished with 109 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries for Acalanes, while Stehr led the way for Miramonte, running for 112 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries and adding seven receptions for 158 yards and another touchdown.

"Obviously we're happy with the outcome, but we need to tackle better," said Acalanes head coach Mike Ivankovich. "We left so many sacks on the field, and we didn't do a good job tackling (Stehr). Definitely something to work on."

On Oct. 31, Miramonte was trounced by undefeated Campolindo (9-0, 5-0 DFAL) 49-12.

The Cougars scored first and never trailed in the game. It was another tough outing for the Mats who had three giveaways (two lost fumbles, interception). Campolindo running back Nick Fadelli had another strong outing, finishing the game with 143 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries.

"Our only fear with (Fadelli) is that we're counting on him too much," said head coach Kevin Macy. "We don't get too dependent on him, especially since we have other weapons, but he's so darn good we're getting a little too comfortable counting on him to be consistent."

Campolindo hosts Acalanes Friday, Nov. 7 while Miramonte travels to Dublin to wrap up the regular season.

Lamorinda Tennis Teams have Sights Set on NCS Tournament

Campo clinches third, Miramonte ties for first in DFAL

By Spencer Silva



Melissa Van Pell



Hannah Ross

Photos Gint Federas

For the second time in a month, the Campolindo Cougars (12-5 overall, 8-4 DFAL) scratched out a 5-4 victory over their rival, the Acalanes Dons (3-16 overall, 3-10 DFAL).

Dons' head coach Ellie Kahn recalled the last match, "We were competitive last time we played them. We won four matches."

Acalanes No. 1 singles player Melissa Van Pell did her part, dispatching of Hannah Ross in a hard-fought match in straight sets 6-4, 6-3.

This was no coincidence as Campo coach Steve Robinson put it, "One of our biggest strengths is our depth. We're strong all the way through our doubles teams."

After winning the DFAL in 2012, the Cougars have been in rebuilding mode the last few seasons. They've exceeded expectations, and with a third place finish in the DFAL, they should be rewarded with a low-seed berth in the NCS tournament.

Some of the key ingredients to Campo's success have been the transfer of Zoe Schneider from Miramonte. She's been versatile, playing both singles and doubles. The Cougars were also able to recruit Eva Spindler, who switched from volleyball to tennis this season.

It was a mostly disappointing season for the Dons who were a surprise contender in 2013. A number of instances, including two of their best players moving out of town - sisters, no less - spelled trouble.

The local powerhouse during the regular season was the Miramonte Mats (17-4 overall, 11-1 DFAL) who were recently crowned co-champions of the DFAL with rival Dougherty Valley.

Coach Michael McCollum attributes his team's sustained success to not only having star players at the top, but also being able to play every girl on his roster with absolute confidence.

The DFAL tournament starts Nov. 11 and the NCS tournament begins the following week Nov. 18.

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