

# Campo, Mats Qualify for NCS Playoffs

By Spencer Silva



Matt O'Reilly



Jackson Wegener

Lamorinda is sending two basketball programs to the NCS Division III playoffs. Campolindo (23-3) is the No. 4 seed and Miramonte (13-13) the No. 7 seed. The Cougars hosted De Anza Feb. 24, while the Mats traveled to Santa Rosa and squared off against Sonoma County League champion Elsie Allen.

MaxPreps recently ranked Campo the No. 20 team in Northern California. Other than a tough 55-50 loss to El Cerrito on Feb. 14, the Cougars have been stellar — the loss snapped a 16-game winning streak. They put an exclamation point on the regular season with a convincing 76-65 win over Dublin on Feb. 20.

In January, head coach Matt Watson predicted his team would reach their peak performance in mid-to-late February.

They share a bracket with the Bay Area's top team, Bishop O' Dowd, so in all likelihood they will have to face the Dragons to reach the NCS finals.

Miramonte ended their season with a tough 57-50 loss to Campo. Before that, however, they managed close wins over Dublin and Alhambra. Those were crucial wins for a team that was 1-6 in its previous seven games. Head coach Drew McDonald believes his team has exited its mid-season slump and is playing its best basketball of the season. "Last year's team came together around this time and got in a rhythm," he explained. "The same thing is happening this year. We're playing better defense especially."

Defense will play a crucial role in how far the Mats go in the postseason. "Playing defense and taking care of the ball, especially the latter, becomes more and more important down the stretch," McDonald said.

The Mats reached the NorCal semifinals for the first time in school history last season, despite being eliminated from the NCS by Campo. The team will count on senior leadership from Jackson Wegener, Jake Linares and Moneer Mujaddidi for its success this season.

Acalanes' season ended with a tough loss to Las Lomas.

The good news is that the Dons return 11 players to next year's squad, including standout point guard Andrew McKendle and forward Alex Kinnear. Coach Dave Goldman believes that those two players along with Matt Bostik could be the backbone of a strong team. There's a chance they will become a Division II team based on their enrollment. They would remain in the DFAL even if they change divisions.



Andrew McKendell

# Gaels Number "13" Retired



From left: San Antonio Spurs stars Manu Ginobili, Boris Diaw, Patty Mills, and Tiago Splitter  
Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's honored former guard Patrick Mills by retiring his number "13" in a half-time ceremony on Feb. 21. In front of a packed house, college president James Donahue and athletic director Mark Orr presented Mills with a framed jersey to commemorate the honor.

Mills played at Saint Mary's from 2007-

2009. In his two years with the Gaels, Mills garnered many accolades, including the SMC record for most points in a single season.

In his sixth NBA season, Mills is the only former Gael to win an NBA championship. The guard won the title with the San Antonio Spurs last season.

# Game Within a Game

Submitted by Amber Thiselton-Dyer



St. Perpetua's seventh grade girls' national team scrimmaged at the halftime of the St. Mary's

women's basketball game against BYU on Feb. 12. The Gaels beat the Cougars 76-71.

# Training with the National Team

Submitted by Mary Staff



Photo Kelley L Cox-KLC fotos

Samantha DeVecchi of Orinda went to Florida to train with U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Developmental Program (ODP) National Team from Jan. 22-26. DeVecchi was one of four chosen from Northern California in an age group of 60 participants.

DeVecchi, a Miramonte sophomore,

talked about her experience at the camp. "This was a great opportunity for me," she explained.

She also said the six days of immersion was an educational experience. "The training was intense, fast, physical and grueling, but fun at the same time."

# St. Monica's Wins Again

Submitted by Lyn Schmidt



From left: Chase Bennett, Isaiah Lawrie, Ben Jules, Emmanuel Callas, Cade Bennett, coach Bruce Lawrie, Daniel Wheeler, coach Marcus Schroeder, Maxwell Weaver, and Joey Schmidt

St. Monica's sixth grade boys' basketball team defeated St. Mary's of Walnut Creek 41-22 on Feb. 15 to win the CYO American League Championship. The group

of boys has won the championship in their age group five years in a row, beginning in the second grade. They played for their third diocese title in Hayward on Feb. 21-22.

# Big Celebration

Submitted by Cathleen Huston



From left, back row: Coach Tague, Grace Younger, Catie Foley, Claire McCormick, Andie Cohen, Ashleigh Miller, Bridget Tague, Dara Kazmierowski (in spirit), and coach Huston; front row: Emily Huston and Kaitlyn Miller.

The Santa Maria eighth grade American girls' team celebrated their qualification for the playoffs after a recent victory over St.

Perpetua. Santa Maria won 36-14 on Jan. 31. Santa Maria qualified for the upcoming diocese playoffs on Feb. 28-29.

# Lamorinda Cheers on Cal Rugby

Submitted by Steve Peterson



Lamorinda players and coach Clark gather under the goalposts.  
Photo provided

Lamorinda Rugby, with over 10 former Cal Rugby players in its coaching ranks, attended the 109th Cal-Stanford Scrum Axe Rugby Match on Feb. 11. After watching former Lamorinda players Will Fuller, Miles Honen, Jamie Howells, and Karl Thorton help lead the Bears to a 78-3 victory, more than 100 Lamorinda rugby players, coaches and parents were greeted and welcomed by long time Cal rugby coach Jack Clark.