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Campolindo Season Ends in State Finals

By Michael Sakoda



Austin Clarke Photos Gint Federas

The Campolindo boys' basketball team finished their historic season in the CIF Division III state championship game. After an incredible season, the Cougars' season came to an end in a heartbreaking 57-70 loss to Damien at Haas Pavilion on March 27.

"From the beginning of the year, we knew we had a good team, but we didn't know we had a great team," said Austin Clarke, who posted 15 points, eight rebounds and a steal in the loss. "One more win would have been nice, but just to be here was a really special thing."

The size advantage was clear at warmups. Scott Chen and Sean Yamamoto, who make up Campolindo's starting backcourt, are 5'6" and 5'7" respectively. Damien boasts a starting lineup of three 6'4" guards, a 6'5" forward, and a 6'6" center.

Despite this disadvantage, Campolindo kept the game close. The Cougars trailed by four at the end of the first quarter and went on a 6-0 run in the second to take a 20-19 lead. After three quarters, they were still down by four. However, Damien pulled away in the fourth, outscoring Campo 31-22 to take the title.

"The loss is obviously heartbreaking," said Chris Hansen, who had 25 points, 14 rebounds. "But we've never been here before, and I think it sets the tone for the younger guys. It tells them that they can get back here, no matter what people think at the beginning of the year."

Campolindo started the season strong and continued to improve throughout.

"This is a true team," said head coach Matt Watson of the team's successful season. "They never cared who the high scorer was. It was all about the team. When you get guys that understand that, you just start cruising."

The Cougars (28-5; 12-0 DFAL) stunned tough competition early in the preseason, win-

ning the Gridley Invitational Tournament and the Modesto Christian Tournament.

Campo surged through the DFAL, beating opponents by an average of 18.6 points per game. Their record earned them the No. 4 seed in the NCS playoffs where they trounced De Anza 83-55 and upended Albany 65-50 before losing to eventual champion, Bishop O'Dowd, in the semifinals on March 4.

A tested Cougars team captured the No. 2 seed in the Northern Region of the CIF State Tournament, and began their title hunt on March 14, beating Sacred Heart Cathedral 79-65. Campolindo knocked off No. 3 Sierra 73-61 on March 17, and then the team moved on to survive another test against defending Northern Region champion Drake to advance to the state finals.

Campo graduates six players this year — Chen who handed out a game-high five assists against Damien; Sean Smith, who's committed to Simpson College; Scott Fox; Pat Duryea; Tiger Garcia, who got Campo's offense rolling in the first half; and two-time DFAL MVP, Hansen.

"I couldn't be more proud of what they've done, what they accomplished all year," said Watson. "I know we lost this game, but these guys are winners, so I don't feel like we lost."



Scott Chen



Sean Yamamoto

DFAL Honors Winter Sport Athletes

Girls' Basketball:



Sabrina Ionescu Emma Godfrey Haley Van Dyke

Miramonte

Sabrina Ionescu Most Valuable Player
Keana Delos Santos First Team
Uriah Howard First Team
Rachelle Louie Second Team
Clair Steel Honorable Mention
Jordyn Bryant Honorable Mention

Acalanes

Emma Godfrey First Team
Brooke Panfli Second Team
Julia Lyons Honorable Mention

Campolindo

Haley Van Dyke Honorable Mention
Ashley Thoms Honorable Mention

Acalanes

Caroline Clark Most Valuable Player
Morgan Rogers First Team
Katherine Torchio First Team
Katharine Larson First Team
Kierra Karwec Second Team
Sophia Giordano Second Team
Emily Smith Second Team
Lexie Silva Honorable Mention
Emma Starr Honorable Mention
Allison Merrill Honorable Mention
Regan McQuain Honorable Mention

Campolindo

Vanessa Larson Most Valuable Def. Player
Bridget Coleman First Team
Samantha Vankoll First Team
AJ Morgan Second Team
Emily Parish Second Team
Melissa Wilson Honorable Mention
Bailey Yuen Honorable Mention
Emily Holbrook Honorable Mention

Boys' Soccer:

Boys' Basketball:



Eddy Ionescu Joey Hewitt Chris Hansen

Miramonte:

Eddy Ionescu Honorable Mention
Jake Linares Honorable Mention
Jackson Werger Honorable Mention

Acalanes:

Joey Hewitt First Team

Campolindo:

Chris Hansen Most Valuable Player
Austin Clarke First Team
Sean Yakamoto Second Team
Scott Chen Honorable Mention



Joseph Wang Pat Ramm Seth Kofman

Miramonte

Joseph Wang First Team
Garrett Johnson First Team
Reece Roberts Second Team
Clay Haskell Second Team
Aaron Roybal Honorable Mention
Porter Haet Honorable Mention
Sam Pinto Honorable Mention

Acalanes

Pat Ramm First Team
Zach Kramer Second Team
Ian Franklin Honorable Mention
Eric Sirott Honorable Mention
Drew Wondolowski Honorable Mention

Campolindo

Seth Kofman Most Valuable Player
Jeremy Raine Most Valuable Off. Player
Sam Larson Most Valuable Def. Player
Jacob Buchanan First Team
Ryan Rossi First Team
Kai Weyland First Team
Shea Danforth Second Team
Amir Aliakbari Second Team
Matty Ringquist Second Team
Kyle O'Connell Honorable Mention
Tucker Clark Honorable Mention
John-John Adranly Honorable Mention

Editor's note: Thank you to Gint Federas for capturing all these athletes during the winter season.

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