

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo Boys' Volleyball Continues Reign Over DFAL

By Spencer Silva



Campolindo's Ryan First at the net with Jack Eisner, right. Photo Gint Federas

The Campolindo Cougars boys' volleyball team extended their winning streak to 23 April 29, defeating the Miramonte Mats in straight sets, 25-14, 25-13, 25-15.

The Cougars (24-2 overall, 8-0 DFAL), fresh from winning the prestigious Granite Bay Tournament, glided through the first two sets, routinely setting up kills on three passes and playing tight defense.

The Mats woke up in the third period, engaging the Cougars in a series of long rallies, but it was too little, too late. Cougars senior Ryan First quelled the Mats' rebellion, ending the match emphatically with two consecutive aces.

"We warm up a little slower than other teams," said Mats coach Lisa Bachtold of the late surge.

Team captains Michael Strandrung and Joe Worsley, along with First, highlight an impressive and accomplished senior class for Campo. They've won three straight Division

II NCS championships, as well as two consecutive NorCal titles. (The NorCal tournament for volleyball is only two years old.)

"This group, as freshman, really reestablished the program," explained Campolindo head coach David Chen. "And each of them is the stud player on their club team. We just try to keep them humbled and balanced."

The team is preparing for a deep playoff run, and at 8-0 in league, they're poised to capture yet another DFAL title.

"We're starting to play good, disciplined volleyball," Chen said. "We always want to get the quick kill ... but sometimes keeping the ball in play is good, so we can play defense, which helps us out a lot. Our strengths are our defense and ball control."

The Mats (5-7 overall, 1-6 DFAL) went 4-1 in pre-season play, but the loss to Campo now marks its seventh in eight games. They opened

league play with a heartbreaking five-set loss to Alhambra (Martinez), which functioned as a wake-up call for Bachtold and the Mats. "We realized teams are getting better, and, looking at our team, we realized we need to catch guys up and get them ready a lot faster."

The Mats have struggled to persuade kids to enter their program. Only three players play offseason volleyball, and two of them are captains: juniors Mitchell Tang and Mitch Brooks. The team hasn't played in any tournaments this season, which has limited their ability to develop the skills of players new to the sport.

The Mats played their best match of the season the week after losing to Alhambra. They took a set from the Cougars, and, to date, are the only team to have done so in the DFAL. "We didn't have any expectations," Bachtold said. "We started making plays and things clicked."

The Acalanes Dons (1-13, 0-7 DFAL) sit in last place in the DFAL. They've been better than their record suggests, losing a number of close matches. The team returned just four players from last year, does not have a single senior and has only a handful of kids who played the sport prior to the season.

The team's captain, setter, and best player is Tommy Graham. He's been consistent all year and is poised to lead the team to better days. Joey Moran has also stepped up, "imbuing" his teammates with "enthusiasm and energy," per Head Coach Mason Mulvaney. In spite of the bleak 2015 season, Mulvaney envisions a bright future for his program.

"Our expectation is to be one of the top teams in the league next year and make the NCS playoff," he noted. "It would be a huge jump, but I think this group of guys will put in the work needed to succeed."

Playoffs Ramping Up For Lamorinda Tennis Squads

By Karl Buscheck



Photo Gint Federas

The tennis postseason is in full swing and all three Lamorinda boys' teams are rolling along.

On May 1 at the DFAL Championship at Saint Mary's College, Miramonte's Peter Martin and Alex Hwang claimed the doubles title after defeating a duo of Dougherty Valley standouts in three sets. The win gives the senior Martin and the junior Hwang an automatic bid to the NCS Doubles Championship, which begins on May 8 at Chabot College in Hayward.

Before winning the DFAL finals, Martin and Hwang first had to get past senior teammates Neil Weikert and Kyle Rechnitz in the semifinals. Along with senior Bryce Hummer, those four players were the stars for the Mats throughout the campaign.

"My crew, those five guys are off the chain," said head coach Michael McCollom. "These are the spectacular ones. There are other just remark-

able young men, but this group, that core is just really, really special."

The crew has brought the program tons of success in recent years. Miramonte won the NCS Team Championship in 2012 and 2013 and was the runner-up last year. With the Doubles Championship and the Team Championship still looming, the Mats once again have big plans.

"We're going to shoot for the finals again. We definitely want to try to get back to the semis at NCS," said McCollom. "I think that would be our main goal and then whether we conquer it again is another story. And so that's what we're hoping for, that we do what we've done repeatedly."

Acalanes, which secured second place in the DFAL regular season standings after beating Campolindo on April 28, also enjoyed an impressive showing on the courts of Saint Mary's. After winning the semifinals in two sets, Kyle Everly advanced to

the finals where he ended up losing out 6-2, 6-4. Just a junior, Everly headlines an Acalanes team that promises to be dangerous once again in 2016.

"We have things in place and everybody coming back pretty much," said head coach Stephanie Lawrence. "And I have a lot of incoming freshman. I think as strong as we are this year, we're going to be even stronger next year."

For now, there's plenty of work to be done in the weeks that follow, both for Everly on the individual side and for the entire squad in the NCS Team Championship.

"We're pretty much assured that we'll get not only an at-large berth in the team sections, but we should be seeded second," said Lawrence.

For Campolindo, Tilden Oliver was the top performer during the DFAL Championship. The senior lost to the eventual champ in the semifinals, but then proceeded to win the third-place match in a tiebreaker. Oliver is set to depart the program at the end of the season, but the future looks bright for the Cougars.

"We're in rebuilding mode," explained head coach Eric Peterson after his team ended the season with a 4-8 record in DFAL and a 5-10 mark overall. With 23 players on the JV roster, the Cougars have a flood of promising players on the rise: "The interesting thing about Campo tennis is that we're really deep," said Peterson. "Our JV team does really well." Next year, the Cougars will be looking to replicate that success at the varsity level.

FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP



INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH
AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL
GRADES 4 - 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 6 thru July 17 (M - F) TIMES: 1:30 - 5:00 P.M.
FEES: \$320 (T-shirt included)

FOR REGISTRATION FORMS, CONTACT:
925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@acalanes.k12.ca.us
or download registration form at campofootball.net

TAXI BLEU All Airports Served 24/7

Dispatch:
925-849-2222
Direct:
925-286-0064
www.mytaxibleu.com
mytaxibleu@gmail.com



Providing Insurance and Financial Services

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.



Mike Rosa, Agent
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583
1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga
925-376-2244

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.™

P040036 02/04 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL



TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977
(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

BMW Concord



PERFORMANCE IS IN OUR DNA.
VISIT US AT BMWCONCORD.COM

BMW CONCORD
Where You Can Expect The Exceptional
1967 Market Street, Concord CA 94520 888.707.2860
bmwconcord.com