

# Eclipse Boys Win Copper Select Tournament

Submitted by Anna Eppinger



Top row, from left: Mazi Maghsoodnia and Miguel Camacho (coaches); middle row: Tucker Starbuck, Michael Coane, Quinn Panos, Nader Maghsoodnia, Sam Smith, Mason Fara, Eli Silberman, Nicholas Eppinger, Cooper Lenahan, Nate Powers, Ryan Haugner; bottom row: Chris Morrison, Charlie Revelos, Xavier Esquer, Willy Hodder, Yoav Konstantino, Joe Gonzales, Collin Krznaric

The Eclipse U12 boys won the championship at the San Ramon Copper Select Tournament Aug. 29-30. The Championship game, against Mt. Diablo Arsenal, was decided in penalty kicks. The Eclipse won in sudden death when Nicholas Eppinger scored a go-ahead goal and goalie Xavier Esquer blocked the opponent's kick.

# Former Lamorinda Soccer Stars at Center of Dramatic College Match

By Spencer Silva



Preston and his father, Richard, celebrate the victory over Princeton  
Photo Florida Gulf Coast University Athletics

# Miramonte Girls XC Poised to Break 10-Year Slump Behind Freshman Haskell

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Haskell, who just began her freshman year, is just three races into her high school career, but she is already racking up accolades. On Saturday, Sept. 12, at the 31st annual Ed Sias Invitational – a short two-mile course that winds through Hidden Valley Park in Martinez – Haskell finished first in the small-school division with a time of 11:58.2, besting the second-place finisher by more than 20 seconds.

The team finished seventh overall at the event, which was especially encouraging because the team's second-best runner didn't participate.

Then, last weekend, at the Nike Invitational, held at De La Salle (Concord), Haskell placed sixth in the varsity girls' three-mile with a time of 18:09, tops among Division III runners. The team placed 11th overall at the meet, ahead of both Campolindo and Acalanes, with strong supporting performances from Hannah Fishlow and Arden Creson.

"It's nice having a frontrunner, that 'No. 1' penciled on your score," Henderson said.

The boys have had better luck in recent years. They were 18th at the state meet last year, and, in the early season, they placed third at Ed Sias and 24th at the Nike Invitational. Senior Pete Bull is the team's No. 1.

The Campo girls finished second in state last year, thanks to a strong senior class headlined by Toni Finnane, who tied for first at the state meet and currently runs for ACC powerhouse Notre Dame. The team is "trending younger" this fall, according to co-head coach Andy Lindquist.

Despite the loss of the talent, the team placed third at Ed Sias and 16th at the Nike Invitational. The Campolindo boys took first at Ed Sias and seventh at the Nike Invitational, on the back of a fifth-place 15:47 finish from junior Jared Yabu, whom the program expects big things from this fall.

The Acalanes boys are anticipating improvement in 2015. Last fall, they participated in the state meet, which is an accomplishment itself, but ultimately they finished dead last. The team returns Cameron Gaskell, who finished fourth overall at the Nike Invitational with a time of 15:30, or 48 seconds faster than the time he ran at state last November. On the boys' side, Gaskell may be Lamorinda's best bet to challenge for a Division III state title.

According to co-head coach Nate Beach, the challenge for the Dons will be getting consistent performances from the middle of their squad. "If we can run them as a pack, I think we can get them to state," he explained.

The Acalanes girls are in a "rebuilding" period, and while making the state meet as a team is currently a lofty expectation, junior Samantha Taketa, who finished 35th overall at the Nike Invitational, has a chance to make the state meet as an individual.

As Beach explained, cross country is the type of sport where all is well that ends well. That is, meaningful races aren't run in September. "The first couple of races are dust busters," Beach said. "We expect everyone to get faster as the year goes along."

# LMSC U15 Boys: NHB Cup Finalist

Submitted by Vivian Alfaro



Photo provided

The Lamorinda U15 boys delivered an outstanding performance during Labor Day weekend's NHB Cup in Huntington Beach, California. They started out with a 2-1 win over Sherman Oaks Extreme FC – Adrian Guzman scored both goals. In the second game, the boys scored an astounding eight goals against host team NHB FC, winning by a final score of 8-1. In the third game, they tied Aztecs FC, a team that had scored 11 unanswered goals in its previous two matches.

LMSC went on to play Albion SC in the quarterfinals, winning 3-1. In the semifinals, LMSC faced the Rebels Reyes, whom they beat 2-1 – Adrian Guzman and Jonathan Gong scored the goals, assisted by Edwin Montoya and Martin Galvan, respectively. In the final, LMSC played the River Valley Rovers at UC Irvine, but ultimately lost, finishing as runners up. Coach Jacob and the boys' parents were extremely proud of their performance at the ultra-competitive tournament.

A pair of former Lamorinda soccer standouts made national news on the same play Sept. 10, but for very different reasons. Former Campolindo student Preston Kilwien scored the game-winning goal for Florida Gulf Coast University against Princeton on an improbable 35-yard strike that earned the No. 3 spot on ESPN SportsCenter's Plays of the Day – it was also featured on Fox Sports 1's national sports update.

The goal, which ended Princeton's nation-leading 10-match unbeaten streak, was scored against Tigers' senior goalkeeper Ben Hummel, an Orinda native and 2012 graduate of Bentley School in Lafayette. Kilwien, who graduated last spring from College Park High School, was making his first collegiate appearance and the score gave FGCU its first win of the season after a scoreless draw against then-No. 3 ranked Georgetown and a narrow 1-0 loss at No. 20 Wake Forest.

That two former Lamorinda soccer stars met on a field more than 3,000-miles away from

home is noteworthy in and of itself, but the fact that both players spent time as youth players at Concord-based Diablo FC and played for current Saint Mary's associate head coach Chris Brown makes for an even greater coincidence.

"I had a lot of space on the left side and Rodrigo (Saravia) did a good job of finding me," explained Kilwien. "I got the trap and it wasn't the greatest touch, but I just hit it. I didn't really know it was in until I saw it hit the net. It was the greatest moment I've had so far."

Kilwien also had another memorable goal as a sophomore at Campo. He scored a sudden death overtime goal at Ygnacio Valley that sent the Cougars to the North Coast Section Finals under coach Shane Carney. Kilwien, a two-time team offensive MVP for Campo, played his final high school season for the De Anza Force Academy in Cupertino, California. Hummel, a senior at Princeton, has started 22 games for the Tigers, earning Ivy League all-conference honors last year as a junior.

## Is this too young to go to Cal?

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