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Acalanes Baseball Tops DFAL as NCS Looms

By Karl Buscheck



Tommy Henderson

ith a 20-2 record overall polindo 6-4 on May 3 in Moraga. vand a perfect 10-0 mark in through the DFAL slate as the postseason approaches.

the goal of winning an NCS championship and playing very well into the playoffs," said head coach Justin Santich-Hughes, whose Dons rank 36th in the state according to of focus and execution that cost MaxPreps.

Santich-Hughes' squad has league leaders. been anchored by three seniors. Jake Berry and Tommy Henderson propel the Dons at the plate, while ace Grant Young sets the tone for a better position to win," said senior talented pitching staff.

make sure he's sharp for the play- [we] just look forward to hopefully offs," Santich-Hughes explained seeing them again in the playoffs." of Young. "So, it's really been our whole pitching staff that's stepped hambra 5-1 at home on May 12, sit

Acalanes not only has a talented roster, but also has demonstrated all) The Cougars have reeled off an impressive knack for staying loose on the diamond.

"We don't put too much presgame," Santich-Hughes said. "Every game is important and I think they understand that and that's how they approach each game."

hyped up - even for a local rival games to push into fourth place in

"This year with this group, they league play, Acalanes is carving treat everybody the same," Santich-Hughes explained with the team in midst of seven-game wining streak. "Our team is really focused on "Any opponent we play we know on our field about a month ago, we have to respect and we try to play our best baseball. And this is a really focused team."

For the Cougars, it was a lack them in their meeting with the

"We thought that we made some critical errors that if we eliminated them we would put ourselves in a away so much." outfielder Max Flower, who will be caro leads the Mats' group of pitch-"We've been resting him to playing for Cal next spring. "And

> Campolindo, who defeated Alin third place in the DFAL standings with a 6-4 record (12-10 overthree league wins in a row following the loss to Acalanes.

sure on ourselves in any one the playoffs will be to continue to hit the ball like we are," Flower said. "And play cleaner and more efficient defense."

Miramonte (6-5 in league and That ability to never get too 14-9 overall) have won five of six the standings, a game behind the

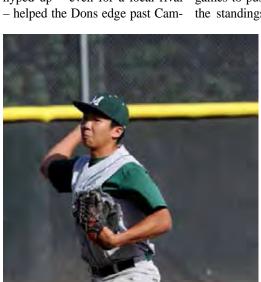
One of the reasons for the midseason turnaround is that the Mats finally have a park to call home.

"We played our first game and since then, we've been playing better," said head coach Vince Dell'Aquila. "And I think that had a lot to do with it - more than I probably wanted to admit. So, it was nice to be able to get on our field and for the kids to be able to get more acclimated to a normal baseball practice routine and not be

The UCSB-bound James Vacers which also includes senior Tim Tague and sophomore Zach Wong who closes when he's not playing

Before the postseason arrives, Miramonte will get a crack at spoiling Acalanes' unblemished campaign, hosting their rivals in the final DFAL tilt on May 19.

"It will be a big game for the "I think the key to success in boys. They'll be pretty excited about playing," Dell'Aquila said. "Obviously, we didn't show real well the last time we played them, but that's been the case with a couple of teams we played. So, we'll go out there and hopefully give them a good game."



Zach Wong

Max Flower

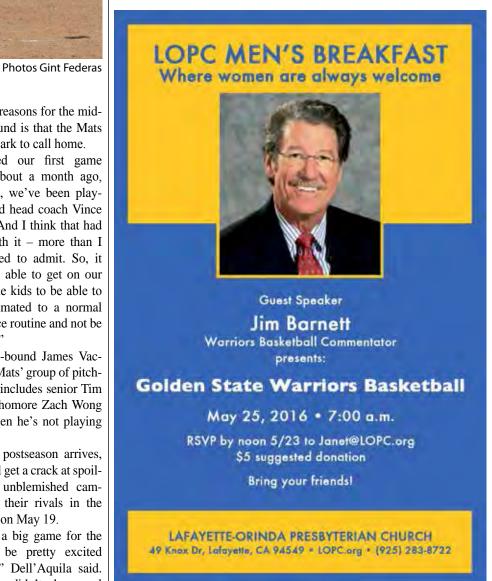
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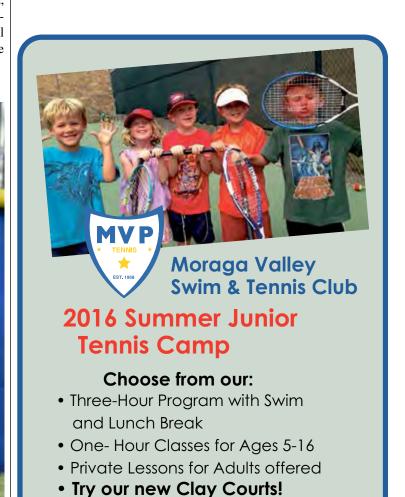
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