

Local Football Squads Ready to Close Out League Season as NCS Awaits

By Karl Buscheck



Vince Mossotti



Photos Gint Federas Robby Rowell

Undefeated since the middle of September, Campolindo is playing its best football of the fall as the league season reaches its final week.

Head coach Kevin Macy pointed to the team's fourth-quarter comeback against Miramonte on Oct. 14 as the turning point for the Cougars, who have navigated a flood of injuries.

"We could have just imploded right there," Macy admitted, as he recalled the 37-25 win. "With the weight that we've been carrying all year long, that was one of the points in the season where it would just make sense if we finally felt the weight of the year and just sort of crumbled under it."

"So, for us to be able to pull off a victory under those conditions, I think it may have been one of the bigger Miramonte victories we've had," Macy added.

After topping Acalanes 42-7 at home on Oct. 28, Campolindo (7-2 overall, 4-0 in league) has won seven of eight games, as just one DAL matchup remains when the team visits Clayton Valley on Nov. 4.

For the Cougars, senior quarterback Jacob Westphal has been the steadying force, airing out touchdowns to a stable of pass catchers. Senior Vince Mossotti leads the team in receptions, yards

and touchdowns, but Westphal has also relied heavily on junior John Torchio and senior Kannah Cruickshank. Then there's senior Matthew Rinquist.

"He's the smallest kid on the team," Macy said. "But he just seems to be one of those reliable kids that's just going to make the play that you need (and) spark the team."

While the Cougars have been bumped into the NCS Division II bracket – a result of the team's success in recent postseasons – Miramonte will be taking part in Division III playoffs. Both divisions begin the opening rounds of play on Nov. 11 and 12.

The Mats began the season 5-0 before dropping the first two games of the league season to Clayton Valley on back-to-back Fridays in the beginning of October. Head coach Jack Schram believes the early-league turbulence will ultimately benefit the Mats.

"We see where we made mistakes," said Schram, whose Mats own a 7-2 record (2-2 in DAL). "If we can get better, then we'll have a good chance to make a good run in the Division III playoffs. And some of that is because we play good teams like that in league."

Senior quarterback Tim Tague has been the star for the Mats,

throwing 30 touchdowns in nine games. For Tague, 11 of those touchdowns have been on connections with senior Nick Foster. Schram praised his offensive line for giving the signal-caller the time required to find all those open receivers.

"The line's done extremely well," Schram said. "Tim's scrambled a few times, but really as far as just getting out and not getting sacked, our line has done an exceptional job all year to protect Tim."

After edging Concord 42-34 at home on Oct. 28, the Mats close out the league schedule by making a trip to Acalanes on Nov. 4.

"This will be the most fun for not only me, but also all the kids," said Acalanes head coach Floyd Burnsed.

The Dons, who have posted an 4-5 record (1-3 in league) during Burnsed's first year in charge, lost the first of their back-to-back rivalry games against Campolindo on Oct. 28.

"I think the kids are doing well," Burnsed said. "We put in a new program this year and all new systems. The kids are adapting really well and I think we're playing pretty well."

No Dons have stood out more than junior quarterback Robby Rowell and senior linebacker Ster-



Nick Foster

ling Butler. "(Robbie's) been a steady leader all year and on defense Sterling has just been really steady for us and a very good leader for us," Burnsed said.

Like the Mats, the Dons are

set to participate in the NCS Division III postseason. They'll find out where that journey begins following the seeding meeting on Nov. 6.

"I think we will be in postseason," Burnsed said. "It's just a matter of where our seed would be."

Acalanes and Miramonte Golf Teams Advance to NCS Championship

By Karl Buscheck



Photos Gint Federas

Tim Scott – the head coach of the Acalanes girls golf team – remembers the exact moment when he broke the news to his team that they were headed to the Division I NCS Championship.

"You should have seen the smile and the twinkle in their eye when I told them at our practice that I had applied for an at-large berth and we received one," Scott said, recalling the scene at the team's practice on the Rossmoor Golf Course.

The Dons, who went 3-5 in league play, made it to NCS – hosted at Chardonnay Golf Club in Napa on Oct. 31 – thanks in part to their third-place finish at the DAL Tournament.

Senior Emily Attiyeh won the league championship at Delta View Golf Course in Pittsburg on Oct. 17, shooting an even-par 72.

"All the girls on our team totally understand how good Emily is and they love her dearly," Scott said. "And she's a great team captain."

Attiyeh was one of two Dons who would have qualified for the NCS tournament as an individual. The other was Avalon Schenone – the team's future star.

"I wouldn't be a bit surprised if she – being a (junior) next year – would be the leader of our team," Scott said. "We've got several good sophomore players who she's best friends with and she's just going to sort of take over Emily's role."

Miramonte also earned an at-large berth for the NCS postseason after placing second in the DAL Tournament. Senior Tori James tied for second place at Delta View, while sophomore Gracie Guidotti finished in a tie for ninth.

"We were delighted to receive an at-large berth in the NCS Division I Girls Golf Championship, although we were not surprised by it," co-coach Bob Riddell explained after the team went 6-2 in the DAL – good for second in the standings.

The senior tandem of James and Franny Caronna both earned first-team all-league honors, while junior Tiffany Shinn played her way onto the second team. Riddell also offered praise for the Mats group of young rising golfers.

"Guidotti joined the team late in the year, due to a volleyball injury, but contributed mightily down the stretch," Riddell said. "And finally, our strong freshman class was lead by Katie Ingrey, Kaydee Tu and Kate Nelson."

Campolindo placed fourth at the DAL Tournament and two team

members – seniors Valerie Rockwell and Haleigh Goett – placed high enough in the field to advance to the Division II NCS Championship.

That tournament, which was played at Rooster Run Golf Course in Petaluma on Oct. 24, served as a individual qualifier for the Division I tournament the following week.

"They're both seniors and they're both second team DAL all-league selections based on how they did over the course of the season," head coach Gary O'Neill said of the duo, whose season ended at Rooster Run. "So, it was a very successful year from their perspective."

O'Neill also singled out senior Paris Thomas as one of the key contributors on a Cougars team that posted a 2-6 record in league action.

"One of our seniors this year that had a real breakthrough in terms of our scoring – matching her athletic ability – was Paris Thomas," O'Neill said. "She did very well in the DAL tournament and broke 100, which is not particularly easy under tournament conditions."

"She went out on a real high note."

While the seniors are graduating from the squad, the Campolindo team maintains an optimistic outlook for 2017 and beyond thanks to an influx of young talent this fall.

"More importantly we had five freshmen who joined our team this year and they had a significant amount of match experience, which will bode well for future years," O'Neill said.