

Campo Boys Cross Country Team Finishes 3rd at State

Miramonte's Fierro Places 11th

By Karl Buscheck



Kyle Flett Photos Gint Federas



Navid Boozarpour

After winning their fourth consecutive North Coast Section Division 3 title, the Campolindo boys cross country team finished third overall at the CIF State meet at Woodward Park in Fresno on Nov. 26.

"The boys team is really a homegrown team," said head coach Chuck Woolridge. "All of these boys are kids that came into our program with no prior experience running and really developed over the course of their time with us into quality, high-caliber athletes."

Senior Jared Yabu – the Cougars' No. 1 runner – was Campolindo's top finisher in both races, placing 22nd at State and finishing as the runner-up at the NCS meet at Hayward High School on Nov. 19.

At the State meet, the team's first five runners all finished between 22nd and 46th place, as the Cougars continued to demonstrate a remarkable ability to run in a tight pack. During the NCS race, the Cougars ran second, sixth, seventh, eighth and 16th.

"Having five guys in the top 16 like that, you'd have to go back to our 2008 team to find a lineup that was as good on that particular day," said Woolridge. "These guys are perhaps the best performing team we've ever had at NCS."

After Yabu, the group included seniors Raymond Diaz, Niki Moore, Kyle Flett and Navid Boozarpour.

"The depth of our team – with athletes like Kyle Flett and Niki Moore – really showed up (at Hayward)," Woolridge said. "For Kyle and Niki to finish right behind Ray, our natural No. 2, that was really what bolstered the win."

Miramonte senior Jonathan Fierro – the lone Miramonte Matador in the field at Woodward Park – ran in 11th place in the D4 race at State. Fierro earned his trip to Fresno by finishing fourth overall in the NCS D4 competition.

"He's been consistent all year long," head coach Brian Henderson said. "He's just been phenomenal as our No. 1 (runner). He ran up front with the big boys (at NCS) and he hung around as long as he could."

While Fierro qualified as an individual, the Mats squad missed out on a team berth by a single spot after landing in fourth place at Hayward.

"It was a little bittersweet," Henderson



Jonathon Fierro

admitted. "They were a little disappointed. We had a couple of guys who were not where we thought they'd be. Sometimes that just happens."

On a day when the Mats ended up 24 points off the final qualifying spot, an untimely injury also impacted the team's overall finish. Three weeks before taking the starting line in Hayward, Miramonte lost its No. 3 runner – junior Duran Reyes – to injury.

The Dons, who were running in the D3 competition, also failed to advance to State, but still managed to end the season on a high note.

"No doubt about it, for the boys, NCS was our best race of the year," co-head coach Michael Maloney said.

As had been the case throughout the DAL schedule, senior Zachary Woodworth was the frontrunner for the Dons, running in 34th place at the NCS meet. While Woodworth set a steady tone for the team, one of the most encouraging aspects of the year was that a slew of unexpected contributors emerged for the Dons.

No runner better fits that description than Nick Hutson, the Don's fifth-place runner in Hayward.

"Nick Hutson was a great surprise," Maloney said. "He's a freshman and he did very well at NCS. I believe it was his best race of the season. Hopefully (he) can continue to develop going into next season."

OIS Takes First in East Bay Middle School XC Championship Meet

Submitted by Julie Odlaug-Dulski



From left, Claire Nolet, Amber Lee, Jamie Say, Shannon Murphy, Kate Riley, Caitlin Jenkins and Ella Dulski Photo provided

The seventh- and eighth-grade Orinda Intermediate School girls cross country team finished first overall at the East Bay Middle School League Championships on Nov. 3 at Kennedy Grove Park. The girls were led by Ella Dulski, who was the league champion, followed by Jamie Say, who placed third and Amber Lee, who

placed fifth. It was a total team effort with Shannon Murphy, Kate Riley, Claire Nolet, Caitlin Jenkins, Josie Nelson, Maia Keene and Zoe Sylvester all contributing to the first seventh/eighth-grade cross country championship in OIS school history.

Miramonte Girls XC Run in Fifth Place in D4 Race at State

Campo Finishes 6th in D3

By Karl Buscheck



Cassidy Haskell

Photos Gint Federas

Making their first appearance at CIF State meet since 2005, the Miramonte girls team placed fifth in the D4 race at Woodward Park in Fresno on Nov. 26.

"It's been a long time coming," said head coach Brian Henderson whose team reached the State meet by winning the NCS D4 race.

"It was very satisfying and they worked their butts off," Henderson added. "It was just a very rewarding experience for them because we got done and there was just nothing but smiles and it was very cool."

Sophomore Cassidy Haskell set the tone for the Mats, running in eighth place at State while senior Hannah Fishlow (16th place) was the team's second finisher. A week earlier, Haskell coasted to an NCS win by 20 seconds.

"We knew Cassidy was going to be up front," Henderson said. "I would have been surprised if she wouldn't have won (NCS) because there was not really anyone in that race who I think was capable of lasting the whole way with her."

At NCS, it was all about the pack for the Mats, as the top five runners – Haskell, senior Rosie Cruz, Fishlow, senior Emily Freel and senior Madison Alvarado – all placed in the top 26.

"Our four and five (runners) have really been the key all year as the team part comes into play," Henderson said. "Emily was kind of like the MVP of the day because she ran way out of her head."

The Campo girls team, which finished in sixth place in the D3 State race, arrived in Fresno fresh off its fourth consecutive NCS title.

Frontrunning juniors Isabella Chao and Hannah Ruane turned in dominant performances on both the State and NCS stages. The duo finished sixth and ninth, respectively, at State and third and fourth at NCS.

"We've really relied on our top two girls earning low points and they didn't disappoint," head coach Chuck Woolridge said after NCS. "Hannah and Isabella ran at the front and they hung on for third and fourth place finishes behind two national-caliber athletes."

As was the case at State, the Cougars' top five finishers were all juniors at Hayward. After the NCS race, Woolridge offered praise for the squad's third and fourth runners – Jenna Miles and Jessie Foxworthy, while noting that No. 5 runner Savannah Hilton "really showed heart" to hold on for a 35th place finish.

"They did their part and got those low numbers and then we got a huge performance from Jenna Miles who finished ninth and Jessie Foxworthy who finished 19th," Woolridge said. "So, to put those two girls up in the top 20 that was a little bit unexpected."

Like the Cougars, the Dons ran in the D3 race at NCS, finishing in 18th place as a team. Senior Imani Boggan ran in 80th place, setting the pace for an Acalanes team that only had five runners in the field. Afterward, co-head coach Michael Maloney praised Boggan for her race-day performances and her leadership qualities.

"She really is more of a track standout and essentially did cross country for conditioning – track's a very different sport," Maloney said. "And consistently she was the top varisty runner for the girls this season and she was so great to have around."

"So, for someone who this isn't even her sport, she performed very well."



Rosie Cruz

MCC raises more than \$42K in Annual Turkey Shoot Golf Tourney

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Jim Yeakel, Rich Larsen, John Taggart, and Frank Arthur pose with the new Audi sedan that nobody won. Photo provided

The fourth annual Turkey Shoot charity golf tournament held on Nov. 3 at the Moraga Country Club raised more than \$42,500 to benefit the Contra Costa and Solano Counties Food Bank. This amount is about a 16 percent increase over the \$36,700 raised in 2015.

The total amount raised for the food bank over the four years is almost \$120,000. It was hosted by the Senior Men's Golf Association, and was led by originator and chairman Doug Brown and his committee, and assisted by many SMGA members, spouses and friends.

The 112 participating men and women golfers enjoyed a delicious breakfast and lunch, and many participated in the live and silent auctions, entered the raffle, sponsored a hole, generally underwrote the event or just donated to the cause. MCC resident Craig Oden volunteered his skill as professional auctioneer, and he prompted a lot of spirited bidding. This year, Concord Audi dealership agreed to give a new sedan, displayed at the course, to a golfer who made a hole-in-one on the 165-yard, par 3 hole No. 7, but the Audi went unclaimed.