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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Lamorinda Football Preview

By Jon Kingdon



Grant Harper

Photos Gint Federas

With a combined 27-11 record and with victories in the playoffs last year, Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte can all lay claim to have had successful seasons. Acalanes and Miramonte both made it to the second round of the playoffs and Campolindo made it to the state semifinals. Each school has lost key players that have gone on to play college football, including Acalanes quarterback - Robbie Rowell (California); linebacker - Nick Henderson (California), linebacker - Ryan Nall (MIT); Campolindo free safety - John Torchio (Wisconsin), wide receiver - Ryan Regan (California); and Miramonte running back - Peter Stehr (Boston College), wide receiver - Ethan Fischler, and linebacker - Sam Walker (California).

Through graduation, Acalanes is losing 87 percent of their passing statistics and 66 percent of their receiving yards; Campolindo 80 percent of their passing yards, 77 percent of their receiving yards and 72 percent of their rushing yards. The Cougars have also graduated 11 of their 12 top tacklers on defense. Miramonte lost 82 percent of their passing yards, 73 percent of their receiving yards and 82 percent of their rushing yards. In other words, it's time to reload.

Each of the schools graduated its starting quarterback too, but Campolindo head coach Kevin Ma-

cy's team has taken a particular hit, having graduated 24 seniors which included his entire starting defense. The saying goes, cheer up, things could be worse. So, Macy cheered up and what happened? Things got worse. With so many players needing to step up and start, the last thing Macy needed was for the team to suffer any injuries. Campolindo right now has six projected starters on the sidelines with various injuries. If there is a bright spot to all of this, none of the injuries have proven to be season ending.

Despite so many changes in this year's team, Macy stays true to his philosophy that has worked so well in the past: "Our formula is to find a way to get better as the season progresses. We will be using the non-league games to get ready for the league season and to get mentally tough. With four tough, physical opening games, I'm looking for it to pay off in our league play. We just need to stay healthy."

Junior Grant Harper will be the Cougar's starting quarterback. With so many games decided early for Campolindo last year, Harper was able to get a lot of valuable experience, completing 64 of 98 passes for 836 yards with eight touchdowns and only one interception. Backing up Harper will be Stephen Westfall who may also see some playing time on defense.

Macy, who utilized two differ-

ent offenses last season, a run-oriented one and then a pass-oriented one, will not be asking Harper to be the runner that John Torchio was last season, hoping to keep him healthy, relying on his passing skills to lead the team.

It is going to be a running game by committee led by Michael Brewer who gained 362 yards last season. Says Macy, "Michael is not that big but he knows how to follow his blocks and turn upfield."

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Matt Meredith (5) and Justin Alvarado (55)

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