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Campolindo boys water polo in NCS finals

By Jon Kingdon



West Temkin Photos Gint Federas

Following up a 24-4 season in 2017, Campolindo headed into the championship game against San Ramon Valley with a 21-5 record. The game, originally scheduled to be played last Saturday, Nov. 10, was postponed to Wednesday, Nov. 14 due to the problems with the air quality.

Having won eight of their last nine games, the Cougars headed into the playoffs on a roll. The No. 1 seeded Cougars defeated Northgate (12-8) in their first match and easily defeated Las Lomas (23-7) in their semifinal match.

Campolindo head coach Miles Price appreciates how well the team is playing: "The team has really come together. We have been consistent all year and our losses have been very close."

In fact, of the five losses this season, all to teams from Southern California, four of the games were lost by only one goal (Loyola-LA 14-13, Harvard-West- lake-11-10 and 8-7, 8-7). Their only loss by more than one goal was to Newport Harbor 12-8.

With both a powerful offense and balanced defense, Campolindo has outscored their opponents 327-200.

The defense has been led by freshman goalie West Temkin. Says Price: "West has been playing really well. In fact, he is the best goalie in our league."

Besides the play of Temkin, the team's defenders have contributed as well according to Price: "Our defense has been anchored by a smothering press. Giorgio Alessandria and Jack Larsen have been keys in this area."

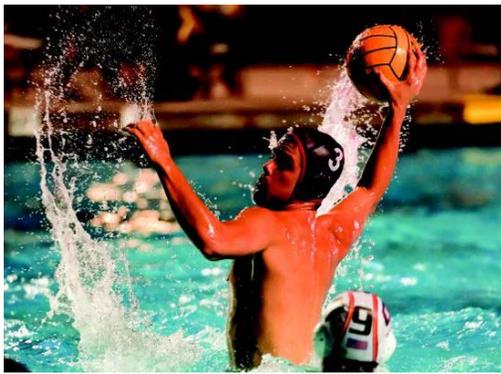
On offense says Price: "All of our seniors have really stepped up while juniors Tom McGuire and Soren Jensen were also great contributors. Our strategy to work from the inside out to Beck Jurasius (who will be playing for Stanford next year) was very effective."

The Cougars should be fresh for their game against San Ramon Valley as Miles was able to pull his starters out of the game having led 14-1 at the half and 19-4 after three quarters.

Miramonte made it to the second round of the NCS playoffs, defeating Monte Vista 15-12 in the first round and losing a last second heartbreaker to San Ramon Valley 14-13. The Matadors concluded their season with a 14-12 record and were 4-2, finishing second in their league, behind only Campolindo.

Despite the loss, head coach James Lathrop spoke highly of the team's effort: "Our boys played with great passion and team focus and are looking forward to getting back in the pool for the CIF Nor Cal regionals. We got contributions from a lot of players. Leo Berkman, Jackson Painter and Narayan Sharma were our most consistent perimeter attackers on offense. Casey Estes and Brady Hoover made improvements throughout the season in the center position.

On defense, we adopted an approach that required the coordinated play of several p layers. Peter Hillen handled the opponent's centers. Painter and Hoover played well against our opponent's top perimeter attackers."



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