

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Campo Basketball's David Ahazie



Photo Gint Federas

David Ahazie in March at the CIF Championship game

By Jon Kingdon

Playing basketball was a step-by-step process for David Ahazie, which culminated in a state championship for Campolindo High School and his being named second team all-state. Ahazie, who also

played one year of football for Campolindo as a freshman before becoming focused exclusively on basketball, said the love of basketball came early: "I played in the small leagues around Moraga and on the ASA club team." It was not until Ahazie

was a junior that he made the varsity squad. "David was a late developer," said head coach Steven Dyer. "He always had the talent but he was not a standout when I arrived his sophomore year. I thought that it would be best for him to play on the JV team to get the playing experience rather than sit on the bench with the varsity."

It was a simple formula for Ahazie: "When I started playing, I saw that I could get better if I put the work in. I was close to making the varsity as a sophomore but I had a good time on the JV team and it boosted my confidence."

Dyer saw the difference in Ahazie the next year: "David developed a lot over the summer. He played club basketball and I was pleased at how well he had developed. He really improved his shooting and became more consistent, playing with more confidence."

For Ahazie, it was "the competitiveness of the game and how I saw you could get better if you worked hard. That is what appealed to me the most."

That attitude was soon made clear to Dyer: "I never had to tell him to play harder – not once – something I could not say about any other player on the team. It was David's intensity and how hard he played that made him special. He really understood how to be a good defender.

He was our best defender as a junior and really stood out as a senior."

Ahazie's record speaks for itself. The two years he was on the varsity, the team had a combined record of 48-18, and as a senior was named the league's Most Valuable Player, and was named second team all-state, averaging 16.5 points and 5.2 rebounds and, not to be overlooked, leading the team to a state championship.

The Cougars started slowly with a 4-3 record, but once again, it was a process that culminated in a championship, said Ahazie: "Early on, we had a number of injuries and we were always short of personnel. When we got healthy, it all came together as we got used to playing with each other. I knew we had a lot of talent and we just had to get organized. After playing together in a summer league, I knew that we could do a lot of big things. We were a family. No one tried to outscore anyone and we all pulled for each other."

Dyer echoed that sentiment: "David set the tone with his effort. He was a great leader by example with his effort and intensity. Even though he led the team in scoring, he was not a selfish

player and never looked for his own shot."

Ahazie appreciated what the coaches brought to the team: "Coach Dyer was a great coach and won a lot of games for us along with his assistants Drew McDonald and Chris Dyer. As a group they all helped us put it together."

Ahazie, who has lived in Moraga and now lives in Lafayette, takes away a lot from Campolindo: "It was always a safe place and in a great location. I made a lot of friends there. My favorite classes were in chemistry and contemporary issues. I'm going to miss my friends, my teammates and my coaches."

Campolindo's loss is Loyola Marymount's gain: "When I visited the campus, I could just picture myself there. Plus, my sister goes to USC and I'll be nearer to her. I am going to try and walk on to their basketball team, but if that doesn't work out I'll just play intramurals."

Dyer feels that Ahazie may be able to play at that level: "David still has room to improve and he has a shot to get a lot better in college."

If it's a question of effort, don't ever sell David Ahazie short.

## Maddy Doane: a profile of perseverance



Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

When someone uses the term "Third time's a charm," it's generally a reference to something positive. Such was not the case for Maddy Doane, a senior at Campolindo High School. Doane would suffer a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her knees in eighth grade, ninth grade and 10th grade, all while playing soccer – twice in the right knee and once on the left knee, the third time a noncontact injury.

Disheartening hardly speaks to what Doane went through: "Each recovery took about a year and I played for about a month and tore the ACL again. That was frustrating. I liked to put in the effort and see it pay off, so it was not easy to see all the work I put in to build back my strength and then see it go down the drain again." After the third surgery, the doctors recommended swimming or running track instead of soccer since they were noncontact sports with straight forward movement.

Though active in many sports while growing up in San Francisco, Canada and moving to Lafayette in the fourth grade, ultimately settling in Moraga, Doane said her first love had been soccer: "I did run track in elementary school but I was mainly focused on soccer and thought it would be my only sport." Doane's speed was evident on the soccer field, playing right forward "where I could run down the sideline and get to the ball."

As it has turned out, soccer's loss has been track's gain. In just two seasons that Doane has run track for Campolindo, she set the school record for the 100 meters (12.05), 200 meters (24.66) and the 400 meters (55.52).

It was a slow but gradual process for Doane, says Campolindo head track coach Chuck Woolridge: "Maddy started her junior year being limited to running only three days a week. We were very tentative in her training so as to ease her back into athletic work after all the surgeries and it wasn't until she got into

competition, where she felt comfortable going at full speed, that we realized what a talent she had."

Doane's success in track was something of a surprise for her as well: "I just wanted to start a new sport to stay active and in shape. I started track my junior year and ran cross country this fall. We have a great cross country team and it was a lot different from track. However, it kept me in shape and helped me with my endurance, particularly in the long sprints."

Woolridge was looking for more people to come out for the track team when he approached Doane, who was a student in his English class: "I did not know that she was fast but I knew that she was an athlete and I liked working with her. I would often encourage kids to come out for track and field if I knew that they were involved in athletics."

... continued on Page C2

## LIVING TRUST

**\$895**  
COMPLETE

Valid until July 24, 2019

**FREE** INITIAL CONSULTATION

Law Offices of  
**Lauren Smykowski**

### Plan Includes:

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Transfer of Real Property
- Advanced Health Care Directive

### Notary Services Included!

(925) 257-4277

www.smykowskilaw.com  
laurensmy@gmail.com

Office Located in Walnut Creek

## FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP



INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 4 – 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 8 thru July 19 (M – F) TIMES: 1:30 – 5:00 P.M.  
FEES: \$400 (T-shirt included)

FOR REGISTRATION GO TO: [cougarcamps.com](http://cougarcamps.com)

Come Join



**LAKERIDGE**  
ATHLETIC CLUB

A Resort Style Full Service Fitness Club

In EL SOBRANTE, 10 Mins. From Orinda Bart on San Pablo Dam Road



**NO WAITING – JOIN IMMEDIATELY**

Only a fraction of the cost of similar local Clubs

6350 San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante **510-222-2500**