

Matai Bell – from Cougar to Cadet



Matai Bell

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

Campolindo head football coach Kevin Macy claims that the success of his

program down through the years was “to have kids that did not look like football players but played tough.” However, when Antioch native, Matai Bell, (6’4” 320) who has been attending school in Moraga since junior high school, began to play football at Campolindo, Macy was happy to go against form, welcoming Bell, who also brought the requisite toughness.

Commuting back and forth from Antioch imbued Bell with a sense of discipline. When he began attending Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, the wakeup calls for the Bell family began at the crack of dawn. “My mom would take me and my sisters to our schools in Moraga,” Bell said. “With my school starting at 7:30, we would have to get up around 4:30 each morning.”

Sports were an essential part of Bell’s adolescence having played football, baseball, basketball, soccer, and track though he opted to focus on football and track (shot and discus) when he began high school. Campolindo proved to be very welcoming

to Bell from day one. “I could not have asked for a better experience going into my freshman year,” Bell said. “The seniors told us that we may have fun playing freshman football but once you play for Coach Macy, it’s going to be different. Coach Macy would share stories with us about all the Campo alumni and how they had won the NCS championships. In my sophomore year, he told me how big I could be in the future for the offensive line.”

Macy appreciated how special it was to have a player like Bell on the team. “Matai was always big, and we don’t usually find players like that,” Macy said. “He is very personable, athletic and a good student. He will probably play guard at West Point since they are primarily a running team, but he has the skills to play tackle at the next level. He even ran for a touchdown this year against Miramonte, high stepping his way in the end zone.”

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Campo varsity girls soccer team goes undefeated



Photo provided

Submitted by Luis Pinto

After a very unique season – one that almost didn’t happen – the Campolindo Girls Soccer 2021 Varsity team went undefeated 10-0 this season. The players and coach decided to give their seniors a season to remember in their last year. The team started on April 16 against College Park and went down on the score 1-0 on the first half, but since then the team hit a spark that never died, according to head coach Luis Pinto. “We fought and gave our best to every team we played and slowly started noticing a winning streak,” Pinto said. “Our confidence went up, we trained better, and we were determined to be back-to-back league champions. And we did it, we won every game and some of our most memorable wins versus a Division 1 school, Clayton Valley Charter, and of course our rivals Miramonte and Acalanes.”

The varsity team worked really hard –

even when the school was struggling with field space for its training, since all sports were back. The team worked it out and took the early morning shift, training from 6:45 to 8 a.m. “It was rough to get high school kids to wake up any earlier than school time but they were determined,” Pinto said. “We honor our seniors Jojo Flower, Gracie McCauley, Kendal Runckel, Julia Ortega, Siena Giordano, Lindsay Davis and Siena DeCarlo. We want to wish all the seniors the best of wishes and to tell them we’re proud of them for pulling it together in such a challenging year.”

This was also the first year the program had two players committed to Division 1 colleges: Kendall Runckel will play for UC Davis and Julia Ortega will play for Arizona State. “What a memorable season we had,” Pinto said. “Thank you to all our players, Campolindo staff and the parents for their support this year. We will never forget!”

MBA's 14U Mavericks finish as 680 League Champs



Photo Shirley DeFrancisi

Back row, from left: Callen Chivers, Brendan Baldelli, Drew DeFrancisi, Jonathan Wang, Reed Norton, Kyle Ting, Joe Revelos; front row: Colin Rutzen, Jack Luster, Ryan Rittmann, Alex Rothery, Jack Mooradian, William Myers

Submitted by Ted Ting

The 14U Mavericks of the Moraga Baseball Association won the 680 Diablo League Championship over Memorial Day Weekend.

This was the culmination of a plan laid out by head coach Hal Marty, assisted by Brian Myers and Ted Ting, which emphasized core fundamentals: Team before self;

you must be able to play catch; always swing hard and compete at the plate; respect your opponent; practice like you play because you play like you practice; and get better every day.

Following this blueprint, the Mavericks finished first in the league with an 18-3 regular season record and went 4-0 in the playoffs, defeating the Lafayette Oaks 9-6 in the championship game.

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GIRLS' SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS MINORS DIVISION NORTHWESTERN

BACK ROW: Coach Mike Frazier, Coach Tim Cecchin, Annabelle Sullivan, Coach Brian Myers, Coach Ted Olson.

FRONT ROW: Makenzie Simpkins, Charlotte Myers, Josie Frese, Molly Cecchin, Isla Olson, Brooke Frazier, Madeleine Tuft, Megan Baldelli, Kiera Morris, Quinn Hickey.

NOT PICTURED: Lyla Mediano, Lily Ricksen.



BOYS' BASEBALL CO-CHAMPIONS AAA CARDINALS

BACK ROW: Coaches Kevin Dunphy, Dan Morrill, Yash Mehta, Josh Norek.

FRONT ROW: Harrison Clark, Dylan Kubiatowicz, Brady Morrill, Christian Dunphy, Declan Krause, Miles Moore, Aram Mehta, Nico Randesi, Alexander Izzo, Madden Wakeman, Dillon Nagar, Kyle Cronin, Jacob Norek.



BOYS' BASEBALL CO-CHAMPIONS AAA YANKEES

BACK ROW: Coaches Matthew Whelan, Kevin Quaresma, Anthony Bishop, Ka Chan.

FRONT ROW: Jonas Lukach, Anthony Bishop, Dominic Quaresma, Brendan Whelan, Edgard Woodall, Kasey Chan, Lucas Nguyen, Jason Rossiter, Finn Mikolavich, Sam Rojas, Stanley Martin, Owen Lee, Aiden Flowers.



Late Soccer Registration will continue until June 15

LMYA SOFTBALL & BASEBALL CHAMPIONS 2021

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