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Campolindo celebrates after winning the Nov. 27 North Coast Section Championship game

Photo Rudy Ortiz

## Campolindo nabs NCS Championship before tough loss to McClymonds

By Jon Kingdon

Playing the underdog all season, Campolindo kept finding a way to come out ahead, winning seven games in a row and playing in the Dec. 4 state semifinal game. The odds finally caught up to the Cougars, losing at McClymonds 40-21, finishing the season with a 10-4 record.

It was a matchup that Campolindo coach Kevin Macy felt was not done with fairness in mind. "This was not our stage," Macy said. "I get frustrated that we keep overachieving and they keep pushing us into a game like this where we just didn't physically match up. They are a big city, all-star team and we're just a neighborhood team. We couldn't have asked our play-

ers to do anymore than they did tonight."

Looking back on the season, Macy was effusive in his praise for the team: "Our kids did some incredible things this year."

If one game had to be chosen to exemplify the "incredible stuff," it would have to be the victory over Foothill 21-14 on Nov. 27 in the North Coast Section Championship game.

The game was ultimately decided by the Cougars defense, being able to lay claim to a pseudo-shutout by not allowing the Foothill offense to cross the goal line, with the Falcons only scoring off an interception and a kickoff return.

Campolindo took the opening kickoffs and marched down the field with quarterback Dashiell

Weaver throwing primarily to Robbie Mascheroni, capping the drive off with a 2-yard run by Robby Horst to go ahead 7-0. Weaver would go on to complete 18 of 26 passes for 227 yards, nine of them going to Mascheroni for 100 yards.

There was no further scoring until the very end of the second quarter. With 51 seconds left in the half, Foothill's punter Anthony Tahir dropped a punt down on the Campolindo 1-yard line. After a run for no gain and a timeout by Foothill, Weaver dropped back to pass and under heavy pressure in the end zone made an ill-advised throw that was intercepted by Foothill's Noah Lombardi who returned it for a touchdown, tying the game at 7-7.

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## Environmental Excellence Award recognizes efforts to ban gas-powered leaf blowers



Image provided

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Jennifer Renton's children –12-year-old Finn and 10-year-olds Scout and Jamie – aren't the kind of kids that take no for an answer. And Renton couldn't be more proud.

It's that persistent pushback that earned the trio of siblings one of the two Environmental Excellence awards from the Lafayette Environmental Task Force and recognition at the Lafayette City Council meeting on Nov. 22.

During the virtual learning period of the pandemic Renton said her children were very distracted both by the sounds of leaf blowers, which made it difficult for them to hear their teachers online, and by the fumes that the gas-powered

blowers emit, making it hard for at least one of them (with asthma) to breathe.

"They started to do research and learned that on top of being very noisy, leaf blowers are extremely bad for the environment," Renton said. "The fumes coming off of a half hour of running a leaf blower would be the equivalent of letting exhaust run for three hours into your open window."

The Renton kids found that some 60 California towns including Palo Alto have already banned gas-powered leaf blowers and they want Lafayette to join the trend. The children wrote letters making their case for pivoting away from gas-powered leaf blowers to neighbors, the superintendent and anyone who would listen. While the children's vision of banning gas leaf blowers has been well received by many, Renton said

some like the school superintendent needed some convincing.

"The superintendent said no at first, because he said that people may slip on leaves. (The siblings) emailed a principal in Palo Alto and asked if any children had ever slipped on leaves. (The principal) said no-never in the past 15 years," Renton said. "Then they checked in with a pediatrician and asked if they'd ever treated anyone who'd slipped on leaves. She said no (and affirmed the fact that children are far more likely to slip on monkey bars." This prompted Renton's children to go back to the superintendent again with new information. "(They told him that if safety was the priority) monkey bars should be banned because they are far more dangerous than leaves." Renton appears to be right ... continued on Page A2

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