

Campolindo outlasts Miramonte 55-46 after 1.5-hour blackout



#5 Shane O'Reilly - Campolindo, #1 Clay Naffziger - Campolindo, #24 Tyler Dutto - Miramonte

By Jon Kingdon

A rivalry game is one thing. It's quite another when the opposing team's records coming into the game are a combined 34-3 (Campolindo 17-1), (Miramonte 17-2). To add to the uniqueness of this matchup, with 7:47 left in the second period and Miramonte

ahead 14-11, a car accident on Moraga Road cut the electricity, leaving the gym only lit up by the flashlights from the spectators' cell phones.

With no idea when the electricity would be restored, the coaches were preparing for the game to resume later that evening or seeing it suspended to the next day. "I told our players to relax and get



From left: #3 Marcus Robinson #15 James Frye and #23 Caden Breznikar Photos Will Bergen

off their feet because I didn't want the lactic acid to build up in their bodies," Miramonte head coach Chris Lavdiotis said. "We did have a couple of players that cramped up late in the game, though they did get through it."

Campolindo head coach Steven Dyer took a similar tact: "I told our players to stay

loose and then after a while, we considered going to one of the parent's homes and would then come back if the lights came back on. Chris and I agreed that if the rest of the game were postponed, we would start again at noon the next day. We were about five minutes from announcing a postponement when the lights came back on."

The lights went out at 7:25 p.m. and came back on at 8:25 p.m., and after both teams warmed up, the game began again at 8:50 p.m. In the fourth quarter, there was a personnel shortage on the floor so Campolindo's Aidan Mahaney and Cade Bennett took it upon themselves to use the sweat mop to dry the floor themselves.

Miramonte started the game very aggressively, leading at the end of the first quarter 14-8. "We wanted to come out and hit them in the mouth (figuratively), but we wanted to stay under control," Lavdiotis said.

After a driving layup by Bennett at the buzzer put Campolindo ahead 22-21 at the half, the intensity for both teams remained at peak level to the conclusion of the game. Coming into the game, Campolindo had connected on 43% of their 3-point shots during the season and their talent in this area proved to be a key in the ultimate outcome of the game. With 2:40 left in the game and Campolindo leading 43-41, the Cougars hit four consecutive 3-point shots (Bennett, Clay Naffziger, Shane O'Reilly and Mahaney) to close out the scoring.

Mahaney had an uncharacteristically off night, finishing with only 8 points but he led the team with seven assists and five rebounds. O'Reilly led the Cougars with 19 points and Bennett scored 15 points and had five rebounds. The Cougars were playing short-handed due to injuries, playing without Logan Robeson (foot) and Justin Yasukochi (wrist).

... continued on Page C4

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