



Acalanes' soccer player named boys high school athlete of the week

By Jon Kingdon

Eli Roth, a senior co-captain soccer player for Acalanes High School was named the Bay Area News Group boys high school athlete of the week for Dec. 5-10 after receiving 39.24% of the vote by the public.

In Acalanes' last three games

against Newark Memorial, Foothill and Granada, all victories, Ross scored five goals and had three assists

Head coach Paul Curtis had no argument with the choice of Roth. "He's really positive with his teammates," Curtis said. "He shows excellent leadership and is a great representative of the community."

With the team's 6-1 record, Roth

acknowledged the overall play of the team. "We've been working hard and it's all come together," Roth said. "I just happen to be the one that's been scoring the goals. I give my thanks to the team and the people who voted for me."

Roth is the second athlete from Lamorinda to have won this award. Campolindo quarterback Dashiell Weaver won the award in November.

Eli Roth #8 vs St. Marys Photo Jon Kingdon

Girls' basketball gears up for exciting season built on last year's successes

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Campolindo

In his second year as the head coach for Campolindo, Bill Flitter was far more comfortable heading into this season. "When I started last year in September, we did not have a summer of preparation," Flitter said. "This year, we worked over the summer in getting the processes in place, establishing a culture and having a program on offense and defense so we're much deeper and further ahead than where we were last year."

What hasn't changed for the Cougars is Flitter's philosophy of being aggressive on offense and defense. "We want to put a lot of pressure on the rim which creates a lot of opportunities on offense, driving and cutting hard to the basket," Flitter said. "On defense, we play a half-court man pressure on defense."

There is good depth at the guard position for the Cougars with seniors Camille Yabu, Mina Wang, and sophomore Ali McCauley. "Camille has a lot of speed in going to the basket and

at 5'8" was our leading rebounder last year," Flitter said. "Mina missed almost the entire season last year and will be our other starter. She runs the floor well and is a great commander. Ali will be valuable in that she is able to play both guard positions."

The front court brings both experience and youth with senior Charlotte Arnsward, sophomore Aislinn Comerford and freshman Avery Yasukochi (whose brother played for Campolindo last year). "Charlotte is a great defensive player that has gotten stronger and runs very well and is a sprinter on the track team," Flitter said. "Aislinn worked really hard over the summer and earned a place on the roster and gives us good size and she has learned to play around the rim better and Avery is very athletic and shows great potential."

It's the team having the right attitude and using its strength that Flitter is looking toward as the season develops. "We're a really quick team that can move," Flitter said. "It's getting

the players to get them to believe in our strength and in themselves which our keys to our being successful."

Miramonte

Coming into the season with a solid core of players, Miramonte coach Vince Wirthman was anticipating an improvement over last year's 14-14 record and so far, he has been proven correct, starting off with a 5-2 record.

With a roster of only eight players, the last thing that the Matadors could afford to do was to lose any player to an injury and unfortunately that's just what happened when junior guard Willa Mapaye went down with a season ending knee injury. Wirthman spoke of how valuable Mapaye was to the team. "Willa was running our offense as our point guard," Wirthman said. "She is a good all-round player who is smart, a good shooter, ball handler and played good defense and will really be missed this season."

In her one game, Mapaye scored 11 points, three assists, seven rebounds and four steals.

Sophomore Julia Quinn-Ferguson (5.2 ppg) and freshman Maegan Eichenberger (4.4 ppg) will be counted on to replace Mapaye.

Wirthman was already high on Quinn-Ferguson and Eichenberger. "Julia is a good athlete and plays with a lot of speed," Wirthman said. "Maegan has been showing a lot of potential. She is a hard worker and a good defender who is very aggressive."

Senior guards and sisters, Courtney and Katherine Scheingart, have shown great improvement on offense from last season with Courtney improving her scoring average from 7.7 to 14.1 and Katherine going from 3.3 to 10.6.

"Courtney is our best shooter, but all of our players can shoot and I'm encouraging them all to shoot their three pointers," Wirthman said. "We're going to try and run and keep an up tempo. From our starters to the bench players, they're all players we have confidence in."

Junior Karena Eberts (14.7

ppg and 10.0 rebounds) was all-league last season and is the only player with size in the front court. "We're not going to rely as much on the inside game as we did last year when we had more size," Wirth said. "Karena is a strong inside player, but she can also shoot from the outside. We are also anticipating the return of Eva Patrick, who suffered a knee injury last season once she finishes her rehab."

Miramonte scheduled three tournaments prior to the league season - Miramonte (2-1), with the Windsor and West Coast Jubilee tournaments coming up.

Wirthman is counting on the team's chemistry to be a key factor in the team's performance. "We had a good off-season and played in the summer leagues," Wirthman said. "We play a pressure defense more than normal due to our size, speed and shooting ability and we'll be able to take advantage of teams that don't handle the ball well. We're going to get better as the year goes on with our trapping and pressing style though we're not there yet."

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