

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campo defeats Las Lomas to win NCS Championship; NorCal up next



Campolindo celebrates NCS victory

Photo Jon Kingdon

By Jon Kingdon

The atmosphere in the Acalanes gym was electric as Campolindo and Los Lomas faced off at this neutral site to determine who would win the North Coast Sectional Championship. With the gym equally divided in Campolindo red and Los Lomas maroon, the respective student bodies standing the entire game and with the gym so crowded, a number of fans were forced to sit in the aisles, it was a game that was destined to come down to a final shot, which it did with Campolindo coming out on top 48-47.

Coming into the game, Campolindo and Los Lomas had played twice with a one-point differential over the two games, with high scoring wins for each team. Campolindo won the first game 85-64 and Los Lomas won the second game 59-39. Campolindo coach Steven Dyer anticipated anything but a blowout game for either team. "I was 100% certain that it was going to be a close game," Dyer said. "Los Lomas is a really good team

that had won 10 straight games and our league has really been disrespected by the NCS seeding committee. With us, Los Lomas, and Clayton Valley, it shows how good the top part of our league was."

It was a back-and-forth game with Campolindo leading most of the way. The Cougars led 29-26 at the half and 46-40 after three quarters. Los Lomas took its first lead since early in the first quarter, 47-46 with 1:33 to go in the game. Logan Robeson, who finished with 13 points, had scored the first basket of the game, then scored the last basket of the game on a drive to the rim with 1:06 left to play.

Los Lomas would have three more opportunities to score in and were turned away each time, with Robeson getting the key rebound with 10 seconds left in the game. Los Lomas fouled Campolindo twice and got their final possession with only two seconds left on the clock. Still, they got off a clear shot by Jake Davis from about 45 feet that banged off the back of the rim, as the Campolindo fans let out a col-

lective sigh of relief.

It was a matter of solid defense and toughness according to Dyer. "Our game plan was to be more physical on defense," Dyer said. "Los Lomas outplayed us from the toughness perspective in our second game so we talked a lot about how we couldn't get out toughed. We didn't make any huge scheme adjustments. We just worried about being tough and playing Campo basketball."

Though it was a true team effort, Dyer singled out his three captains, Robeson, Shane O'Reilly and Clay Naffziger for their play on offense and defense. "These three seniors have had a lot of big-time moments," Dyer said. "It was just effort. These guys really want to win, and it took everything for it to get done."

For Robeson, after suffering through two injury-played seasons, the win was particularly special. "I've been through so much to get here and to finally get this win, it just means the world to me," Robeson said.

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Clay Naffziger

Photo Will Bergren

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