

LAMORINDA SPORTS

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Lamorinda Tennis – success in competitive league



Miramonte's Gavin Dille

Photo Jon Kingdon

By Jon Kingdon

As with all of the spring sports, the Lamorinda tennis teams have been at the mercy of the weather. "With eight missed practices, practice matches and regular matches having to be rescheduled, getting ready for the season becomes difficult when you only have a couple of weeks to prepare," said Acalanes head coach Rick O'Brien. Still, Acalanes (8-1), Campolindo (7-2) and Miramonte (6-3) have been very strong in league play as they are all positioning themselves for the post-season DAL tournament.

Acalanes

With a roster that was primarily made up of underclassmen last season, O'Brien has a strong returning team this year. "The character of our team shows in its improvement from last season," O'Brien said. "Many of them played in tournaments, went to clinics, took lessons, and came back playing a lot better than they did last year. We have a big upper class with eight seniors and juniors on the team this year, so we had some continuity from last year which has helped the team chemistry."

The singles players are led by seniors Tyler Toni, Zach Snyder and Aaron Brown, junior Tucker Brewer, and sophomore Nick Owens. "Tyler has been our number one singles player but missed some time with a pulled hamstring and has just returned to action and is playing very well," O'Brien said. "Owens has

stepped up to play number one when Tyler was out, and he's been a rock. Brewer really improved a lot, playing number three after playing sixth last year. Zach's primarily dedicated to singles and Aaron has been switching back and forth in singles and doubles and they've both been really valuable to the team."

The doubles teams are still in flux as O'Brien is still working on coming up with the best pairings on the team: "Our most established doubles team right now is sophomore Sammy Foster and junior Will Lofting who have played together the longest. Aaron Brown has been a key doubles player along with Kaya Hoeberechts, Riley Bonner, James Cortez, and Ben Reinsberg. At this point, it's playing the pairs that have been the best together at practice."

O'Brien has a roster of 20 players this year, two more than normal with an eye to the future. "I did it on purpose because we need to develop players for next year," O'Brien said. "I'm looking at freshman Andrew Zheng and Saaj Shah who will be our mid-pack players next year, so we need to work them. We also have 21 players on the JV team and I'm confident that if they continue to improve, they will also move over to varsity as sophomores next year."

Miramonte

Head coach Andrew Lee feels the Matadors are in a good position as they are finishing up their regular season. "We are where we should be," Lee said. "We're in a tough di-

vision with Acalanes, Campolindo, Northgate and we are all fairly equal teams."

Freshman Lucca Zamani has stepped in as the team's number one singles player. "Lucca has made a big difference for the team and cushioned the blow of losing our top four singles players to graduation," Lee said. "He missed some playing time but is healthy now and will be playing in the big matches for us. Lucca also competes in USTA weekend tournaments and does get to compete against the top No. 1 players in our league, really enjoying being with his teammates and I'm looking forward to him playing for Miramonte for another three years."

The next three singles players are Will Stokes, Aaron Lee, and Cameron Berg. "They all moved up two to three spots this year and are all solid players," Lee said, "Gavin Dille and Jonah Ellis who were a strong doubles team last year have been filling the fifth and six spots."

The doubles teams are in flux as Lee is still looking to find the right combination led by Ryan Myers, Evan Mishkin, Ryan Gardner, and Gunther Uriarte among other players that have been rotated in the doubles. "The weather was a real disruption with the loss of practice sessions and the rescheduling of matches," Lee said. "We're having a week where we are going to have to play four matches."

With all of the weather issues, the senior captains Lee, Stokes and Myers have been strong leaders. "When we could not practice due to the rain, they would lead the group on a mile run on the track," Lee said.

Campolindo

Having lost only four seniors from last year's team, Campolindo is still a young team. "We have four seniors and a lot of juniors on our roster of 18 players and some of our top players are freshman and sophomores," head coach James Scott said.

The Cougars singles are led by two sophomores in singles, Kiumars Koopah and Edgar Alford. With freshman Linus Wirstrom and senior Jake Hammerman it has been a successful group so far. "Kiumars is our number one singles player and Edgar stepped up to the number two spot," Scott said. "Linus is playing fourth which a big spot for a

freshman and he has been a very good addition to our team and Jake is the only senior that we have in our top six singles players."

The doubles teams have played well as a group. "Our doubles teams have been very strong this year with two juniors, James Martin and Aditya Kapur, playing number one and have won all of their matches this season," Scott said. "Our number two doubles have been two seniors, Tyler Panos and Ivan Zemsky, and they've won all their matches as well so far. Our third doubles team has a new

player, junior Luke Yan, and Viggo Wirstrom has also played very well."

Scott appreciates what it takes to win the division, in anticipation of the post-season tournament: "We are in a league that has a number of strong teams where all the teams in our league could beat anybody on any given day so there is a lot of competition. For us to win the league and move on, our doubles teams have to stay strong like they've been all season and we'll get some wins in our singles as well putting us in a good position to be successful."

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Tradition continues at the 53RD Annual Bob Warren/Charlie Eaton Invitational



Photo www.alexandramathiss.com

Long distance runner Logan Farzan

By Jon Kingdon

Thirty-one teams and over 500 track athletes descended on Acalanes High School April 14 and 15 to compete in the 53rd annual Bob Warren/Charlie Eaton Invitational track meet. Unlike a regular meet, there are no divisions. It's an open and the athletes are seeded, trying to get as many kids as they can to set their personal records. Everyone's in a heat competing against runners whose times are very close to theirs so that everyone has the best chance to run faster than they did the last time.

Acalanes

The Dons have had a lot of success so far this season. "The strength of the team is due to the number of returners we had this year; we didn't lose anybody," head coach Joe Escobar said. "We're very strong in the sprints, jumps and throws and we have a lot of freshmen I'm excited about. It also helped that most of our kids do other sports like football, girls' basketball and boys' and girls' soccer."

Leading the boys' teams have been Paul Kuhner (sprints), Kyle Bielawski (sprints/LJ), Luca Mathias (sprints), River Lockwood (sprints/hurdles) and Alex Vasicek (shot and discus).

The girls' team has been led by Carly Youn Harriman (sprints/HJ), Portia Seymour (sprints/HJ/TJ), Natalie Lyons (Long jump), Tori Hyatt (sprints), Sophia Chinn (sprints/hurdles) and Appollonia Walton (shot/discus).

Leaders at the meet for Alameda were Benjamin

Brekke (1st in 1600 meters and 4th in 800 meters), Logan Farzan (1st in 3200 meters), River Lockwood (2nd in 110 hurdles), Kyle Bielawski, Luca Mathias, Trevor Rogers and Ethan Torres (2nd in 4x100 relay),

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MOL Football is a local youth **Flag Football** league for boys and girls in 3rd through 8th grades. All games are played Saturdays in the Fall at JM. All 3rd and 4th grade games are played in morning so there is no conflict with LMYA soccer.

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