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Campo Spoils Acalanes' Homecoming Cougars defeat Dons

By Alex Crook



#11 Andrew Ahr's touchdown gave Campo the 20-7 lead Photo Doug Kohen

Coming off an exciting win over Dublin, Campolindo football looked to repeat victory against Lamorinda rival, Acalanes. The Dons, heading for the post-season, hoped to claim the win to boost momentum for their playoff run and to ensure a fun Homecoming. However, the Cougars managed to spoil Acalanes' hopes with a 38-27 win.

With 13 seconds left in the first quarter, Campolindo's senior quarterback Tommy Stephens connected with fellow senior, wide receiver Michael Hoffman, for 65-yard pass, a touchdown, and the lead.

The Dons started finding their rhythm with a 15-yard run from senior running back Bo McSwine just 57 seconds into the first quarter. Campolindo then stole the momentum by forcing McSwine for a loss of yardage, and ultimately a change of possession.

With 8:42 left in the first quarter, Campo's Stephens scrambled ten yards for a crucial Campo first down that evolved into a one-yard touchdown run from Cougar senior running back James Chritton. With under a minute to play in the first quarter, Dons' junior running back Chris Doherty advanced his squad with a 26-yard reception to Campo's 22-yard line, and the quarter ended with the Dons three yards from the end zone. Acalanes trailed 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

To start the second quarter, just five seconds in, Dons' senior running back Tyler Malley covered the three yards to light up the scoreboard for Acalanes and pull within a touchdown of their Lamorinda rivals, 14-7.

At the 8:13 mark of the second quarter, Campo's Stephens threw to junior wide reciever Andrew Ahr who snagged the ball over his shoulder for a clean touchdown, and a 20-7 Cougar lead.

On the ensuing possession for Acalanes, Malley took the handoff from senior quarterback Tyler Caldwell 53 yards to the Cougar eight-yard line with 7:38 left in the second quarter, where McSwine took it the rest of the way for an eight-yard touchdown run, cutting the lead to 20-14 with seven and a half minutes remaining in the half.

Campo then marched down the field where on fourth and goal with 2:54 left in the half, Stephens ran the ball in himself for the one-yard score. The two-point conversion prevailed with a pitch to Hoffman, who snuck around the corner into the end zone, and the teams hit the half with the visitors up 28-14.

Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy said, "We showed that we can play a good first half this season, but we need to show that we can play a good second half."

Facing yet another fourth down with 6:55 left in the third, Malley rushed for a critical 35-yard gain to Campo's 30. Caldwell snuck it in from five yards out with 4:17 left in the quarter, inching the Dons closer to Campolindo, 28-21. The Cougars scored one more time in the third, on a three-yard run from Chritton with 37 seconds left, to go up 35-21.

With 5:09 left in the game, junior kicker Jarrett Milner nailed a 22-yard field goal to put his team up 38-21, but Acalanes wouldn't go away.

With 46 seconds remaining, Dons' junior receiver Lucas Levine scored an18-yard touchdown catch.

The Dons' first year head coach Mike Ivankovich had a few words about the game, "We've got two weeks to get ready for the playoffs, but they played better than we did." Acalanes will begin playoffs in two weeks. The seeding meeting will take place on November 15th and the game will be played on November 20th.

"We're going into the playoffs down, but we're sick and we've got two weeks to get better," remarked Caldwell, who has been the leader for his Dons' offense.



#20 Tyler Malley recorded big carries in the loss Photo Doug Kohen



Acalanes prepares for the Homecoming game with a team dinner last Thursday Submitted by: Robin Longchamps

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