

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Hoop Rivalries Heat Up

Lamorinda Teams Battle for Top

By Conrad Basset

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The Acalanes Dons beat Dublin 71-65 last week

Photo provided

Lamorinda basketball rivalries continued on January 25th and both the girls' and boys' games between Acalanes and Miramonte were close.

In the boys' game, defense was the key as the Dons defeated the Matadors, 60-54. The Dons did not allow a basket until Miramonte senior Chris Hatfield scored at the 3:11 mark. Before Hatfield's basket, the Dons had built a 12-0 lead with four Dons scoring. Acalanes continued building a lead to 22-7 behind seniors Corey Collins and Zach Bloom.

The Matadors then pushed up their defensive pressure and

held the Dons scoreless for the last four minutes of the period, as Hatfield scored seven points and senior Davis Louie hit a three to continue the Mats offensive effort. At half the Dons' lead had diminished to 24-17.

In the second half, the Mats kept chiseling away at the Dons lead, eventually knotting the score at 30. The teams exchanged leads for the next few minutes before Bloom put Acalanes ahead, 40-39. Acalanes remained in the lead the rest of the game. Play remained even, but the Dons' Collins hit seven of eight free throws to seal the victory, 60-54.

Last Wednesday, January

27th, Collins hit 30 as Acalanes came from behind to beat Dougherty Valley 71-57. Meanwhile, Miramonte, behind sophomore Ross Anderson's 19 points, beat Las Lomas 68-60.

On Friday, Acalanes beat Dublin 71-65 in overtime to run its record to 6-1 in the DFAL and 12-8 overall. Collins was the leading scorer with 24. Miramonte (10-10, 4-3 DFAL) was stunned in Martinez as a furious second half comeback came up short with the Bulldogs winning 46-43. McDonald had 17 in the losing effort. Campolindo (17-4, 7-0 DFAL) beat Las Lomas and maintained its one game lead over Acalanes.

The girls' rivalry match-up on Monday was also a game of streaks and solid defense. Senior Stephanie Golden scored the first two points of the game for Miramonte, but the Dons led after one period, 7-5. Behind seniors Emani Harrison and Jamie Horn, the Dons outscored the Lady Mats 12-6 in the second period and led by eight at the half. The third period was also punctuated by defense as Acalanes' junior Kiara Harewood blocked several shots and made key assists to give the Dons an 11 point lead going into the fourth.

The Dons tenacious defense had held Miramonte to only four field goals in the first three periods.



Miramonte senior Stephanie Golden led the Lady Mats with 17 points in their 79-23 victory over Alhambra

Photo Jordan Fong

Then the Miramonte offense got rolling. Junior Liza Katz drilled two long range jumpers in the first minute of the period and the Mats were within five. Harrison hit a layup on a terrific pass from Harewood before Golden answered with another basket. Harrison scored two more of her game high 17 points to keep the lead at seven with just under six minutes to go. The Mats went on a 10-2 run to take the lead. Senior Kristine Miller hit a three, Katz a two and Golden added traditional three-point play and another basket to take a 34-33 lead. Junior Alyssa Johanson scored the last four points of the game to seal the Mats' 38-34 win.

On Wednesday, January 27th, Campolindo returned to its winning ways, crushing Alhambra 62-22, led by Meghan Ringer's 18 points. Dougherty Valley beat Acalanes 59-38 and Miramonte hammered Las Lomas 66-37 behind Golden's 18 points.

On Friday, Acalanes (12-8, 2-5 DFAL) lost to Dublin 46-40 while Campolindo (14-6, 4-3 DFAL) pounded Las Lomas 79 to 32 and Miramonte (17-3, 7-0 DFAL) stayed in first place with a 79 to 23 crushing of Alhambra. Golden led the Lady Mats with 17 points.

## High School Wrestling

By Alex Crook

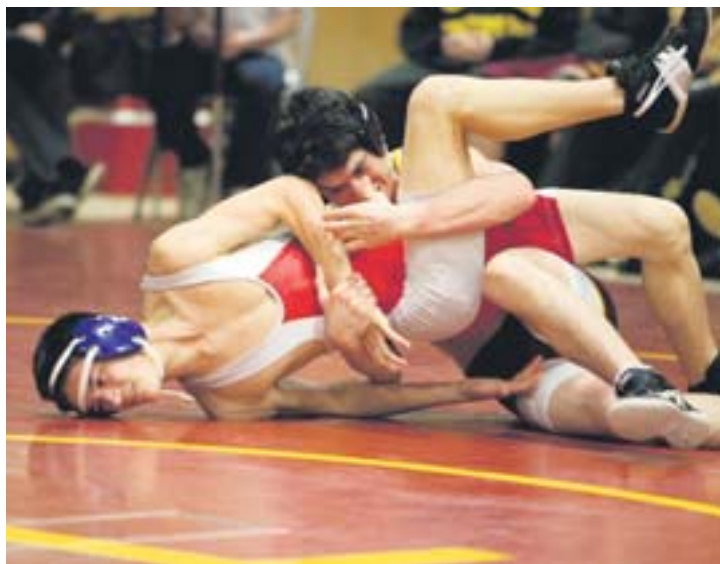


Photo Doug Kohen

While winter is generally considered "basketball season," Lamorinda students also compete on the mat for the wrestling teams.

Campolindo is a known powerhouse when it comes to wrestling. The Cougars are off to a great start at 4-0, already downing their two

Lamorinda rivals, plus Dougherty Valley; the first three wins came in decisive blowouts while the victory against Alhambra on January 28th was close, 31-30.

Key wrestlers for Campolindo this year include senior Paul Jackson and junior Tom Flowers, who made All-DFAL first and sec-

ond teams respectively last season. In last season's DFAL tournament, the Cougars were favored, but were ousted by Alhambra which took the league title in an upset win. In his 125-pound weight class, Jackson won his match, while in the 119 pound class, Flowers lost his.

Based on last year's performance and a great start to the season, Campo looks forward to a postseason run. "We're gonna beat everyone..." says Flowers about his team's hopes for a playoff berth.

Miramonte is currently a struggling team, as they have yet to find their spark. At the DFAL tournament last year, the Matadors as a team finished with 83 points, coming in fifth place out of seven teams.

One of the Mats' key wrestlers is Sean Ericson, who took second at the Windsor High School "King of the Mat" tournament at 154 pounds.

Matador head coach Sam Worth is very optimistic about the season: "This year was intended to rebuild the wrestling team because, before the retirement of the old coaches, the team consisted of

a lineup that was less than half full. So this year I'm trying to get kids to find the fun and excitement in wrestling to see if I can glue them to it. Then in the long run hopefully develop them into a good team. It seems to be working, I think, because we have a full lineup now."

Acalanes had only two wrestlers make first team all-DFAL last year; one was lost to graduation. After a disappointing sixth place league finish last year, the Dons look to improve this season.

"We have a very young team this year, but we do have a few solid individuals," states Dons coach Bob Chance, who is holding his wrestlers to a strict code of commitment so they can achieve peak performance, do well this season, and gain recognition as a force to be reckoned with. "We are currently gearing up for the League Tournament and getting ready for NCS," said Chance.

The DFAL tournament will be held at Dougherty Valley on February 20th.



L-R: Paul Jackson and Tom Flowers

Photo Doug Kohen



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