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Acalanes boys soccer angling for top spot in league

By Karl Buscheck



Tom Higgins

ith the Diablo Athletic gether; working hard and having a V League slate rapidly drawing to a close and the North Coast Section postseason approaching, received season-long contributions the Acalanes boys soccer team is in the mix to claim first place in the league standings.

"The boys have been perform- Rogers. ing well all season and as the competition has improved, so has the team, said head coach Paul Curtis. "In the past several matches, the senior class members have really stepped up their performance. It's rising to the challenge."

peaking at just the right moment.

Wondolowski and "Drew Mark Von Hacht the senior co- and a 4-3-1 record in DAL, the captains have done a really great Mats are also in the chase for an job this season," said Curtis, who NCS berth. Over the past month, also praised the impact of seniors Miramonte has found itself in a Tom Higgins, Gabe Singer, Nix- rough patch dropping four of five son Murgia, Brody Quinn, Payson games, including a 3-1 defeat to Newman and Bryan Bamford.

training and performing well to- 3 overall and 2-4-2 in league.

lot of fun," Curtis added.

The title contenders have also from underclassman like juniors Alex Topping, Luke Denham and Oliver Feigin and sophomore Chris

Before turning their attention as Carney pointed out. to the playoffs, the Dons will pay a visit to Orinda to cap off the regurecords and expectations out the lar season with a game against the Mats on Feb. 10.

"This is a very talented group exciting for everyone to see them of players who excel on the field and in the classroom. Juggling their After smashing Berean Chris- heavy academic load, personal tina 6-0 in Walnut Creek on Feb. lives and soccer team commit-3, the Dons pushed their record ments takes a tremendous amount to 14-2-3 overall and 7-1 in DAL. of effort and focus. Their ability With just one loss in their last nine to manage this rather well is one games, the senior-laden Dons are of the significant reasons for their success."

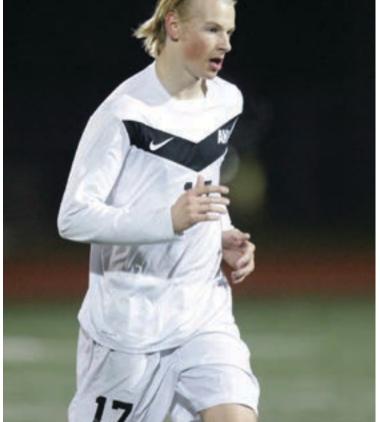
With an 8-8-2 record overall Campolindo in Moraga. The win "(The captains) have the boys brought the Cougars record to 9-9-



"The rivalry game with Miramonte is always a game to look forward to," head coach Shane Carney said in the run-up to the matchup.

The Mats had made a habit of dominating the Cougars in the early 2000s, but Campolindo has "flipped the script" in recent years,

"When we meet, you can throw window," Carney added. "It usually just comes down to who wants



Drew Wondolowski

it more."

For a team whose roster is heavy on young players, the Cougars have relied on a pair of the squad's veteran contributors.

"(Senior) Rupert Dusauzay has been our most dangerous attacking player and is one of the leading goal scorers in the Bay Area this season," Carney said. "(Junior) Seppi Ortman moved from the midfield to the backline midseason, which gave us some defensive sta-

bility we were missing early on."

Against the Mats, Dusauzay struck two goals and Ortman added the third. Now, the rising Cougars will look to make a late run to grab an NCS spot.

"More than half of our team is underclassmen, which is an extreme rarity at a varsity sport," Carney said. "So we're hopeful our youth has gained enough experience to find some late season suc-



Campolindo soccer team

ESPN College GameDay coming to Moraga



ESPN College GameDay comes to Moraga for the Saint Mary's Gonzaga game Feb. 11. From left, hosts Rece Davis, Jay Williams, Seth Greenberg and Jay Bilas.

the shadow of their archrival before a national television audience 1 ranking to Moraga for the maras ESPN's College GameDay will make its first ever trip to McKeon Pavilion Feb. 11 for the Saint Mary's-Gonzaga West Coast Conference men's basketball showdown. The game airs at 5:15 p.m. last three teams hosting College with the GameDay evening edition leading into the primetime telecast.

For those unfamiliar with College GameDay, the pregame program usually draws out hundreds

Feb. 4 to improve to 21-2, 11-2

The Saint Mary's Gaels will in the WCC while Gonzaga eashave a chance to escape from ily handled Santa Clara the same day, and will likely bring its No. quee matchup with the Gaels. The Bulldogs (24-0, 12-0) defeated Saint Mary's 79-56 in Spokane in January.

According to ESPN, each of GameDay for the first time won the game that day: Texas A&M, Wichita State and Southern Meth-

GameDay is hosted by Rece of fans and often a celebrity guest. Davis, with Dan Shulman call-No. 18 Saint Mary's routed ing the game along with Jay Bi-University of San Diego 71-27 on las and reporter Maria Taylor.

- Nick Marnell



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