

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda boys soccer wrap-up



Nick Geannacopulos, Acalanes



Connor Gregg, Campolindo

Photos Gint Federas

By John T. Miller

Boys high school soccer in the area continues to be tremendously competitive, with all three local schools – Campolindo, Acalanes, and Miramonte – making it to the North Coast Section playoffs this year. Here's a rundown of each of their seasons and a brief preview of next year's hopes.

Campolindo (20-4-2; 10-2 league)

Head coach Shane Carney, who took last year off for the birth of his daughter, returned to lead the Cougars to a Diablo Athletic League title and a No. 2 seed in the NCS playoffs.

Their season ended with a 2-1 loss in the quarterfinals to (No. 7) Sir Francis Drake. Despite the disappointing end, the season represented tremendous improvement from the year before when the team won only two league games.

Campolindo was one of the highest scoring teams in the Bay Area, breaking the school record for number of goals in a season with 78. Senior Jose Carra-Hernandez led the league in scoring (14 goals, 9 assists) and was named the league's Offensive MVP. Another senior, Nathan Links was third in scoring (14 goals, 4 assists).

First team all-leaguer Connor Gregg, a senior, was named the team's Defensive MVP.

The team graduated 16 seniors, but according to Carney, "We kept 27 on the squad so we hope to improve and be

a contender by the end of next season.

Kellen Clancy (8 goals, 10 assists), a starter since his freshman year, will lead the offense next year, while anchoring the defense will be center back Jamiel Liu.

After splitting time in the goalie box with senior Lucas Allen, Joe Etheridge, who moved into the area this year, will, according to Carney, have the potential to be one of the top goalies in the area.

Vivek Lashkari, who tore his ACL and sat out his junior season, got special mention for his inspirational play, reestablishing himself as a starter and contributing a huge goal line save against Acalanes.

Acalanes (10-4-6; 7-2-3 league)

Much like Campolindo, Acalanes reached the NCS playoffs this year only to lose to a lower seed in the first round. (No.13) Pinole Valley prevailed over the fourth-seeded Dons 2-1.

Paul Curtis, in his 20th year as head coach, helped guide the team to a fourth-place finish in the tough 13-team Diablo League, but was disappointed with their high number of draws (3 in league; 6 overall), saying, "The boys tied a number of very good teams late in the season. They were all exciting matches."

The highlight of the season for Curtis was their comeback victory against Northgate to win the Winter Classic championship, rallying from down 0-3 to win 4-3 in regulation.

Top performers on the

year include First Team All-League senior Travis Stevenson (7 goals, 2 assists), and center mid player Nick Geannacopulos, a junior who was named to Second Team All-League.

Curtis mentioned the contribution of his three senior captains, including Eric Voss, an outstanding player in the middle, Bernard Adri, and Stevenson. "They did a great job leading throughout the season," said Curtis. "They brought the team together early and created strong bonds."

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Charlie McIntyre, Miramonte



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