

# Campo Falls Short of History

By Alex Crook



Photo Jamie Fox

Campo had their sights set on making team history as the first Cougar squad ever to win the NCS East Bay two weeks ago. The only team standing in their way was Las Lomas.

In a rematch from six weeks earlier, the Cougars and Knights went at it in Walnut Creek on Friday, Nov. 30, but host Las Lomas showed they still had some fight left in them in a nail-biting 21-17 victory.

Knights' running back Danny Ward played his all despite having a cast on his strong right arm. Still, Ward did everything to help his team to victory. As for the rest of the Knights, junior Max Yago practically threw his arm out throwing long to USC-bound standout Diante Jackson. Senior running back Corey Paclebar also did everything he could to help the Knights. But still, Campolindo led almost the entire game.

The Cougars got on the board first with a 30-yard field goal from Giorgio Tavecchio with five minutes left in the first quarter. The Knights soon responded with an amazing 85-yard touchdown pass to Paclebar, putting Las Lomas up 7-3, ending the first quarter.

In the second, Yago fumbled a snap picked up by Campo's Evan Peters. Three minutes later, Bo Richter took the ball one yard for the score. After a 22-yard gain from Tommy Stephens to Nick Mascheroni, Stephens threw the ball away to Diante Jackson, who ran the interception back for the long touchdown. But a late flag spotted the ball around Campo's 20, and the Knights could not capitalize. Both teams went to the break with Campolindo up by a field goal, 10-7.

After a disappointing drive to start the second half, Campolindo's defense completed an improbable goal line stand inside their own 5-yard line.

Early in the final quarter, Luke Crossley intercepted Yago's pass and ran it back for the touchdown. The following kickoff was a disaster. Corey Paclebar took the kick through about seven Cougars on his way to a 100-yard return for the touchdown. That cut Campo's lead to 17-14 with just over 11 minutes left. After forcing the Cougars to punt, Las Lomas could not then convert on a critical 4th and 11 with 6:23 to play, giving Campo another chance. With 42 seconds left in the game, Max Yago finally broke Campo's heart with a 7-yard touchdown pass.

Winners of the NCS East Bay and still unblemished at a perfect

13-0, the Knights played for the 2A final last week. Campolindo just missed out on the ultimate dream, but already have their sights on next year. They say it's always hard to follow in the footsteps of greatness. We'll see if the 2008 Cougars can live up to the challenge.



Photo Jamie Fox