

## Cougars Hang Tough at Holiday Classic

Submitted by Conrad Bassett



Campolindo's Tom Wraith races through the Long Beach Jordan defense in the Cougars 61-56 victory at the MaxPreps Torrey Pines Classic

Photo provided

The Campolindo High School boy's basketball team spent the four days after Christmas participating in the MaxPreps Torrey Pines Holiday Classic near San Diego.

The tournament had four divisions with the Cougars participating in the highest (National) division featuring some of the state's top teams including the eventual winner, Dominguez (Compton), the No. 22 team in the United States per MaxPreps.

The Cougars opened the tournament with a convincing 75-58 win over Arroyo Valley (San Bernardino). Will Shields riddled the Hawks hitting seven 3-point shots on his way to sharing game high scoring honors with Jack Trotter at 25 each. Chris Dyer added 11

as the Cougars outscored Arroyo Valley 19-5 in the final period to pull away.

In the second round, Campo ran into a buzzsaw in eventual runner-up Simi Valley. The Pioneers scored early and often bringing a 39-25 lead into the locker room at the half. Campo started the third period with an 8-0 run to close to six before Simi Valley (now 13-1) broke the game open. Trotter led the Cougars with 19 points and 14 rebounds with Graham Smith scoring 11 and Shields adding 10.

On Friday, the Cougars got caught up in a horse race with the Gahr (Cerritos) Gladiators. The Cougars, behind Trotter and Shields led at the half 39-35 and expanded the lead to 63-47 early in the fourth before the Glads came racing back

to take the lead 74-71 with only a few seconds left in regulation. Shields got open and hit one of his six three pointers with only a couple of seconds on the clock to send it to overtime. The Cougars were outscored by 14-7 in the extra stanza falling by a final of 88-81. Trotter finished with 39 points, 17 rebounds and 5 blocks, Shields with 21 and Smith with 14. Dyer has 10 assists.

In the seventh place game on Saturday, Campo came up against Long Beach Jordan. Falling behind 32-17 early in the second period, the Cougars methodically chipped their way back into the game behind strong defense from Tom Wraith eventually taking the lead by the end of the third quarter and defeating the Panthers by a score of 61-56.

### A Few Highlights, submitted by Cathy Tyson

More than 50 high school basketball teams, from as far away as Washington, Texas and Louisiana, effectively gave up or rescheduled their Christmas to participate in the annual Torrey Pines Holiday Classic in San Diego. The Campolindo Cougars flew out on Christmas day, so they would be ready for their first game at 10 a.m. on December 26. Here's what a few said they liked most:

"Winning our last game to give us a 500 record, and scoring 108 points in four games. Will Shields hitting seven 3's twice." – Jack Trotter, senior.

"The very high level of competition. Coach Whirlow placed the team in the toughest bracket, we saw five or six teams with legitimate Division 1 players." – Gary Sanders, father of Brian Sanders, sophomore.

"It was exciting - we had the opportunity to play against the best teams in the state. The kids really came together." – Don Reinke, father of Bryan Reinke, senior.

Shields continued his long range mastery leading all scorers with 27 including six treys. Trotter poured in 24 with 12 coming in the decisive fourth period, many coming off of Dyer passes. Dyer had 11 assists.

Trotter was named to the all-tournament team. The 6-5 Cougars open their DFAL season at College Park on January 8.