



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Ejection of Litvinenko Fires Up Cougars

By Steven Johns



Georgio Tavecchio (22)



Ryan Schori (15) Photos Tod Fierner

On Saturday Feb. 16 at 5 p.m., the Campolindo Cougars and the Las Lomas Knights took the pitch to determine who would play Miramonte in the boy's soccer semi-finals.

This North Coast Section quarter-final match was the third time this year these two teams faced each other. The first game, on Dec. 10, went to the Cougars as they won 3-1. The second game was a nail-biter that Las Lomas ended up winning 2-0. This tie-breaker match went to the number four seed, Campolindo.

The first half started quickly with both teams having early chances to take the lead. At 35:00 the Cougars appeared to take a 1-0 lead when Ben Rudolf had a throw in close to the Las Lomas net. The ball flew through the air and into the net, but was disallowed because no players touched the ball.

A few minutes later the Cougars had a free kick from about 40 yards from the Las Lomas net. Junior Arika Okamitsu kicked the ball towards the corner of the net, only to be blocked by the Las Lomas

goal-keeper.

On the ensuing possession the knights took the ball down the field into the Cougars' zone. Rodrigo De-Silva took a shot from the side. As the ball dribbled towards the net it was tipped by another player and slid past Campolindo keeper, Noel Raine, to give the Knights a 1-0 lead.

After a few chances for both teams, the score entering half-time remained at 1-0 in favor of the Knights.

The second half started out with the Cougars dominating the game. They kept the ball in the Knights' zone and were getting chance after chance to score a goal. Despite all of these chances the Cougars could not get the ball in the net.

The turning point in the game came on a controversial call with 26:00 left in the game. A questionable yellow card for Okamitsu led to Campolindo coach Victor Litvinenko arguing with the referee. This argument led to a red card and ejection for Litvinenko.

The ejection of Litvinenko lit

a fire under the Cougars. "All of the calls against us just gave us a burst of energy," stated senior Phil Choy. Three minutes after the red card, the Cougars had the ball in the Knights' zone. The ball was pushed in deep and given to freshman Jason Kimura. Kimura headed the ball to senior Georgio Tavecchio who headed it into the back of the net to tie the score at 1-1.

With 3:03 left in the game the Cougars had a corner kick. Rudolf kicked the ball towards the net and senior Thibault Deichler headed the ball past the Las Lomas keeper to give the Cougars a 2-1 lead.

With excellent defense and a few great saves from Raine, the Cougars were able to hold off the Knights' final attempts to tie the game.

The Cougars' game plan was the key against Las Lomas. "We closed down their main players, which got them too frustrated to play their best," Choy said. Campolindo hopes that their game plan continues to work in their semi-final match against rival Miramonte on Feb. 20.

### Lamo Varsity Shuts Out Santa Rosa

By Chris Roberts

With the rain pouring down and blowing horizontally from a 25 mph wind, the Lamorinda boys rugby team took the field totally drenched before the initial kickoff in 40 degree weather on Feb. 2. The first few minutes of the pre-season game were sloppy at best as both clubs had a hard time seeing the ball, let alone grabbing it and running with it. That changed quickly just six minutes into the game as Lamo found their rhythm and Evan Schlinkert took a ball from the scrum and ran it in from 10 yards out.

Just seven minutes later, AJ Taylor took an excellent pass from Kyle Young and blew past the Santa Rosa defenders to score the second try of the day at the 13 minute mark. Amazingly Bo Richter hit on the conversion kick into the wind and the score stood at 12-0.

The last try of the first half was a charge by Kyle Young breaking loose as the result of a pass from Charlie Smith at the 17 minute mark. Again Bo Richter hit the conversion into the wind to help the home squad end the half with a 19-0 lead.

As the fans were longing to get home to sit in front of a fire, the Lamo boys charged out of the gates ready to start the second half. A quick score by Grant Hyjer brought the score to 24-0 where the game ended. An unfortunate injury halted the game, and in order to accommodate the remaining matches the game was called.

On Saturday, Feb. 9, Lamorinda RFC remained undefeated with their seventh straight win, a convincing season opening 50-5 domination of a good De La Salle team at Miramonte. On a day with almost perfect weather, the Lamo team played an almost perfect game to stay undefeated this season. Kyle Young, Bo Richter and Peter Kegler all scored twice while Grant! Hyjer, Grey Dixon and Charlie Smith also contributed 5 point tries to spread out the scoring. Bo Richter added six out of nine conversions for 12 points as he demonstrated why he is considered to be one of the best High School



Photos provided

Rugby kickers in the country.

Lamo controlled the ball with pinpoint passes while stretching the De La Salle defense on rush after rush. Lamo's defense was just as powerful as they held De La Salle in check virtually all game only allowing a single 5 point try with three minutes to go in the game. Lamo's defense has been overwhelmingly strong this season and has only allowed one 5-point try in their last three matches while winning by an average scoring margin of 32 points per match.

Lamorinda RFC is composed of local high school athletes from Miramonte, Campolindo, Acalanes, San Ramon Valley, Mt Diablo and Antioch. Their winter-spring season continues Feb. 23 at Piedmont with the full season calendar avail-



able at www.lamorugby.com. Lamo's ultimate goal is to play in the National Championships in Pittsburgh, Penn., in June.

### Victory Vaults Acalanes into Second Round of NCS

By Steven Johns

On Wednesday Feb. 13, the Acalanes girls took the pitch against Las Lomas in the first round of the NCS tournament. The first time these two teams met was on Dec. 12, when the Dons' offense dominated the Las Lomas defense in a 3-1 victory. The second meeting, on Jan. 28, the Las Lomas Knights got their revenge in a 1-0 victory.

This tiebreaker in the first round of the NCS playoffs was a close fought battle in which Acalanes came out on top with a 1-0 win.

During the action packed first half, the Acalanes offense dominated the game. With 32:10 left in the half the Dons had a corner kick. After the inbound senior Amanda Conrad shot header just wide of the Las Lomas goal.

Las Lomas came back quickly with two close misses by Erin Hong and Alex Salgado. The Knights again missed a chance to take a 1-0 lead when sophomore Jacqueline Ow was robbed by Acalanes keeper Erika Rush.

After a quick rush down the field and some great passes, sophomore Cammie Goodman got the ball. With a strong kick, the ball rushed passed Las Lomas goalie Elena Allen and into the back of the net to give the Dons a 1-0 lead.

The rest of the period was full of back and forth action with the Las Lomas defense fending off a barrage of Acalanes shots. Acalanes senior Jane Rhodes just missed two shots at the end of the half.

Despite the many attempts to get the ball to the net, the Knights

could not get off a clean shot. The Dons' defense was able to pressure the Las Lomas forwards enough to avoid giving up any goals. The Dons went into the half still holding on to the 1-0 lead.

The second half was a defensive battle. Neither team was backing down nor could neither team get a clean shot on goal. The Las Lomas Knights were able to have more offensive rushes, but could not get past the stout Acalanes defense.

In the last few minutes of the game the Knights made a last ditch effort to get a goal. Coach Tom Frangoulis even pulled the goal keeper to the middle of the pitch to try and keep the pressure in the Dons' zone. The Knights' best chance came with 3:20 left when senior Kathleen Matthew just missed the net with a strong header.

This victory for Acalanes vaulted them into the second round. Their second round game against number 2 seed Campolindo ended in an overtime battle, with Acalanes advancing to the semi-finals after defeating the Cougars 2-1. The lady Dons (13-9-2) take the pitch against Piedmont High School (20-1-1) for the semi-final match up on Feb. 20.



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