



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.

