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Lamorinda Boys' Volleyball gets Competitive

By Alex Crook

Although volleyball is usually thought of as a girls sport, Lamorinda high schools boast two strong boys' teams, Campolindo and Acalanes. Campolindo has made the post-season the last couple of years.

While the Campolindo boys' team might not live up to the state champion girl's team, the Cougars have an impressive program.

Campolindo is coming off a strong season last year. They went 32-7 overall and a perfect 8-0 in league play. The top-seeded Cougars cruised through the NCS playoffs before losing in the title match in four sets to Sir Francis Drake.

The Cougars returned senior middle blocker Dylan Blackstone. The Cougars lost last year's league MVP, setter Scott Standing. Campolindo's last NCS title was in 2005. Campolindo sits in first place in division II with a 21-5 overall record.

Acalanes had high hopes for a playoff-appearance last year but did not qualify. Acalanes is looking strong for the post-season, sitting in fourth place in division II with a 10-8 overall record.

The Dons returned senior outside hitter Cole Markley, who made first team all-DFAL last year as a junior. Acalanes lost middle hitter Jeff Armstrong.

On April 27, Campolindo wrapped up the DFAL title with a sweep over rival Acalanes in Lafayette.

Despite Blackstone rolling his ankle in the first set, the Cougars remained poised throughout the rest of the match. Senior outside hitter Carl King led the Cougars with 14 kills, while Markley led the Dons with 17 kills.

Currently, the Dons are in second place in DFAL and are coming off a 3-0 sweep of Dougherty Valley on May 4, in which Markley had 20 kills for Acalanes. Campolindo is also fresh off a sweep, this one coming at Alhambra on May 6.

As a reward for their great seasons, both teams are expected to make appearances in this year's NCS playoffs, and Campolindo is expected to be a top seed.

NCS seedings will be on May 15.

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