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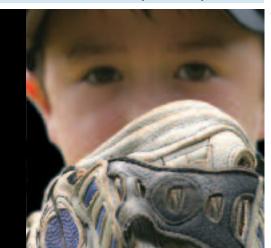
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Fighting for Position

By Scott Wu



From left: Joseph Wang, Drew Wondolowski and Daniel Konstantino

s the regular season of high school boys' soccer finishes up this week, Acalanes (2-4-3 in league), Miramonte (4-3-3), and league leader Campolindo (8-1-1) are reflecting on their seasons and vying for playoff spots. The NCS seeding meeting will take place on Feb. 15.

The Campolindo Cougars, who made it to the NCS semifinals against Dublin last year, have enjoyed a successful season so far. Led by seniors Jeremy Raine and Jacob Buchanan, the Cougars have outscored their opponents 52-18.

Head coach Shane Carney said that his team's chemistry has been the most significant factor to its success. "We've done well this season due to both strong senior leadership and younger talent on the team," said Carney.

With only two games left on the season, Campolindo is in a good position to win the DFAL. The team boasts a slight edge over Dublin in the standings. If they win out, they will take the title.

Despite a relatively young team, the Miramonte Matadors have held their own in league play. Juniors Joseph Wang and Clark Jordan have been key for the Matadors throughout the season.

Head coach Billal Samy stated that while his team may be young, they do not lack toughness or determination. "Our team is lucky to have such a dedicated roster, which we hope can make a difference in the postseason," said Samy. Despite a 4-3-4 record, the Mats are in third

The Acalanes Dons have managed to retain their tenacity despite struggling this season. Like Miramonte, the Dons have a team filled with younger talent. Freshman Drew Wondolowski is one of the underclassmen stars of the team.

Head coach Paul Curtis said that while this season may not have met his expectations, he is excited for the future. "Our confidence has been tested this year, but we will return stronger and more competitive in the future," said Curtis.

On the night of Feb. 6, a cold and windy Friday, the Matadors and Dons met at Acalanes for their last regular season matchups. Early in the game, both teams seemed unable to push the ball deep into their opponent's territory. Miramonte's junior goalie Garrett Johnson made a couple of saves as the first half elapsed, but neither team had any threatening shots on goal.

The second half proved to be much more exciting. Only six minutes into the half, Acalanes sophomore Ian Franklin scored on a rebound that ricocheted around the box after a corner kick. With the rain pouring down, the intensity increased and two yellow cards were given out within a span of the next five minutes. Finally, Miramonte made a series of sharp passes that helped Wang draw a penalty. With fifteen minutes left in the game, Wang drilled his penalty shot into the lower left side of the net as Dons' senior goalie Eric Sirott dove to the right. Despite Acalanes pressure in the last minutes of the

SMC to Face Tough Opponent

By Michael Sakoda



Lauren Nicholson

L team will face BYU in one of its biggest games of the regular season. On Thursday, the Gaels take on the Cougars (19-5, 11-2 WCC) to stay in contention for the WCC title. The game is even more important for Saint Mary's after the team lost to Pacific 61-48 for the second time this season (17-6, 9-3 WCC) on Saturday.

The Gaels (16-7, 9-3 WCC) have only lost consecutive games once this season, and they've followed up their last two losses, Pacific on Jan. 10 and Gonzaga on Jan. 22, with two and three game winning streaks, so Thursday's game should be a battle.

"After a loss, you become focused," said head coach Paul Thomas. "[We] have a tendency to pay more attention to the details of why we lost a game, if we lost because of rebounding, lost because we didn't take good shots, lost because we missed free throws, all of our players are going to pay attention to that detail."

Saturday's game at Pacific gives Thomas' team a few goals to keep in mind: defend the paint, defend the three, and rebound the basketball. Saint Mary's failed to convert a single one of their five 3-point attempts while the Tigers but could jump as high as No. 2 with a win on knocked down 10 in the game. "[They're] just a tough matchup for us," said Thomas. "We, at times, struggle defending the drive, and that's what they do well. And we struggle to defend the kind of post player they have." Kendall Kenvon, Pacific's 6-foot-2 forward, was critical down the stretch during the Tigers' overtime road win at Saint Mary's on Jan. 11, and she played big again Saturday, going for 12 points on four of five shooting, with a game-high 17 rebounds and two blocks.

Photos Tod Fierner

he Saint Mary's women's basketball bound margin is 10 short of their plus-11 season average, and Thomas knows they'll need to be nothing shy of perfect to beat a tough BYU team

> "BYU spreads you out," said Thomas. "[Morgan] Bailey, is strong and physical, tough to guard one-on-one, so if you help down on her, she's good enough to find the open person, and that gets you rotating and helping, and helping the helper, and that's how they're successful offensively.'

> Bailey is averaging just shy of 19 points per game to go with just over 11 rebounds per game, so the Gaels' front court is going to have their hands full on the defensive end, but it's the Gaels' offense that Thomas says will need to step up to come out of the game with a win.

> "They make it tough for you to score," he said. "At times we have scored easily, but overall this year we've had difficulty scoring. We've been efficient, but we've also made some tough shots, and that's going to eventually catch up to us."

> As the regular season winds down in a WCC conference with virtually no separation, the Gaels find themselves in the fourth seed with a 9-3 record (Pacific holds the tie-breaker).

place in the DFAL and are on track to earn a game, Johnson made multiple saves to force the berth in the postseason playoffs.



Eric Sirott

game to end in a draw.



Garret Johnson

The Gaels managed to outrebound Pacific, 38-37, despite Kenyon's efforts, but the one re- Stella Beck

Feb. 12.



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