

Campolindo No. 2 Seed in NorCal Playoffs

By Karl Buscheck



Austin Clarke (24) and Chris Hansen (44) Photo Gint Federas

Campolindo is headed back to the Northern California Division III regional playoffs and the team has some unfinished business.

The squad will be looking to avenge an overtime loss in the NorCal semifinals a season ago and an overtime exit in the finals the year before that.

"They've been on the cusp," said head coach Matt Watson. "Some of these kids have been on varsity since sophomore year. So, they kind of know what this is all about and what all this means. So, they're pretty focused right now."

The Cougars landed the No. 2 seed in this year's edition of the tour-

namment and will have a bye in the opening round of the playoffs. Campolindo will take the floor on March 14 when the team will host the winner of the No. 7 Sacred Heart Cathedral and No. 10 Vanden game.

Campolindo enters the NorCals after losing to Bishop O'Dowd in the NCS semifinals 70-48 on March 4 at Laney College.

"We got the shots that we wanted to. We got good looks and all that, the ball just didn't go in the basket," said Watson of the Cougars' showing against the Oakland powerhouse that checks in as the No. 2 team in the state and the No. 11 team in the nation, per MaxPreps.com. "Some nights the ball goes in the basket and some nights it doesn't."

Senior Chris Hansen, whom Watson described as a "workhorse," led the Cougars with 13 points, while junior Austin Clarke chipped in 10. Before bowing out to the Dragons, Campolindo had stormed through the opening two rounds of NCS.

On Feb. 24, the team topped De Anza 83-55 at home to begin its playoff run after securing the top spot in DFAL with a perfect 12-0 regular season. On Feb. 27, Campolindo beat Albany 65-50 at in Moraga.

With the NCS playoffs now in the rear-view mirror and the NorCals looming, Watson likes the way his team is continuing to battle.

"I feel like the guys are doing a great job because there's quite a few bumps and bruises, but none of them are complaining about it and all of them are ready to go to work when they show up in the gym every day for practice."

Mats, Dons Earn CIF Playoff Berths

... continued from page C1

Miramonte swept the NCS playoffs blasting Del Norte (Crescent City) 80-33 in the first round and followed that up with strong wins over Campolindo 89-36 in the quarterfinals and Moreau Catholic 80-33 in the semifinals before defeating Bishop O'Dowd (Oakland) 72-66 for the title.

Sopak has challenged his team all year with a grueling schedule, and the team is playing well headed into NorCals.

Acalanes (22-7) also qualified for the CIF playoffs after advancing to the semifinals of the NCS Division III playoffs.

"This is pretty awesome. I am proud of the girls, and it is going to be exciting," said head coach Chad Wellon.

In the NCS tournament, the Dons

crushed San Rafael 65-21 in their first round match. In the quarterfinals, they whipped Encinal 78-61, before falling in the semifinals to O'Dowd 74-35.

With such a strong showing in the NCS playoffs, the Dons were awarded a No. 4 seed in a 12-team division and a first-round bye. Acalanes will host the winner of the Shasta/Florin matchup played on March 11.

"After seeing both Miramonte and Dublin win sectional championships, I realized how tough the DFAL is," Wellon explained. "Hopefully playing against both of those teams twice along with a high caliber team like Bishop O'Dowd will be good preparation for the state tournament."

The Dons' CIF run tips off at 6 p.m. on March 14

Lamorinda Wins Tourney

Submitted by Matt Delaney



Front row, from left: Trevor Haskins, Stefan Foley, Zach White, bat girl Shannon Keighran, D. Orta, Sam Heyman, Davis Diaz, Carson Newman; back row: coach Adrian Diaz, Jake Delaney, Patrick Keigran, Tommy Splaine, Arthur Soto, coach Jim Keighran,

The Lamorinda Knight's 12 year old team won the 13U Open Division at the NCTB Winter Showdown in Twin Creeks on Feb. 28-March 1.

Lamorinda finished with a record of 4-0 and outscored opponents 48-22. Lamorinda had to beat the SC

Rebels from Gilroy in both pool play and in the championship game. They won 12-8 in both games.

Arthur Soto and Jake Delaney were both awarded co-MVPs of the tournament. Davis Diaz and Tommy Splaine led the team nine hits each.

Runners Club Wins Medal

Submitted by Diane Bachelor



From left: coach Diane Batchelor, Jaiirus Blaj, Isaac Brent, Derek Kotarba, Aubriana Musha, Andrew Owens, Harrison Seymour, Ian Ho, Ellie Guthrie and coach David Kohls Photo provided

A team of eight Stanley Middle School students representing the Rain or Sunshine Running Club were presented with the Team Competition trophy at the annual Napa Valley 5K Race held on March 1. The award was given to the team with the fastest four runners and included adult and youth teams.

The Rain or Sunshine Running Club is coached by Diane Bachelor and David Kohls of Lafayette. The club of 20 Stanley students trained for eight weeks building their speed,

strength and endurance. "Coach David and I are extremely proud of our team," said Bachelor. "Their results were outstanding and demonstrates that hard work and dedication has its rewards!"

Seventh grader Andrew Owens was Rain or Sunshine's top scorer, placing 12th overall out of over 430 runners with a time of 20:55. Other top finishers were sixth grader Derek Kotarba, seventh grader Harrison Seymour and eighth grader Isaac Brent.

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorinda weekly.com

(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)



Bay Area Greenscapes, Inc.
Synthetic Grass - Installation - Landscaping

WATER SMART LANDSCAPING

Free Estimates

- Synthetic/Artificial Grass
- Design & Consult
- New Landscape Installation
- Re-Landscape & Remodel
- Paver Walkways & Driveways
- Hardscape

FREE DEMOLITION WITH INSTALL

A General landscaping Contractor
Locally Owned & Operated
Lic. #938445

925-819-2100

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.BAYAREAGREENSCAPES.COM

Do you feel like you are throwing your money away at the dealership service department?



You don't have to pay dealer prices while under warranty.

Pre-paid service contracts eliminate choice & convenience.

Choose a local facility that offers one stop convenience and service you can trust!

Orinda Motors Inc.

Express Oil Change & Tire Center • Orinda Auto Rental
Flying A Gasoline • Orinda Auto Detail & Car Wash



63 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563
(925) 254-2012



Rated the highest quality for over 10 years by Diamond Certified