

LAMORINDA SPORTS & SCHOOLS

Cougars and Mats are Champions

Lamorinda fares well in NCS Baseball Playoffs

By Alex Crook



Lamorinda's Campolindo and Miramonte won the NCS titles in their respective divisions. Photo Doug Kohen

Starting on May 26, the Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte varsity baseball teams began their respective runs through the NCS playoffs. Campolindo took the second seed in Division II while the Dons and Matadors took the seven and one seeds respectively, both in Division III.

Acalanes started its run on the 26th, heading up to Arcata to take on the tenth seeded Arcata Tigers, only to lose 7-4. With the loss, Acalanes was eliminated. Despite pulling out to a 1-0 lead early in the top of the first, the Dons could not hold on and Arcata answered with three runs in the bottom of the second. "It was a rough game for us with the travel up there and the rough weather. Despite some pretty bad play at times in the game, I feel like we still competed

hard until the end and gave ourselves the best chance to win. Unfortunately we just couldn't pull it out in the end" said senior pitcher John Treat. Treat went 5 and 2/3 innings, and recorded four strikeouts in the losing effort. Acalanes ends its season at 15-10, 5-7 in DFAL play.

Defending NCS champions Miramonte felt confident going into this year's playoffs, and were awarded the top seed in division III. Their seed gave them a bye until Friday, May 28th. The Mats completely dismantled the ninth-seeded Novato at home in a blow-out win, 20-3. A week later, on June 2nd, the red-hot Matadors faced fourth-seeded Sir Francis Drake, also at Miramonte, where the Mats handled the Pirates 5-2.

"I think we're feeling pretty

good for Saturday...we're coming off two big wins and we haven't been making very many mistakes in the field so hopefully we can keep that going and try to make it two years in a row," remarked Matador senior catcher and captain Kevin Paulsen.

The win gave the Matadors a spot in the NCS final at Saint Mary's College on June 5th against second-seeded El Cerrito at Luis Guisto Field.

In the title game, the two teams battled hard, with both defenses shining. There was no score at the end of the game and it was called after the bottom of the tenth. It was continued until Monday, June 7th at 4:00. At press time word came in that, after 15 innings, Miramonte emerged victorious 3-0 to take the title.

The cross-town rivals and DFAL champions, Campolindo Cougars, were given the number two seed in Division II. Coach Max Luckhurst's Cougars opened the playoffs at home on Wednesday, May 26th, after it was postponed due to rain the day before. On that day, Campolindo came back from down 3-1 to take down 15th Ukiah, 5-3. Sophomore utility/pitcher James Marvel's two-run homer put the Cougars up, 5-3. Just two days later on May 28th, the Cougars shut out seventh-seeded Rancho Cotate 4-0 in front of their home crowd. The win set the Cougars up for a date with third-seeded Redwood on June 2nd.

"We are all confident in each other that we can get the job done, I think if we take care of the little things and keep an aggressive approach good things will happen," commented Campo senior infielder Michael Kathan on his team's performance thus far.

Kathan was right, as Campo went on to beat Redwood 6-2 on a big third inning for the Cougars, plus a solo homerun by senior first baseman Chris Killeen in the seventh inning. The win put the Cougars in the June 5th NCS title game at Saint Mary's against fourth seeded Alameda.

In the final, the Cougars and Hornets played hard. Starting in the second inning, Campolindo completely took over the game, en route to a 7-0 win over Alameda to capture the NCS title. Sophomore pitcher James Marvel put on an amazing performance, yielding only one hit for Campo.



Michael Mann (15) of Miramonte tags out an El Cerrito player as he tries to get back on base. Photo Jordan Fong

Acalanes Softball Reaches NCS Semi-Finals

Campolindo also plays in post-season

By Guy Dotan



Dons Hana Wilbur



Cougar pitcher Photo Doug Kohen

Acalanes and Campolindo finished the season in second and third place, respectively, in the DFAL softball standings and surged into the NCS tournament ready to prove themselves to all of Northern California.

Campolindo was a fifth seed in the Division II bracket and was matched up against a strong Clayton Valley team at the twelve-seed. Acalanes was also a fifth seed but in the Division III tournament, and faced off against 12th seed Encinal.

The first round of NCS was played on Wednesday, May 26th, at home for both teams. Campo's game against Clayton Valley did not go well. By the end of the third inning Campo was down by five runs. Two runs by the Cougars in the fourth brought the game in reach, as freshman pitcher Shelley Suhling settled down and held the opponents scoreless until the seventh and last inning. Clayton Valley exploded for five runs in that inning, bringing the Cougars to a rough 10-2 deficit with one last chance to score. However, in the bottom of the seventh the Cougars recognized the intensity of the situation and rallied. Thanks to RBIs by seniors Taylor Gatti and Rose Fruci as well as freshman Mia

Monopoli, the Cougars brought the score to within four runs. But it was too little, too late as the Cougars fell short 10-6. Reflecting on the loss, senior shortstop Joanne Lim said, "We had some mental errors on the field that really hurt us and overall Clayton Valley just out hit us throughout the game. Although we did fight back hard during the last inning, it wasn't enough. It was definitely a tough loss."

The Dons got on the scoreboard early scoring with senior pitcher Hannah Wilbur knocking in a run in the first inning. Encinal retaliated in the sixth inning with a single run to tie the game up at 1-1. However, for the rest of the game Wilbur went lights out and didn't allow a single run. She struck out Encinal batters left and right. With the score still knotted up, the game went into extra innings and finally in the bottom of the 11th, with the bases loaded, senior infielder Tara Wilson walked in the game winning run giving the Dons a 2-1 victory. Wilbur finished the game with a complete 11 innings, five hits, one earned run, and an impressive 16 strikeouts.

With Acalanes moving on to the next round, the Dons prepared

to face off against fourth seed Albany. This game went almost identically to the previous game, as Wilbur continued to dominate opposing batters giving up only one earned run. An RBI single by sophomore centerfielder Sienna Del Ponte tied the game for the Dons in the sixth inning. Once again, the game went into extra innings. In the top of the ninth, Wilson drove home freshman Natalie Goepel with the game winning run. Stellar defensive play by the Dons, in the bottom of the inning, preserved the victory and sent them into the NCS semifinals. Wilbur once again threw a complete game and had 10 strikeouts.

In the semifinals, the Dons played a powerhouse first-seeded Bishop O'Dowd squad who held the Dons to only two hits throughout the entire game. O'Dowd won 4-0 and eliminated the Dons from NCS.

Regardless both Campolindo and Acalanes softball had very successful years and look forward to whatever the future brings. Lim summarized the season by claiming: "Overall, I think we had a great season and I love my teammates with all my heart."

Send sports stories and ideas to: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

JAMIE WESTDAL
FATHER'S DAY
75% OFF SALE

\$88
\$350 VALUE PHOTO SITTING

MONTH OF JUNE

WWW.JAMIEWESTDAL.COM
(925) 254-9689

Dad Deserves to Relax

We'll put Dad at ease with stress-melting massage and spa services.

Father's Day R&R Special
50min Swedish or Deep Tissue Massage: **two for \$99***

*2nd massage must be used within 30 days and by the same person. Exp. 7/31/10

3589 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
925-299-8877

Open Daily 10am-7pm, except Thanksgiving, X'mas, and New Year Day

MOTORAMA
world of wheels

Attention Dads, Moms & Kids!
Treat Dad on Father's Day to a family fun car show!

Contact us if you are interested in showing your prized vehicle, or want to participate as a vendor or a sponsor. For more information, visit our website: <http://www.motorama.us> info@motorama.us 925-283-MOTO (6686)

Sponsored by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club