

## High School Lacrosse at Mid-Season

Boys' top spot up for grabs

By Marissa Harnett



Jack Mariani

Photos Gint Federas

As high school boys' lacrosse nears the mid-season point, all three Lamorinda teams sit in close contention. Acalanes has the slight edge with a 4-1 league record (7-1 overall). Campolindo and Miramonte are tied in the DFAL standings at 3-2. Overall Campo has earned a few more wins than the Mats, notching a 7-3 record to Miramonte's 4-4. As in recent years, Acalanes occupies a high position in the standings. However, this year the reigning DFAL and NCS champion gave up its undefeated status and top spot in the DFAL to the very strong Las Lomas.

The Dons faced Las Lomas on March 25 and walked away with a 7-9 loss. "Las Lomas was focused and we were lacking," said head coach Brent Ringwood.

Despite a tough loss, Ringwood said it was a lesson his team needed. "As much as I don't like to lose league games, it was the wake up call our guys needed to understand that no one was going to crown them anything just because they think you are good," Ringwood explained.

After the loss, the team learned that everyone is looking to dethrone the reigning champions. "There is a target on our back and we are going to get the other team's best every game. The kids know that and I think they respond well to the expectations," he said.

While Ringwood recognizes that focus has been a challenge, he credits depth of talent for their successes. "We have multiple players at every position that are capable of playing the biggest minutes of the toughest games," he noted. "No one is looking to just get their stats. Instead, they are much more focused on getting the win."

While Acalanes and Las Lomas vie for the

top spot, Campo and Miramonte compete for the third spot.

Just before spring break, Miramonte hosted Campo in their first meeting of the season. The Cougars came out on top, taking the game 11-5.

Campo won the first face-off gaining possession and control at the outset. They deftly passed the ball around the goal, aiming to spread out and tire the defense, but Miramonte forced a turn-over which resulted in the first goal and only lead of the game for the Mats. Campo answered back, took the lead, and never let go. Miramonte managed to keep the Cougars to a one goal differential up to halftime.

After the half, Campo kept winning possession and spread the score, netting six more goals to Miramonte's one.

"They controlled every aspect of the game," said Miramonte head coach David Winford. "Coach Frey did a great job of having his team ready. In the second half, we couldn't keep the ball on offense and Campo capitalized on that by scoring more points than we did," he added.

Despite the loss to Campo, Winford is pleased with how the team is developing so far this season. Seniors Matt Moran, Patrick Swan, Jackson Doyle and Jack Murphy have played a vital role.

"Our team leaders have done a fine job of setting high expectations for the team and have helped the new varsity players to adapt to the varsity level of play," Winford explained.

On April 15, Miramonte travels to Acalanes to complete first round play. Teams will then get another chance to defeat their rivals when the second round of league games begins on April 18.



Will Rack looks down field.



Senior Patrick Swan has been a leader for the Mats.

## Softball Mid-Season Report

By Hannah Raslan



Alex Grant-Hudd has been solid for the Dons.

Photos Gint Federas

As spring sets in, softball players from Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte grab their gloves and hit the field. In the 2014 softball season, the Lamorinda teams are made up of a mix of experienced players and brand new athletes, creating an exciting atmosphere for inter-district competition.

The Cougars have had an interesting start to their season – with a unique combination of elite players and novice athletes – but they put in a lot of effort to create a cohesive team.

"The girls are working hard," said Campolindo head coach Bill McLaughlin. "We have a lot of new girls on the team. A few girls have not played softball before, so we are just going over fundamentals and getting ready for the second half of the season."

So far, the Cougars are 1-3 in DFAL. They triumphed over Las Lomas in their first league game of the year, winning 14-4. But they lost to Alhambra, Dougherty Valley, and Acalanes.

Win or lose, sophomore Zoe Marrot, juniors Danielle Thomas and Charlotte McNeil, and senior Kristen Ghamghami have all been vital to the Cougars' success this season, leading the team on and off the field. The girls are all returning starters. McLaughlin hopes that with these players, the team will be successful.

"Hopefully we can get some of these key players in the right position, make a run in the second half [of the season] and make NCS play-offs," said McLaughlin, who looks forward to showcasing his team's abilities on April 10 when they play at home against Dublin. "At this point, every game is big."

Acalanes hopes to continue winning to finish the season strong. The Dons are 2-1 in league, defeating Campolindo and Dublin by scores of 6-2 and 6-4 respectively, but losing to Alhambra with a final score of 21-1.

"Things are going better than I expected. The team improves every game," said Acalanes' head coach Victor Silva. "It is a young team and I didn't think we would be this good this fast."

Sophomores Alex Grant-Hudd and Kaitlyn Johnson, junior Terri Taylor, and senior Madison Maderious have been integral to the team's success. Shortstop Maderious and first baseman Johnson were both All-DFAL players last year, racking up multiple homeruns this season, while Grant-Hudd and Taylor show strength in pitching. The Dons are optimistic that the rest of the season will go smoothly, as they get ready to face Las Lomas and Miramonte in upcoming weeks.

Miramonte is simply looking to improve their team this season, taking things one game at a time. With a new coach and a talented group of girls, the Mats are ready for action.

"As a new coach my goals for the season are to improve the image of the sport at the school and in the area by being more competitive in league games and impressing the importance of dedication and hard work on my team," said head coach Emily Hunt.

The Mats are 1-2, defeating Las Lomas 10-1, but losing to Dougherty Valley 6-0 and Alhambra 14-0. Key contributors for the Mats are junior Caitlin Kozicki, who leads the team, sophomore Amanda DeVecchi, one of the team's best hitters, and senior Gina Pagan, a solid pitcher.

"We are looking forward to playing Campolindo and Acalanes for the first time this year and competing against them better than we have in years past," said Hunt. "[NCS] would be a great goal for the girls to have but right now we are just focusing on improving as individual players and as a team."



Charlotte McNeil, a returning starter, has been a leader for the Cougars.