

# Individual and team success for Lamorinda softball



Photo Jon Kingdon

**Esa Orman (22) being met by her teammates after hitting a home run against Las Lomas**  
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Schott is looking for the team to keep improving. "We're always striving to play our best," Schott said. "Our players are putting in the work and are preparing for the games properly, and we've been getting the good results. We're going to maximize what we have and play the best we can and hopefully the results will be there."

### ACALANES

With five freshmen, six seniors and juniors, and a couple of sopho-

mores, Acalanes has a young team with a 7-4 record. "We have some other freshman that are really pushing the upper-classmen," Head Coach Victor Silva said. "Just about all of our players compete all year round and they really want to be here. They're working hard and I'm really proud of our team."

The Don's offense has shown steady improvement, with the team now batting a combined .289. The leading batters are co-captain Emme Young, (.516), co-captain Esa Or-

man (.441), Ella Greenfield (.429), Santana Tamayo (.310) and Lauren Foster (.333). "We're still looking for more depth in our batting order," Silva said. "Lauren has recently come back from an injury and has been learning to be a slap hitter."

The pitching staff relies on two pitchers: sophomore Maya Shoenhair and senior Lana Cerejo. "They have both been pitching well but we need to cut down on the walks," Silva said. "Esa is our catcher and is backed up by Ella and Santana if

necessary."

The infield is led Riley Zirkel at short, Avery Robb at second, Tamaya at third, and Nicole Parlett at first. "They've all been doing a great job and have shown the ability to convert the double play," Silva said. "Our defense has been there every game and that's something we've really been able to hang our hat on."

The outfield is led by Young in center, co-captain Lulu Levy in right along with freshman Vanesse Choi, and sophomore Lauren Foster.

"They have all been doing a good job," Silva said.

Silva has a lot of confidence in the team going into the second half of the season: "We're working our butts off in practice and we're going to be okay. I'm excited about this team and for the future as well with so many young players."

### CAMPOLINDO

With only one senior on the roster, the Campolindo softball team is a work in progress. "We're a relatively young team," Head Coach Saul Tallarico said. "We do have nine juniors and a strong freshman group with our starting battery both

freshmen, so we've had some growing pains."

It's been feast or famine with the team's batting. Freshman Paige Williams (.562), senior Kylie Dowdall (.462), juniors Lucy Wilson (.389) and Clara Hwang (.308), and sophomore Cassidy Mintz (.278) have been leading the offense with a number of other batters still looking to elevate their averages.

"Our bats have been a little quiet at the start of the year, but I'm confident that it will be turned around," Tallarico said. "Paige has been doing a great job in batting in the three-hole. Clara was a top hitter last year and has missed some time with an injury. Kylie is an aggressive hitter, batting cleanup and playing a great first base and she is the vocal leader on the team."

Tallarico's plan to improve the team's batting is simple: "It's just a matter of repetition with live pitching and the pitching machine. We've had some better at bats where we hit the ball that turned into outs and I'm counting on our bats coming around for sure."

The defense has been

setback a bit due to various injuries. "We have a number of players in new positions that are becoming more familiar with their positions, and seeing it becoming second nature to where they're playing," Tallarico said. "Once we can get a constant lineup out there, the flow will be much more positive."

The infield is set with Dowdell at first base, Wilson at short, Maya Hammerman at second, and Cassidy Mintz at third. Williams and Wilson are the team's pitches, and freshman Nikki Sturtz is the team's catcher.

"Nicki had never played catcher and she's learning on the fly and doing a great job," Tallarico said. "The outfield is in good hands with Hwang in centerfield, covering a lot of ground with a strong arm, and Peyton Tallarico is playing a solid right field for us."

Dowdell, Wilson, Hwang, and Williams are the team's co-captains. "They've all been doing a great job and even though Paige is only a freshman, she has been great, leading by example, diving for balls, clapping and getting on everybody."

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