



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Great Defense Can't Save Cougars from Defeat

By Steven Johns



Alex Mangels (21)

Photo Gavin Schlissel

On Wednesday, Jan. 30 the Las Lomas Knights took the pitch against the Campolindo Cougars – a match that helped define the elite teams in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League. After a scoreless first half, the Knights went on to beat the Cougars 2-0 on the cold night.

With a temperature of 43 degrees at the start of the match, the Cougars and the Knights battled back and forth in the first half. With both defenses not backing down, the first 40 minutes demonstrated the great defensive abilities of both teams.

With 21 minutes and 20 seconds left in the first half senior Ryan Kimura made a key block to keep the match tied at 0-0. The Cougars almost took a 1-0 lead when senior Parker Wells had a clear shot at goal with only 2 minutes and 35 seconds left in the first half. The shot went high, and the Knights avoided giving up a goal at the end of the half.

The second half started off much like the first. Good defenses prevailed over the offenses and the score remained 0-0 for a while. With both goalkeepers making save after

save, the game looked to stay tied at 0-0.

The turning point in the game was when the Las Lomas Knights had a corner kick with 26 minutes and 30 seconds left in the game. A quick pass and a beautiful shot put the Knights on top 1-0.

From this point on the Knights dominated the rest of the game. The Cougar offense could not get anything going and the Las Lomas offense could not be stopped. After another terrific goal the match was all but over with only 9 minutes left.

While the Knights played very well, they had a distinct advantage. The Cougars were missing six starters. Five of the six missing players were singing in a school choir concert. Of the five in choir included the starting goalkeeper Noel Raine, who has had seven shutouts this season. Even more crippling than the five choir members was the absence of the team's leading scorer, senior Georgio Tavecchio. Tavecchio is out with an injured knee.

"We played well with what we had" stated senior Philip Choy. "Having three

other players besides the 11 on the field for a game does not give you very many options." By the end of the game the starters were beginning to become tired, but had to continue due to the lack of substitutes.

This big victory for Las Lomas gives them a chance to finish first in DFAL. Now they find themselves only 2.5 games behind the Miramonte Matadors. With three games left the Knights have a slight chance to reach first.

The Cougars are also 2.5 games back with three games left but are in fourth in DFAL. To finish first the Cougars would need some help from the three teams ahead of them.



Jason Kimura (19)

Photo Gavin Schlissel



Alika Okamitsu (16), Angelo Braun (28)

Photo Gavin Schlissel

New Men's Basketball Program

Kicks off at Joaquin Moraga

By Jennifer Wake

Players from throughout Lamorinda met at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate on Jan. 19 to kick off the start of the new Men's Basketball Program. Sponsored by the Town of Moraga, the program is open on Saturdays from 7 to 10 p.m. for local residents ages 18 and older.

Currently an open gym format, the Men's Basketball Director Gerald De Venuta hopes to build the program into a year-round league and expand the age categories to include a 35 and older group.

Nearly 15 players showed up on the first night of play,

and De Venuta expects the numbers to increase as word spreads about the program. "We're averaging about 12 to 15 players on the weekends," he said. "January is a tough month. It's raining, people are working extra hours. In March, hopefully we'll add Thursday nights, too."

De Venuta has overseen similar programs in other cities and states for the past eight years, running a successful basketball program for the past five years in New Jersey.

Although the program has no various competitive levels, De Venuta plans to build

the program to be more competitive, including playoffs once they start a league. For now, anybody 18 and older can play.

"Right now, it's just about everybody coming out and having fun," he said.

Cost to play is \$5 per player/per night. Starting the week of March 10, Moraga will begin its first official Spring Men's 5-on-5 League.

For more information, you can contact De Venuta at (925) 817-8429 or the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department at (925) 888-7045.



Men's Basketball Director Gerald De Venuta in yellow

Photo Andy Scheck

Campo Moves Ahead

Against Minutemen

By Conrad Bassett

After their double-digit win over a tough Miramonte game earlier in the week, the Campolindo boy's basketball team was very wary of a let-down... something they could ill-afford against a solid Concord High School team that had not lost a game by more than seven points all year and sported a 14-6 record.

For one period, the Minutemen held their own against the Cougars before ultimately falling 71-50. Concord (14-7, 3-6 DFAL) scored first and led by 7-6 before Campolindo (15-6, 8-1 DFAL) pulled ahead on the first of four Will Shields three-pointers and were never headed again though Concord did have it tied at 14 after the first.

In the second, Campo outscored Concord 22-13 behind Jack Trotter who scored 13 of his game high 25 points. Tre Demps scored seven in the period to keep Concord within striking distance.



Concord's Andrew Corby opened the 2nd half with a basket and the lead was seven but Shields then hit back-to-back threes and Chris Dyer scored twice to lead the Cougars 17-2 run that eventually led to a 59-40 lead after three periods. Jamie Fox, Tom Wraith, and Pat Wirth all scored three points in the period.

In the final stanza, the Cougars maintained their lead with Brian Sanders scoring twice from the field and Dyer added a three.

Trotter finished with another double-double and Shields and Dyer each added 15. Dyer added six assists.

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