

Boys' Basketball Make State Title Run

By Michael Sakoda



Luke Hoyle

Photos Gint Federas



Ray Clark

Lamorinda's seniors were huge for their schools during an exciting stretch of games in the CIF Tournament.

Campolindo (23-8, 11-1 DFAL) advanced to the NorCal semifinals, beating Vanden 96-64 on March 15 before being ousted 72-68 by Archbishop Riordan in an overtime thriller on March 18.

Campo's offense clicked against Vanden as four players scored in double figures—seniors Justin Dunn (27 points, 7 rebounds), Luke Hoyle (16 points) and Andrew Zolintakis (12 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists), and junior Chris Hansen (11 points, 6 rebounds, 8 blocks).

Just three days later, the shots weren't

falling against Riordan. The Cougars trailed 35-41 entering the final quarter. However, Campo went on a 12-3 run, capturing a 49-44 lead with less than five minutes to play.

With four seconds left, Zolintakis was intentionally fouled while shooting a three, giving him free throws, and more importantly, giving Campo the ball. The senior went 2/3 from the line, and knocked down a shot over the hands of three Riordan defenders, sending the game into overtime.

The Cougars lost momentum in the overtime period, and Riordan edged Campo 72-68. Zolintakis was remarkable, scoring 32 of his 38 in the second half and overtime. Chris Hansen



Matt Thomas

added 12 points, 9 rebounds, and 2 blocks to pace the Cougars.

"This game was tough ... our worst offensive output, shooting percentage-wise, of the season," said head coach Matt Watson. "But what these guys have accomplished has been impressive ... definitely a special team."

Campo will lose eight players—Zolintakis, Dunn, Hoyle, Isaac Christian, Andrew Cassidy, Walter Brennan, Anderson Clarke and Ryan Smith—to graduation.

Miramonte (18-13, 6-6 DFAL) stole two games on the road, at Fairfield 74-70 on March 12, and at Burlingame 78-76 on March 15, advancing to the NorCal semifinals before being

eliminated 70-61 at Drake a week ago.

The Mats came back from three 10-point deficits, and cut Drake's lead to 56-60 with under two minutes to play, but they never made it over the hump.

"I think we were just too worn mentally from being on the road for so long," said head coach Drew McDonald. "We played our best basketball down the stretch ... and I'm proud of the way our guys coursed out this season."

Miramonte will graduate five players, Joey Goodreault, Scott Rein, Connor Wong, Ray Clark and Drew Anderson, who averaged 31.6 points, 18.3 rebounds per game during the CIF run.

Both Anderson and Goodreault have made their mark in Miramonte school history. In the history of the basketball program, a player has only scored 31 or more points in 25 occasions. "Drew has a half dozen of those himself," said McDonald. "And Goodreault will be a leader in 3-point field goals made as well as assists."

Acalanes (17-13, 5-7 DFAL) was upended in the opening round by Christian Brothers 60-46 on March 12.

Trailing 28-22 early in the third quarter, the Dons, led by Buster Souza (15 points, 15 rebounds), went on an 8-2 run, tying the score as the period expired. But the Dons struggled to get their offense going in the fourth. They were outscored 23-9 in the final eight minutes.

"The game turned quickly," said coach, Bill Powers. "They were hungrier and we didn't match their effort."

The 17 wins Acalanes notched this year is a marked improvement from their eight wins a season ago, and Powers credits his players for the growth.

"The guys bought in to what we were trying to do," he said. "They were starving for direction ... put in the work and improved."

Acalanes graduates six players including standouts Souza and Matt Thomas as well as Kyle Kinnear, Ross Teichman, and Zack Kisner.

SMC in WNIT for Fifth Year in Row

By Caitlin Mitchell



Jackie Nared

Photos Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's basketball qualified for the Women's National Invitation Tournament and earned a first round win at home against Bakersfield.

The Gaels (23-9) faced the Roadrunners on March 21. SMC found themselves down 13-4 early, but they responded with a 20-3 run to take the lead. Bakersfield opened the second half hot to build a lead. The Gaels caught back up to tie it at 55 all with seven minutes to play. They took the lead and never looked back.

SMC was led by senior Jackie Nared, who had a game-high 27 points and 11 rebounds. Senior forward Danielle Mauldin added her 10 points and 12 rebounds for her 24th double-double of the year. Senior guard Kate Gaze added 10 points and five assists.

They advanced to face UTEP in Texas on March 24 after the press deadline. Follow @LamorindaSports for score reports and tournament updates.



Danielle Mauldin

Gaels Reach Second Round of NIT

By Caitlin Mitchell



Stephen Holt

Photo Gint Federas

Saint Mary's men's basketball team struggled with consistency during their NIT run. The Gaels (23-12) qualified as a No. 4 seed. They came from behind to beat No. 5 Utah in the first round and jumped to an early lead in the second round against No. 1 Minnesota but could not hold on for the win.

On March 18 against Utah, Saint Mary's found themselves down as many as 13 in the first half. In the second half, they battled back behind baskets by senior center Matt Hodgson to cut the deficit to 44-59 with eight minutes to go. In the midst of the Gaels' come back run, senior guard Stephen Holt was charged with an offensive foul—his fifth of the game. Averaging 37 minutes a game, a WCC best, an emotional

Holt was forced to sit with a little over five minutes to play.

Despite losing Holt, the Gaels went on a 13-0 run to take the lead and the game, 70-58. Senior guard James Walker III led the team with 23 points, tying a career high. Holt had 15 points.

With the win, Saint Mary's advanced to take on the Gophers on March 23. Instead of finding themselves down early, the Gaels jumped to an early 14-0 lead. Minnesota responded with a 15-2 run. The Gaels were up 26-22 at halftime, but the Gophers took the lead and eventually hung on for the 63-55 win.

Holt put up 24 points in the game, his last as a Gael.

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