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## SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

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## Lamorinda Tennis Teams have **Rivalry Matches Tough for Mats** Sights Set on NCS Tournament Campo, Acalanes face off in DFAL finals

By Michael Sakoda

Chad Johnson completed an 80-yard touchdown.

10-2 in rivalry games as they continued to struggle with turnovers and penalties. On Oct. 24, the Mats fell to Acalanes (7-2, 4-1 DFAL) 35-28 despite mounting a late-game comeback. A week later, the team fell to Campolindo 49-12.

On their second drive of the game, Miramonte had a first and goal from the 5-yard line, but a false start pushed them back to the 10. On the next snap, junior Sutter Lindberg's pass was picked off by junior Ryan Leamy who took it all the way back to the Miramonte 20-yard line.

"It was really upsetting that we drove down there, had first and goal, then had a snap infraction, moved back and threw the interception," said Miramonte head coach Jack Schram. "But the one thing we do good is shoot ourselves in the foot."

From there, the teams traded blows, and Miramonte tied the score, 14-14, with DFAL) 49-12. only 29.2 seconds left in the first half. After a touchback on the ensuing kickoff, Acalanes had the ball at their own 20-yard line. On first down, backup quarterback Jake Berry hit Chad Johnson on a fade route. Johnson broke a tackle, and took it 80 yards for the touchdown, leaving it 21-14 at the half.

Acalanes scored 14 unanswered to en the second half but Miramonte Clayton Stehr for a 35-yard touchdown with 3:11 left to play. Lindberg then ran in an 18-yard touchdown on the Mats' next drive, cutting the Dons' lead to 35-28 with 53 seconds on the clock.

**Photo Gint Federas** iramonte (2-7, 1-4 DFAL) went tempt had no chance, and the Dons were able to run out the clock.

> "We fought back, but really we didn't give ourselves a chance," said Schram. "That's pretty much how our season has gone."

Junior Nathan Edwards finished with 109 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries for Acalanes, while Stehr led the way for Miramonte, running for 112 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries and adding seven receptions for 158 yards and another touchdown.

"Obviously we're happy with the outcome, but we need to tackle better," said Acalanes head coach Mike Ivankovich. "We left so many sacks on the field, and we didn't do a good job tackling (Stehr). Definitely something to work on."

On Oct. 31, Miramonte was trounced by undefeated Campolindo (9-0, 5-0

The Cougars scored first and never trailed in the game. It was another tough outing for the Mats who had three giveaways (two lost fumbles, interception). Campolindo running back Nick Fadelli had another strong outing, finishing the game with 143 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries.

"Our only fear with (Fadelli) is that 're counting on him too much," said threatened late as Lindberg found junior head coach Kevin Macy. "We don't get too dependent on him, especially since we have other weapons, but he's so darn good we're getting a little too comfortable counting on him to be consistent." Campolindo hosts Acalanes Friday, On the kickoff, Miramonte appeared Nov. 7 while Miramonte travels to Dublin to wrap up the regular season.

Campo clinches third, Miramonte ties for first in DFAL **By Spencer Silva** 





or the second time in a month, the Campolindo Cougars (12-5 overall, 8-4 DFAL) scratched out a 5-4 victory over their rival, the Acalanes Dons (3-16 overall, 3-10 DFAL). Last Thursday, Oct. 30, the Dons were ready to play spoiler to Campo's prospects of securing lone possession of third place in the DFAL.

Dons' head coach Ellie Kahn recalled the last match, "We were competitive last time we played them. We won four matches."

Acalanes No. 1 singles player Melissa Van Pell did her part, dispatching of Hannah Ross in a hard-fought match in straight sets 6-4, 6-3. The two met earlier last month, although it was Ross who won in the previous meeting. Behind Van Pell's strong showing, along with senior Tara Barabi, Acalanes led 4-2 heading into the doubles matches. The Cougars, however, rallied to sweep the doubles matches and staked their claim on third place.

This was no coincidence as Campo coach Steve Robinson put it, "One of our biggest strengths is our depth. We're strong all the way through our doubles teams."

After winning the DFAL in 2012, the Cougars have been in rebuilding mode the last few seasons. They've exceeded expectations, and with a third place finish in the DFAL, they should be rewarded with a low-seed berth in the NCS tournament. Coach Robinson credits his girls' success to their strong sense of companionship and humility. "We pride ourselves on winning with grace and losing with grace. Top to bottom, everyone is happy where they stand." Some of the key ingredients to Campo's success have been the transfer of Zoe Schneider from Miramonte. She's been versatile, playing both singles and doubles. The Cougars were also able to recruit Eva Spindler, who switched from volleyball to tennis this season. She's a quick study, already ascending to the No. 2 singles spot on the roster.



Photos Gint Federas

It was a mostly disappointing season for the Dons who were a surprise contender in 2013. A number of instances, including two of their best players moving out of town - sisters, no less - spelled trouble. There are glimmers of hope, however, as Van Pell and No. 2 singles player, freshman Sasha Schtein, will both return to anchor the roster in 2015. Schtein showed her big promise Thursday, rallying from an 0-6 first set loss to beat Spindler in a third-set tiebreaker. Coach Kahn said the team prides itself on strong chemistry and sportsmanship, something apparent in the signs scattered across the facility's fences in honor of the team's graduating seniors.

The local powerhouse during the regular season was the Miramonte Mats (17-4 overall, 11-1 DFAL) who were recently crowned co-champions of the DFAL with rival Dougherty Valley. The Mats aren't guaranteed a spot in the NCS tournament, however, as DV managed to "win" the league, technically, by a two-set tiebreaker. Still, they should be rewarded with a high-seed in the tournament in spite of the technicality. Senior Taylor James, who didn't lose a match during DFAL play, is the team's leader and captain. Just behind her is sophomore Riley Eversole, whose matches against Dougherty swung the overall outcome of their meetings on both occasions - they lost at home, beat them away.

Coach Michael McCollum attributes his team's sustained success to not only having star players at the top, but also being able to play every girl on his roster with absolute confidence. Of the upcoming NCS and DFAL tournaments, McCollum says, "Monte Vista, Dougherty Valley, and Amador Valley are the top of heap. We were seeded sixth last year and lost to Foothill in the quarterfinal. But we're stronger than last year."

to have recovered an onside kick, but the Mats were early. Their second onside at-

The DFAL tournament starts Nov. 11 and the NCS tournament begins the following week Nov. 18.

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