

Miramonte Narrowly Defeats Campolindo in Hard-Fought LAX Match

By Jaime Zepeda

In an intense and tightly fought game, the Miramonte Mats came back to beat the Campolindo Cougars last Friday night. The game seemed to be in Campolindo's favor at the outset, but with a strong second half, Miramonte made the game a nerve-racking one.

For the Cougars, their powerful offensive attack was spearheaded by Larissa Durkin. She scored the first goal two minutes into the game, which gave the Cougars an early momentum boost. Larissa Durkin finished the game with 5 goals and four of them came in the first half.

The Cougars defense was equally relentless and allowed only two goals in the first half. Emily Hoyt, the Cougars' goalie, was nearly impenetrable and continued to make one unbelievable save after another. She suffered a small injury with 15 minutes left in the first half, which stopped the game for a few minutes, but continued thereafter.

The Mats didn't seem phased by the Cougars' lead. They trailed the entire game, and weren't even able to tie in until the second half. In fact, at the end of the first half, the Campolindo Cougars led the Miramonte Matadors 5-2. This would soon change.

Miramonte stumbled out of the gate in the second half, but as soon as they warmed up, they penetrated the Cougar defense with three goals in a row. Within a matter of minutes, three different Mats, Stephanie Shaffer, Allegra Cabellon, and Ariel Chin, scored on the previously unstoppable Cougar goalie. The score was tied at five goals a piece.

After some successful back and forth offensive attacks by both teams, the score was settled at 6-6. Unfortunately, with 15 minutes left in the second half, the Cougars' Brett Esparmer suffered a hit to the face

that once again stopped the game. This gave both teams a much needed breather. But Esparmer was not down for long and retaliated with a goal. After this, the game quickly became more physical and fouls were called on both teams at a fast clip. Campolindo added to their small lead with a couple of fast breaks that made the score 9-7, Cougars.

With a little over two minutes left, the Matadors made a last minute run to tie the game. Thanks to some outstanding plays by Allegra Cabellon, the Mats tied it up as time ran out. Overtime was in order, which meant three minutes per half.

Miramonte was the first to score, but was followed in the second half by a Campolindo goal. Once again, a tie. The game then went to sudden death, where the first team to score would win the game.

The golden goal was not scored in the first sudden death game. Nor did it occur in the second game. Not until the third sudden death match did Miramonte score, courtesy of Christy Sullivan and the crisp passing of her teammates. In a nail-biter, the Miramonte Matadors were able to come back and barely defeat the tenacious Campolindo Cougars.

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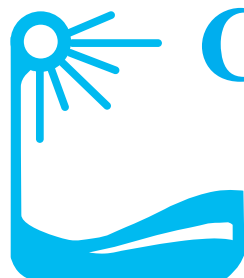


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