



SPORT

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORT NEWS

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.



Tara McKenna Polkabla and Current Leader

Young Lamorinda Equestrian Shines in International Competition

By Lee Borrowman

Tara McKenna Polkabla, a 15 year old sophomore at Miramonte, and Current Leader, her 8-year-old Registered Thoroughbred, took 2nd Place at the Galway CIC* International Horse Trials in Temecula, California, at the end of March.

Polkabla, one of the youngest competitors, and competing in her first International CIC*, placed 2nd coming out of the Dressage phase. With a field of 30 competitors from around the world, Tara and Current Leader retained their placing through the Cross Country Phase and Stadium Jumping. Tara is looking forward to competing at the Twin Rivers CCI* International Horse Trials in May, which will be a qualifier for the 2007 North American Young Rider Championships. Over the last six months Polkabla and Current Leader have competed in 6 of the regional United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Horse Trials and have consistently placed in the top 3 in their Preliminary Divisions.

Current Leader, familiarly called Katana by Polkabla, joined the family two years ago. "We spent the first year getting to know each other and figuring each other out," says Polkabla, who has been riding since age 5. "This year we started connecting more." Polkabla spends at least two hours a day at the stable.

Proud mom Jennifer Polkabla writes, "Eventing is

the most complete combined competition discipline recognized by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). It is an Olympic sport where man and animal are established team-mates, and one of the few where men and women compete on equal terms. It covers every aspect of horsemanship: the harmony between horse and rider that characterize Dressage; the contact with nature, stamina and extensive experience essential for the Cross Country; the precision, agility and technique involved in Jumping."

Polkabla says that there's a strong connection between her equestrian activities and her other hobby, dirt-bike racing. "I compete in Enduros, Flat Track races and Hare Scrambles," says Polkabla. "Like with horseback riding, you have to maintain control, watch your direction, and keep looking ahead to where you're going. Of course, when you tell a motorcycle to stop, it stops. A horse can blow you off."

In fact, she says, "My whole family is into dirt-bike racing. We all ride." Dad Michael Polkabla is also her chief mechanic and, along with her brother Maxfield, has Polkabla's back for chore duty when she's away competing at equestrian events. "The support of my family has just been so wonderful!"

Campolindo Boys Tennis Over Las Lomas, 5-4

By Jaime Zepeda

While showcasing their stellar varsity tennis team, the Campolindo Cougars played against the very competitive and top-rated Las Lomas men's team. But being top ranked does not necessarily guarantee a win. In spite of being considered an underdog, the Cougars beat Las Lomas, 5-4.

The Las Lomas team included Jack Warner, a usual favorite and well-known singles match player. He went against Campolindo's Patrick Siu, an underrated sophomore. Despite the odds, Patrick Siu ended up defeating Jack Warner, 7-6, 6-3. As one of Campolindo's coaches, Steve Cohan, would later point out, "Patrick pulled an upset victory."

In the doubles match, the Cougars had Jake Peiros (junior) team up with Eric Leung (junior), to go against Las

Lomas' AJ Handley and Justin Paull. The Cougars' team defeated Las Lomas 6-0, 6-3, in a very well played match. The day's matches also included the play of Travis Cohan Jr., one of the top ranked tennis players in the state.

Steve Cohan noted that Campolindo's No. 1 rank in boy's tennis is based primarily on the "team building" that has occurred in the last year. Many of Campolindo's varsity team graduated last year, so the team has rebuilt itself for this season. Thanks to the rebuilding, Cohan pointed out, "many different kids have been able to step up and help the team," thereby making the team better overall.

Campolindo is currently ranked No. 1, and will face a difficult opponent-- Miramonte next Monday, at Miramonte.



The Campolindo Tennis team poses for a picture

Campolindo Tennis Beats Alhambra to lead DFAL

Submitted by Campolindo Parent and edited by Jaime Zepeda

Campolindo High School defeated Alhambra High School (9-0) in DFAL boy's tennis match play on Tuesday, which put Campolindo into sole possession of first place in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League with a 12-1 record. This record is inclusive of recent head-to-head wins

over Miramonte and Northgate. The Campolindo victory was led by the number one singles play of Campolindo's Travis Cohan over Alhambra's Weston Thompson, 6-0, 6-1, and the number two singles play of Conrad Basset-Bouchard over Alhambra's Brendon Repicky 6-2, 6-4.

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