

Mats Fall to Amador in NCS Playoffs

Submitted by Jim Landau, edited by Jennifer Wake

Ranked number one in Northern California by www.laxpower.com, the largest and oldest lacrosse Web site, Miramonte women's lacrosse came into the NCS playoffs with a 17-1 record and was undefeated in Bay Area competition, having lost only to LaJolla, one of several San Diego area teams which are ranked as the best on the Pacific coast.

Miramonte's record included a win over St. Ignatius of San Francisco, a perennial northern California lacrosse powerhouse. No. 2-seed Miramonte repeated as the Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) champions this year, defeating each of the other DFAL teams (Acalanes, Campolindo, Dublin and Las Lomas) twice by a cumulative score of 126 to 32.

Other participants in the NCS playoffs were Diablo Valley Athletic League champ Carondelet (seeded No. 5); Foothill (No. 6); Marin County Athletic League champion Redwood High of Larkspur (seeded No. 7); and DFAL runner-up Acalanes, seeded No. 8.

The NCS quarterfinals, where Miramonte hosted MCAL champ Redwood on May 15, was a blow out from

start when the Matador's senior all-DFAL midfielder Christy Sullivan scored the first of her three goals just two minutes into the contest. The Matadors went on to win 18-4, with senior all-American midfielder Lindsay Chan, all-League attacker and senior class president, Allegra Cabellon, and junior Emma Gibson also each scoring three goals. Miramonte's all-League goalie Favienne Howsepian, a junior, had 11 saves for Miramonte. All-League midfielder and senior class vice president Ariel Chin had two goals and an assist to add three points for the Mats.

The NCS semifinals at Miramonte on May 17 pitted the Mats against No. 3-seed Amador Valley, the EBAL runner-up, who Miramonte had defeated 13-7 one month earlier in a regular season contest. No. 3-seed Amador had beaten No. 6-seed Foothill 12-4 in its May 15 NCS quarterfinal game.

Miramonte scored two quick goals in the first five minutes of play, but then the momentum shifted to the visitors, who were passing and running far more effectively. While Howsepian was able to get 11 saves in the game, Amador

scored five unanswered goals in the next 20 minutes to lead 5-2 at halftime.

Miramonte's Sullivan scored as the second half began, putting the Mats within two points of the visitors. But the Mats were repeatedly stymied in attempts to move the ball from their own end of the field by a swarming Amador defense, a complete reversal of the April meeting between the two teams when Miramonte moved the ball easily and ran up an insurmountable 8-1 lead at halftime. About fifteen minutes into the second half of the NCS battle, Amador's senior all-League attacker Ashley Royer scored the third of her four goals in the game and Amador sophomore Kara Bjesse quickly added one of her three scores to effectively put the game out of reach of Miramonte.

The Mats put on a final surge, but it was too little, too late. Amador won, 11-8.

Two days later, in the NCS finals played at the Acalanes field on Saturday, May 19, California High was pushed to the very last minute of play to finally defeat Amador Valley, 11-10, and win their first NCS title with a perfect 21-0 record.

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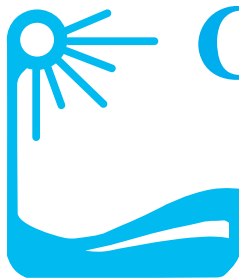
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