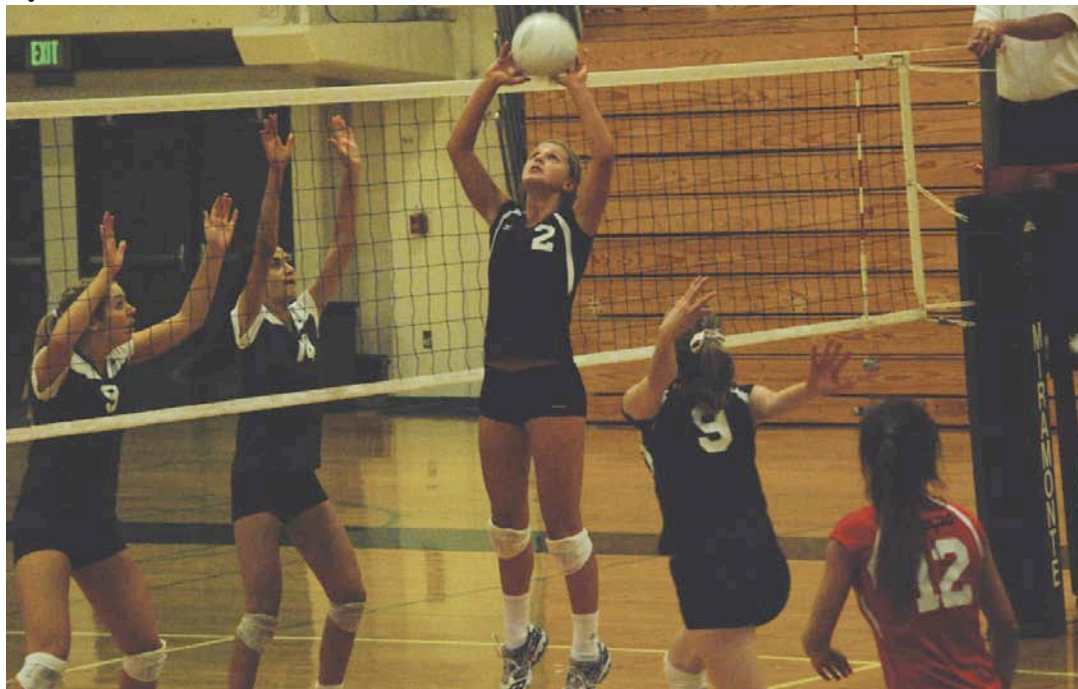


## State Champions Prevail in Hard Fought Match

By Kevin D. Shallat



Mary Vaccaro at the net sets the ball

Photo Gavin Schlissel

Big crowds turned up for the girls volleyball match-up between the Miramonte Matadors and last year's state champion Campolindo Cougars, Thursday, Oct. 4. Miramonte had a tall order to fill in playing the Cougars, yet the players and fans were determined to give Campolindo a run for their money.

The Matadors played inspired volleyball with the help of their home crowd, but they were unable to stop the defending champions from winning this match, 3-1.

The Mats would hang tight in the first game and get the score

to within one point, at 20-21. Campolindo's outside hitter and middle blocker, Chandler Moore, did a nice job of putting the game out of reach with a tremendous spike for a side-out point, followed by a service point. Campo won this first game, 25-21.

In the second game Miramonte was unable to get consistent sets by the net, yet they did a tremendous job to keep the score close. Outside hitter Kari Johnson did a fantastic job of serving for the Mats, dropping a number of serves directly in front of the Cougar's net. Late in the second game the Mats were able to solve

their setting issues and establish a killer combo between their libero and outside hitter.

Libero Mary Diamantidis dished out a host of assists to fellow Matador outside hitter Juliana Stivanicevic. The two were able to guide the Matadors to a 25-22 victory and tie the match at 1-1.

Things were looking good for the Matadors and they jumped out to an early 12-9 lead in the third game. Outside hitter Kelsey Ross powered a spike past two Campolindo defenders to help the Matadors take the lead. Outside hitter Kim Condie did a nice job for Campolindo, as her serves pro-

vided a big lift to help put the Cougars up 24-22. The Matadors recorded a nice dunk style spike to tie the game at 25-25. However, Campo was able to spread the offense more by getting everyone involved, as they won this tightly contested game by a score of 27-25.

"We're all very athletic...so I think we're able to contribute from many positions out there," said Campolindo Head Coach Scott Bishop.

In the fourth game Campo would jump out to a 12-6 start, and never look back. Libero Alessandra Neason served well when it counted most for Campolindo. Freshman setter Mary Vaccaro was everywhere for the Cougars Thursday night, dishing out perfectly placed assists for her teammates.

"Mary is doing an incredible job to come into a varsity position and run the offense," Bishop said. Kate Canty was the major benefactor of Vaccaro's assists, as she led the Cougar's with nine kills on the night.

Miramonte would get within four points when the score jumped to 16-20, but that's as close as they would get. Campolindo went on to win this final game by a score of 25-18, and win the match 3-1.

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