

Miramonte's Dominant Defense Sinks Newark Memorial

By Steven Johns



Katie Batlin (21)

Photo Gavin Schlissel

The Miramonte Matadors girls' basketball team showed its offensive prowess and defensive dominance in an early preseason game on Thursday, Dec. 20 when the 2-1 Matadors took the court against the 5-3 Newark Memorial Cougars. After a competitive first half, the Matadors came out firing in the second half to win comfortably by a score of 66-42.

The Matadors got off to a good start when senior guard Katie Batlin scored three times to make the score 8-3. The stout Miramonte defense held the Cougars to only 6 points in the first quarter, while the offense was able to put up 12 points.

The Newark Memorial Cougars staged a comeback in the second quarter with five three-pointers. However, Miramonte point guard Ashlee Burns kept the Matadors ahead with 10 points of her own. At the end of the half, Miramonte led a close game by a score of 29-24.

The Matadors came out of the half on fire with a 10-0 run. The Miramonte defense was again dominant, holding the Cougars to only 4 points in the third quarter. Senior guard Katie Evans put all of the momentum on the Matadors' side with two threes and a long jump shot.

The Cougars were no match for the

Matadors in the fourth quarter. Miramonte continued its dominances by starting off the quarter on a 16-4 run. The Cougars scored 10 points late, but did not have enough time to make up their 24 point deficit. The victory was sealed off when sophomore point guard Lauren Kimble drained a long three pointer.

Miramonte was strong outside the arc, making 7 three-point shots, and was able to convert many of its free-throws. Newark Memorial was also hot from the three-point line, making 9 from behind the arc, but the Cougar's poor free-throw shooting diminished any chance they had to win this game.

The Matadors were led by Ashlee Burns, 20 points, and Katie Batlin, 13 points and 1 block. Katie Evans had 13 points while Stephanie Golden scored 10 points and led the defense with 4 blocks.

The Miramonte girls hope to take their momentum from this overpowering win against Newark Memorial through the holidays and into January when they begin their division play. The Matadors will start off their division play against Mt. Diablo and Las Lomas. They will have to continue to have a strong offense and a stout defense to get past 6-0 Northgate a few weeks later.