

Miramonte Draws Alhambra to a 1-1 Tie

By Kevin D. Shallat



Photo Jordan Fong

The Matadors let a good opportunity slip away Wednesday, Jan. 16, as they had a chance to record a season sweep against the Bulldogs of Alhambra. The women's Matador soccer team beat the Bulldogs 2-0 in Martinez a few weeks ago, and looked to continue their domination at home over one of their inter-league rivals. Miramonte was one half away from the victory, as they led 1-0 at the break. The Bulldogs spoiled the Matadors hopes of sweeping by tying the game with just under 33 minutes remaining. The match ended in a 1-1 tie.

Miramonte came into this game with an 11-1-1 overall record, and an 8-1 league record. Their only loss of the season came against Northgate on Jan. 11. The game was primed for the Matadors to make their mark in league play, as the game featured a Wednesday night game under the lights.

From the opening whistle the Mats were in control of the game. The Bulldogs seemed content to make sure Miramonte was not able to score, as Alhambra was unable to gain possession of the ball for any significant stretch of time.

Despite the fact that the Matadors dominated the time of possession in this game, they dodged a few bullets on a few miscues by the Alhambra offense. With only a few minutes into the game, an Alhambra player had a wide-open shot on goal. Luckily, the Bulldog player miss-hit the ball, and the shot leaked right of the

Miramonte goal. Soon after the Bulldog miscue, the Matadors kicked it into gear and converted on their only goal of the game. Miramonte midfielder Bonnie Zieger set up a beautiful centering pass to junior Elaine Tanski who was waiting about 12 yards outside of the goal box, and quickly hammered the ball in for a Matador goal. Midfielder Katherine Sander did her best to get Tanski her second goal of the night, as she set up her teammate with a nice pass. Tanski put a good shot on goal that took a horizontal dive by the Alhambra goalkeeper to prevent another Miramonte score.

Miramonte was able to ratchet up their defense and prevent Alhambra from scoring in the first half of play. Matador defender Marissa Crosetti helped out her team by playing strong, physical defense against the Bulldogs. Miramonte goalkeeper Shelby Church was another reason the Matadors were able to shut down the Bulldogs in the first half. Church seems to have an excellent sense of where to position herself in defense of the goal.

In the second half the Matadors looked a little tired, and the Bulldogs took advantage. With 32:50 left in the game, Alhambra's No. 22 was able to break free of the Miramonte defense, as she scored the game-tying goal for the Bulldogs. Tanski and forward Marissa Rowland took their shots, but the game ended in a 1-1 tie. "We just weren't connecting well tonight, but we still have a goal of winning league," Tanski said.