



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Miramonte Women Defeat Acalanes

By David Anderson



Photo Gavin Schlissel

It was a tale of two halves Wednesday night as the Miramonte women's basketball team outplayed the Acalanes Dons, 61-38, in Lafayette. The first half encompassed hard fought play from both sides but the Matadors proved to be too much for the Dons and took control of the game early in the second half.

The first half was highlighted by the dominant play of junior guard Katie Bruzzone for the Dons and sophomore

center Stephanie Golden for the Matadors.

Bruzzone finished the first half with 16 points including four 3-pointers in the first quarter alone (she would go on to finish with 20 points). Shannon German followed Bruzzone with 6 points in the second quarter and 9 points overall. Golden, on the other hand, seemed to dominate the inside of the key during the first half and most of the game. She scored 11 points in the first

half leading the Matadors to a two point 27-25 lead at half-time.

The beginning of the second half proved to be the turning point of the game as Bruzzone's shots refused to fall and the Dons could not keep up with the Matadors, who added a few more scorers to the mix in the third and fourth quarters. Senior guard Katie Batlin added 13 points for the Mats while Golden added another 13 points to the mix in the second half. She would finish with 24 points for the night.

The Dons fell to 7-8 (1-3 DFAL) on the season while the Matadors improved their mark to 12-2 (4-0 DFAL) and hold onto an undefeated league record. The Matadors have a big test Jan. 18 as they take on Dublin, which is also undefeated in DFAL and 13-2 overall. Acalanes plays next at Las Lomas Jan. 18.



Photo Gavin Schlissel

### Matadors Continue to Impress, Beat Acalanes

By David Anderson



Mats Eric Obeysekere (35)

Photo Gavin Schlissel

The Miramonte Matadors improved their record to 14-2 and tied for first place in the DFAL standings as they commanded their way to a 67-49 victory over the Acalanes Dons on Wednesday, Jan. 16 in Lafayette.

Nothing could go wrong for the Matadors in the first quarter of play as they erupted to an early 23-12 lead. Led by Senior Zac Akin, shooting was the theme in the first quarter with four Matadors contributing three point field goals. Elliot Shoebart continued the trend on defense taking an impressive charge in the first quarter that kept the momentum with the Mats.

The Dons mounted a comeback in the second quarter with aggressive play and good shooting from sophomore guard Donovan Christensen. All of Christensen's 11 points came in the second quarter including three 3-pointers that brought the Dons within five points at the half. Acalanes outscored the Mats 19-13 in the second quarter.

Led by Joey Anderson, who scored 11 of the Don's 18 second half points (includ-

### 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.

ing a team high 17 points), the Dons continued their aggressive play into the second half but could only manage nine points in each of the final two quarters.

In the end, the Matadors proved to be too much for the Dons as Miramonte rolled through the fourth quarter to their largest leads of the night. The Matadors held a comfortable lead for much of the game resulting from hard fought defensive play and excellent shooting. Chris Hatfield led the scoring for the Mats with 15 points. Peter Briskey followed with 13 points while Zac Akin had 12 on the night. The Matadors improved to 4-0 while the Dons fell to 1-3 in DFAL play (10-6 overall).

The Matadors are currently ranked 16th in the North Coast Section and continue to improve upon their impressive and unexpected start this season. They are currently on a five game winning streak, undefeated in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League and have only lost one of their previous 15 games. The Mats next game is Jan. 18 at Dublin when they play for sole possession of first place in DFAL league play.



Photo Gavin Schlissel

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