

## Mats Manage to Tie Against Northgate after Controversial Call

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Miramonte Matadors men's soccer team survived a scare Wednesday, Feb. 6, against Northgate. The Mats had home field advantage in this game, but both teams had to endure the cold temperatures, as they played in frosty conditions under the lights at Miramonte. The Mats fell down by a score of 1-0 at the half, but were able to tie up the score in the second half. However, that lone goal was the only score that Miramonte could manage, as they finished this game in a 1-1 tie.

Miramonte looked sharp in this game early on, as they passed the ball effortlessly, with a crisp fluidity. As good as the Mats looked, the time of possession

early in the game was about equal.

Philip Da Silva was active for the Mats in the first half. Both Da Silva and Trevor Himes did a good job of setting each other up with shots, but Miramonte was unable to score off any of these passes. Da Silva, the league's current leading scorer, was held scoreless in this game, but did record an assist later in the game.

Miramonte looked like they had a plan of attack in this first half, as each player seemed to know what to do with the ball before it was kicked to them. Just when the Mats seemed to gain control of this game, there was a game changing (hands) call around the Miramonte goal. There



Philip Da Silva

Photo Jordan Fong



Tommy Sanders (12)

Photo Jordan Fong

was a logjam of players around the Matador goal. Miramonte defender Tommy Sander was unable to get away from the path of the ball, and he was struck in the hands by the shot on goal. The referee deemed it an illegal use of the hands, despite the fact that Sander's hands were close to his body, and the ball was kicked directly into him. The call allowed Northgate's Scott Reddy to score on the penalty shot in the 32 minutes of play. Northgate held the 1-0 advantage going into halftime.

Despite the one goal deficit, Miramonte never panicked, as they felt they were in control for the entire game. The Mats dominated the time of possession for the first 12 plus minutes of the second half. Miramonte played a

well rounded second half, as their defense stepped up and held the Broncos scoreless in the second half. Miramonte defender Sam Clark had a great defensive play, as he was able to head the ball away against a shot on the Miramonte goal.

The Mats were held scoreless until the 74th minute of play, when Miramonte scored the game-tying goal by way of two quick passes. Himes passed the ball off to Da Silva, who then laced it perfectly in front of the goal, where Jonah Peterschild was there to chip in the two foot shot. "I usually get at least two chances down the line, and I just crossed it, and that time we actually finished it, so that was good," said Da Silva.