



Miramonte Falls to Dublin in First NCS Game

By Jack Fernbacher



Chris Hatfield (14)

Photo Jodan Fong

At halftime in the second round of NCS on Friday, Feb. 22, the three-seeded Miramonte men's basketball team led by nine points, but when it was all said and done it was the six-seeded Dublin Gaels who won the game.

The Mats led 27-18 at halftime with their tough perimeter defense. In the second half, turnovers and low-offensive production for the Matadors allowed Dublin to get back in the game and eventually rout the Mats 61-50.

"I came into the game thinking we would win," said Miramonte's senior captain Peter Briskey. "Dublin has a good team, but thought we were better than them. The problem was we had a lead and let up at halftime."

Briskey, who averaged 13.8 points per game in the season, was held to only two points and fouled out in his final game as a Matador. Miramonte's leading scorer of the game was senior shooting guard Zac Akin, who finished the game with 13 points including a pair of 3-pointers.

Miramonte had beaten Dublin twice this season before the NCS game, which was Miramonte's first game in NCS after its bye in the first round.

"It's hard to beat any team three times," said Jerry Montgomery, a long time Miramonte basketball fan and golf coach. "In every sport, the losing team will be playing its hardest to win."

Dublin's senior K.J. Scott with an unorthodox over-the-head-shot led Dublin in scoring with 21 points including three shots made from beyond the arc. Dublin had to travel to Miramonte for the game, which should have given home court advantage to the Mats

"At our home gym, we had less fans than our opponents did," said Briskey about the fact that Dublin's student section was bigger than Miramonte's student section.

Miramonte was flourishing with the addition of a foreigner from Montenegro named Petar Madarevic during league play. Madazeric, a senior guard, brought tenacious defense and creative passes to every game, but went home before NCS started.

"The main thing Petar brought was his desire to win," said Briskey. "He cared about basketball and understood that winning was the most important. A lot of people lost the willingness to care, and just assumed that they would win without hard work."

Head Coach Dave Brown led the Matadors, who finished the season 20-7 (10-4 DFAL). During the season, the Mats were streaky. The team had a nine-game winning streak in preseason and an eight-game winning streak at the beginning of league play.

"I thought the season overall went well," said Akin. "It was disappointing we lost NCS in the second round. No one passed the ball and everyone was more concerned about his stats than winning the game."

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Davis Louie (1)

Photo Jordan Fong