



Dell' Aquila Seals 200 Wins: Matadors Beat NCS Champs

By Kevin D. Shallat

With two completely overhauled squads since last season, the rivalry remained as competitive as ever when the Miramonte Matadors made the trip to Lafayette to take on the defending NCS champion Acalanes Dons on Tuesday, April 8.

Miramonte is no stranger to the top spot, as they claimed the NCS title in 1999, 2002, 2004, and again in 2005. The skipper at the helm each time was current Miramonte head coach Vince Dell' Aquila. Dell' Aquila had racked up 199 wins prior to Tuesday's game, and was looking for win number 200 in this match-up.

It wasn't easy, or stress-free for the long time Miramonte coach, but the Matadors somehow managed to hang on to defeat the Dons 4-3 in a tightly contested match-up.

The win gave coach Dell' Aquila 200 victories, and put the Matadors one game outside of first place in the DFAL with 10 games to play.

It has been 13 years since Dell' Aquila took over the head coaching duties for the Matadors, yet already he and his teams have racked up 200 wins. What better way to reach a milestone than to do it while knocking off the defending NCS champions. After the game the veteran coach appeared happy, yet eager to win more.

"It feels good, hopefully we can do it again," Dell' Aquila said.

Matt Lloyd started on the mound for the Matadors and nearly finished the game, as he was stellar

through six innings of play. Lloyd gave up only three runs in six innings, and seemed to get better as the game wore on. "Matt's been great for us, all year long," said teammate John Vaccaro.

Miramonte was the first team to get on the board, as Joey Epperson picked up an early RBI by scoring Mike Reuvekamp on a sacrifice fly. Acalanes quickly responded and scored two runs in the bottom of the first to apply the pressure. The Dons took advantage of some good two out hitting by getting back-to-back base hits from Daniel Camporeale and John Welland, which gave Acalanes a 2-1 edge.

The lead would seesaw back again. With two outs, Epperson was able to score Tommy Miers. After Miramonte tied the game at 2-2, they looked to their cleanup hitter for something big. John Vaccaro didn't hit the ball far, but the slow grounder was enough to give the Mats a 3-2 lead after two and a half innings.

After the Mats were able to get another run in the fifth, the Dons responded with an RBI base hit by David Kann, who scored Eric Kwan from third. This cut the lead to 4-3 after five innings.

Jake Carson came in to the game in the fifth inning to pitch in relief, and played well for the Dons, but the one run he did give up was enough to give the Matadors the win. Vaccaro closed out the game for Miramonte, sealing a 4-3 victory for the Mats.