

Miramonte Pitcher Kjar Shuts Out the Dons

By Jack Fernbacher

Junior Mats pitcher Andrew Kjar found a way to get out of innings against Acalanes and held the Dons scoreless through six hard-fought innings. Kjar allowed seven batters to get on base, but didn't allow any of them to score and picked up his eighth win of the season. The Mats got off to an early lead scoring two runs in the first inning and one run in the third to roll over the Dons 3-0.

Miramonte lost a close game against Concord two days prior to the Acalanes game. Concord sat in 7th place in the DFAL so it was a disappointing loss for the 5th place Mats.

"We were really frustrated after losing to Concord," said Kjar, who improved to 8-2 on the season. "The team knew that we really needed to win and we put our

game into gear. We all tried our hardest and really took it to Acalanes."

The Mats offense was spurred by John Vaccaro who doubled in the first inning to bring in Joey Epperson to score, and later crossed the plate after a single by Mike Reuvekamp. In the third inning, Epperson doubled to knock in leadoff hitter Will Bourgein to extend the lead to 3-0; that was all Kjar needed for the victory.

Acalanes had five hits and two walks, but their efforts didn't show up in the score. The one bright spot for the Dons was first baseman John Treat at the plate, who went 2-4 in the game.

The Mats coaching staff changed up the player's positions in the field for the game. The players in the new defensive scheme

backed up Kjar nicely and didn't commit any errors. Epperson was moved out to centerfield, leaving his original position of second base. Bourgein was moved over to second base from shortstop, which was played by Mike Reuvakamp.

"When Will (Bourgein) pulled his hamstring, they moved him to third," said Kjar. "Then we had outfield problems, so we put Joey (Epperson) out at center field and brought up Michael (Mann) from JV. The Concord game was the first time we used the new defense, and the defense has played well in both games.

After Kjar pitched a shutout through six innings, the Mats closer Raul Jacobson finished the game with a scoreless inning. Jacobson struck out one batter and didn't allow a batter to get on base.

The big variable in the game was stolen bases. Miramonte was able to steal four bases and Acalanes didn't have a stolen base in the game. Epperson and Bourgein both had two stolen bases and scored two of Miramonte's three runs as a result from the stolen bases.

Miramonte improved to 9-7 in the DFAL and Acalanes fell to 4-12. Miramonte faces two tough teams in Northgate and Campolindo to wrap up its season next week.

"The win over Acalanes gives us confidence," said Kjar, who will pitch against Campolindo on Thursday. "We need to play well and win our games next week."