



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Miramonte Outplays Acalanes

By Guy Dotan



Quarterback Taylor Caldwell (8)

In a battle between two fierce Lamorinda rivals, the Matadors were able to put down the Dons on Oct. 24 thanks to an explosive first half and shut down defense in the second half. This win puts Miramonte in sole possession of third place in DFAL with a 5-2 record, one game behind Campolindo and Las Lomas' 6-1. The loss dropped Acalanes to 2-5, fourth place, creating an even larger gap between the Dons and Matadors in the DFAL standings.

Miramonte came into Friday's game with a vengeance after losing to Campo in a tight 7-0 game the previous week. Acalanes, on the other hand, was looking to end their three-game losing streak. As if to make up for a lack of scoring in their previous games, both teams exploded for touchdowns in the first half.

The Dons struck first as kicker Nick Manning hit a field goal in the first quarter. However, the Dons never saw their team on top again for the rest of the game. Miramonte quarterback Conor Lowery led the Matador offense surges, throwing for multiple first half touchdowns to receivers Alex Epstein and James King. Even the running game was flowing for Miramonte, as Kevin Paulsen was the Matadors' main source of offense in the second half.

Despite a very slow start in the passing game for Acalanes—zero first half yards—Tyler Malley's running helped the Dons stay in contention. Malley rushed for 144 yards in the game, almost all of those coming in the first half.

The second half was a completely different game, as both defenses began to shut down the opposing offense. Neither team was

able to put up a third quarter point. A fourth quarter touchdown run by Paulsen ended the second half scoring drought. On the Dons' final possession, quarterback Tyler Caldwell made up for his slow start by leading the team on a downfield drive, culminating in a touchdown pass to Robert Mull. Lowery kneeled the ball after the ensuing kickoff for Miramonte, ending the game with a

final score of 31-17.

Acalanes defensive end and junior Trevor La Honta believed that his team's "biggest problem on Friday was that they didn't execute in the spots when they needed big plays." As for the rest of the season, La Honta claimed that, "we just need to be prepared to eliminate our mistakes and play our game, not our opponent's."

Photo Doug Kohen



Miramonte quarterback Conor Lowery (2)

Photo Doug Kohen

### It's a Threepat for Campo

By Alex Crook



Photo Doug Kohen

On Friday, Oct. 17, came that time of year again – Campolindo vs. Miramonte football. In a low scoring 7-0 win, the Cougars pushed their streak to three straight wins over the Matadors.

In the first, the Matadors slowly progressed down the field into Cougar territory. First, a risky quarterback sneak on fourth down gave the Mats a first down at their own 46. After a 17-yard strike to tight end Alex Epstein, Miramonte got a first down at Campo's 26.

Late in the first, the Mats were threatening inside the Campo 5 down to the Cougars' goal line. On fourth and goal with 2:50 left, the Campo defensive line pushed their way to a goal line stand and kept the game scoreless. If the Mats had scored, this game might have gone into overtime.

Early in the second, Tyler Rittenhour recovered a Matador fumble and the Cougars took over at their own 39. On the ensuing Matador possession, a Taylor Giles sack for the Cougars led to a 3 and out for Miramonte. There was no score in the second either, so both teams went to the break scoreless.

To start the second half, a 15-yard pass interference call gave Campo a first down at their 35-yard line after a Matador defender roughed it up with Cougar wide receiver Anthony Fadelli. With 9:40

remaining in the third, Tommy Stephens hit Garrett Holmes with a 42-yard beauty for the only score of the night. Ben Rudolph's PAT lit up the scoreboard, reading 7-0 Campo.

Late in the final quarter, the Cougars faced a fourth and 8 from the Mats' 8. Rudolph's 25-yard field goal was tipped at the line and bounced off the crossbar back into the end zone, and the score stayed 7-0.

Following the missed field goal, Miramonte looked to take advantage of an opportunity to tie the game and possibly force overtime. But with 2:36 left, Campo

safety Tyler Rittenhour intercepted a Miramonte pass and sealed the win for the Cougars, who at that point just juiced the clock.

Campo fans started to rush the field after the victory, not realizing that there were still two seconds on the clock, so everyone was forced to wait on the sidelines for those two seconds. When the clock read triple zero, Cougar faithful flooded the field again. It was a total madhouse.

With the win, Campo improves to 5-1 on the year, and the Mats drop to 4-2.



Sammy Cohen (69), Tommy Stephens (8)

Photo Doug Kohen



Mats quarterback John Vaccaro (12)

Photo Doug Kohen

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