



SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Hot Weather No Match for Lady Mats

Miramonte Tennis Outlasts Heat and Campolindo

By Kevin Shallat



Carolyn Esserman

Photo Doug Kohen

High school women's tennis was back in full swing on Tuesday, September 22, as the Lady Matadors hosted the Lady Cougars in a league showdown that pitted two one-loss teams against each other. Despite a strong showing from some of their younger players, and a solid effort in their doubles matches, Campolindo was unable to stop Miramonte in the singles matchups, as Miramonte went on to win by a score of 7-2. Both teams did well competing in the sweltering Indian summer heat, which reached the high nineties.

Miramonte came into this match with a 9-1 overall mark and a 2-0 record in league play. Their only loss came against a powerful Mission San Jose team in the James Logan tournament. Campolindo had an equally impressive record coming into this matchup, sporting an 8-1 overall record, with a 2-0 league mark. Their only loss came at the hands of Miramonte in the finals of the James Logan tournament.

Miramonte got off to a fast start after their #1 seed, junior Anastasia Kaiser, won her match 6-1, 6-0. Referring to her opponent, Nicole Wedlake, Kaiser said "We're friends; I hope that next time we play, we'll be able to have just as much fun as today."

"We've played teams that

ways gives it her best," said Miramonte head coach Mark LeHocky.

Miramonte sophomore Hanne Andersen used her strong forehand to win the #2 seed singles match 6-3, 6-1.

Despite a short lapse in the second set, Miramonte senior Carolyn Esserman was able to use good footwork and a strong second serve to outlast Campolindo's Natalie Korich, 6-1 and 7-6, after a 7-2 second set tie-breaker.

The Cougars made a good impression on the Matadors with their strong doubles play. Freshman Miranda Hill and sophomore Karina Lameraner won their match for the Cougars 6-4, 6-2.

Campolindo's lone singles victory came from none other than a freshman, Tori Perella, who showed that she will be a force for years to come. Perella won her match 7-5, 7-6, after a 7-3 second set tiebreaker. Perella may be a freshman, but she plays like an upperclassman and she understands the significance of the rivalry. "It's not like we're enemies, but it's still a pretty big rivalry," said Perella.

"She (Perella) played really well the last two matches, very solid and steady and composed, especially for a freshman," said Campolindo head coach Steve Robinson.

Miramonte hosts Acalanes tomorrow, Thursday, October 1st and Campolindo has a bye.

have brought kids that are in the top ten in the nation, in her [Kaiser's] age group, and she doesn't always win, but she al-



Anastasia Kaiser

Photo Doug Kohen

Tradition Lives On

Miramonte Boy's Waterpolo Hosts Annual Alumni Game

By Justine Sgalio

Tradition was upheld Friday, September 25, at Miramonte High School's annual men's water polo alumni game where the undefeated alumni took the 16-11 victory against the varsity squad at Bill Brown Aquatic Center in Orinda.

With close to 50 Miramonte men's water polo alumni in attendance and countless parents, family and friends from over the decades on hand to cheer them on, the teams took to the pool to battle it out.

The alumni took an early lead but the Matadors stayed in the game coming back to make it 5-4 alum at the end of the first quarter with the help of Miramonte's Joey Fabian, junior, and a breakaway goal at by senior Zach Taapken with 25 seconds to go.

The Matador defense and sophomore goalie Tyler Barker allowed the alumni only three goals in the second quarter, scored by veterans Andrew Dennis, Sean Joy and Miramonte's own assistant coach Chris Lathrop. The goals gave the alumni the lead, 8-6, heading into halftime.

The Miramonte offense battled back after the break, with goals from sophomore Robbie Fluegge, Fabian and the team's co-captain,

senior John Holland, but their efforts could not match the force of the alumni squad. The alumni scored six goals in the third quarter, one from Miramonte's own head coach James Lathrop, making it 14-9 alum, going into the fourth.

The Mat's defense held the alumni to only two goals in the fourth, but were not able to come away with the win. The alum maintained their tradition of victory with a 16-11 win.

"The alumni game is a fun tradition that shows how special Miramonte water polo has been to so many people," said Miramonte head coach James Lathrop.

The alumni game began over 20 years ago at the lead of former Miramonte head coach, now coach emeritus, Bill Brown. Brown founded Miramonte's water polo program in 1967, where he was the head coach for 37 years.

"When you're younger and you're a coach, you're really worried about the next game, and you lose track of the people you became friends with," said Brown. "The alumni game allows you to do that. You realize that all these guys have become friends. Now I see their kids, some of whom have gone

through our water polo program here at the high school...it's a great tradition to have."

"Bill is the one person who really bridges all these years," said Lathrop. "He's the reason for all this. It's a really great tribute to him."

The event truly proved to be a family affair, as father-son duo Bob and Teagan Hoover matched up on opposing sides to duke it out.

"I've been playing in the alumni game off and on for 20 years, and this was a goal I set," Bob said. "I knew I had to stick it out and stay in shape so I could have this opportunity to play against him one time in my life. It's been a great, great experience."

Teagan, a junior, was excited to face off with his dad, the man who taught him the game growing up, in a real game situation.

"He's the one who taught me how to play, but I've never played against him in an actual game. It was a fun experience to be in the water together," Teagan said. "Maybe someday I can even play against my son."

Miramonte heads to Alhambra on Wednesday for their first league game of the season.

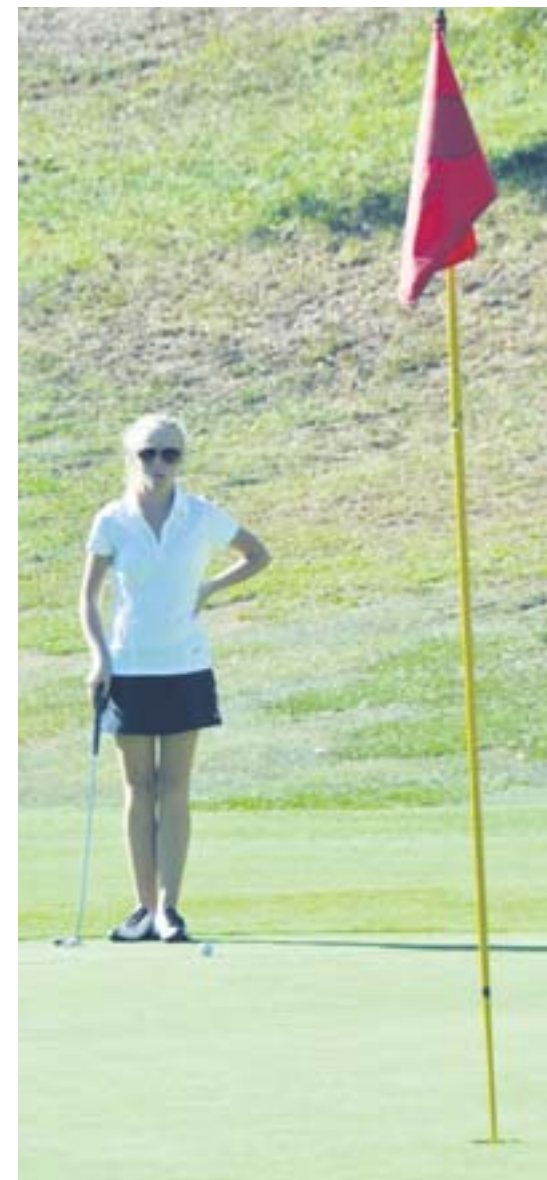
Rival Schools Compete on Links

Campolindo, Miramonte defeat Acalanes

Written with information provided by Tim Scott



Miramonte junior Faith Engstrom



Acalanes senior Juliana Del Beccaro

Photos Andy Scheck

Acalanes girl's golf took on both of their Lamorinda rivals to start the season and fell to both teams. The match-up against Miramonte on September 15th at the Orinda Country Club proved difficult for the Dons and the Mats won solidly, 249 to 338 on par 37.

Dons' Head coach Tim Scott said, "I think that Miramonte is the

strongest team in the DFAL this year. They have a well balanced team. All their players averaged about 50 for nine holes."

Acalanes was challenged by Campolindo as well as they took on the Cougars the next day at Rossmoor Golf Club. The Cougars finished with 243, well below Acalanes' 315 on par 36. Scott said,

"Acalanes is a very young team and we are building for the future. Campolindo has a solid team also. In these two matches there were no low scores just consistent scores and that is what makes Miramonte and Campolindo good competitive teams in 2009."

C. Graveson

Local Girls Compete in Gymnastics

Submitted by Candace Morton



From left to right: Emily Palmer, Jacqueline Samaniego, Sawyer Morton, Morgan Samaniego, Cameron Morton and Julia Samaniego
Photo Stephanie Samaniego

Saturday, September 12th Golden Gate Gymnastics held their third annual Beach Blast gymnastics meet for Women's Compulsory levels 4-6. Three local six grade girls from Stanley Middle School competed with 164 others at this event which begins the competition season for the United States Association of Gymnasts (USAG) compulsory lev-

els. Sabba Jweinat took eighth place all around with a 32.500, in the Level 5 older age division. Julia Samaniego also took eighth place all around in the Level 6 younger age division with a 30.125 and her teammate and fellow classmate Cameron Morton finished seventh all around in the middle age division with a 33.600.



Sarah Pardo, Acalanes freshman, gets a big "wow" from team mates and coaches