



SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Water Polo Rivals Split Victories

Lady Cougar's still perfect; Miramonte boys defeat Campolindo

By Guy Dotan



Campo Jeffery Strausser (9)

Photo Doug Kohen

Lamorinda is known for its success in the pool. Since 2005 both the Miramonte and Campolindo girls' water polo teams have finished in the top five seeds of the North Coast Section (NCS). The boys' water polo team at Miramonte is the four-time defending champion. The Campolindo boys' team has finished as a top qualifier in the league as well.

With the success of both schools the rivalry match-up on October 11th was expected to be an exciting affair. However, the match-ups did not prove so equal and each school came away with a commanding win as the Campolindo girls defeated the Miramonte girls 14-6 and the Miramonte boys dominated the Campolindo boys 13-7.

The girls played first, both teams looking to prove themselves. The Lady Cougars wanted to continue their Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) dominance by maintaining their first place seed with a 9-0 record. The Lady Mats hoped to demonstrate that despite a weak, 4-6 record, they could compete with a powerhouse.

Both teams got off to a quick start trading off goals in the first quarter. By the end of the first Miramonte, in true underdog spirit, had a surprising 4-3 lead. After falling behind in the first, however, the Cougars defense buckled down

and the offense stepped up their play. The Matadors were held scoreless in the second and fourth quarter, while the Campo offense exploded. The Cougars went on to outscore the Matadors 11-2 in the final three quarters, including an eruption of six goals during the third quarter. By the final whistle, the Cougars finished with a commanding 14-6 victory. The Cougars' received goals from sophomore Kimi Klein (6) and junior Emily McPhee (2); and seniors Alex Toohey (3), Kerstin Henshall, Lizzie Peiros (1), and Daphne Nunez (1).

After the Cougar girls' victory Nunez, the team's starting post up, said, "It was awesome to crush Miramonte in our senior year. Every time we got in the pool we played as a team and all of the hard work really paid off."



Lady Cougar team

Photo Doug Kohen

The boys' game followed and was almost a reversal of the girls' game. Campolindo had a 7-6 record entering the game while the Matadors, following true to their dynasty, entered with an 11-1 record.

The Matadors got off to a quick start scoring three goals on the Cougars. Miramonte never looked back and maintained their lead for the entire game. Despite several surges by Campolindo during the third and fourth quarter, led by junior captain Jeffrey Strausser's high intensity defense, the Matadors were able to hold off the Cougars. Saves by Miramonte's senior goalie John Sibley stifled Campolindo's rallies and helped the Matadors finish the game with a solid 13-7 victory.

Campolindo travels to Dougherty Valley and Miramonte hosts Acalanes today, October 14.

Lady Mats Volleyball Sweeps Rivals

Miramonte Takes the Lead in DFAL

Submitted by Tony Diamantidis

The Miramonte Lady Matadors (12-1, 5-0) extended their winning streak to 12 games with straight game wins against Campolindo (7-3, 2-1), Dublin and Acalanes High Schools.

Miramonte matched up against Campolindo on September 29 and despite a team-wide flu bug, they were able to sweep their competition. The Lady Mats almost had to cancel the game, as seven of the players were unavailable until the morning of the game. Unlike their coach Shannon Ross, who was too sick to attend, the team regrouped and was able to defeat a hard hitting Campolindo team 25-20, 25-19, 25-23.

The victory propelled Mira-

monte to the number two spot in the East Bay, behind Bishop O'Dowd, and dropped Campolindo to the number three spot.

At Dublin, on October 6, Ross used all her players in Miramonte's match-up against the Gaels. The Lady Matadors defeated the Dublin Gaels 25-14, 25-12, 25-18. All 14 players on Miramonte's team saw playing time.

Miramonte continued its winning streak against Acalanes on October 8. Again the Lady Mats recorded the victory in three games: 25-18, 25-14, 25-9. Senior outside hitter Juliana Stivanicevic led the team with 17 kills. Senior setter/middle blocker Mary Diamantidis added eight kills, 18 as-

sists and senior outside hitter Haley Sayres had seven kills. Senior setter Sarah Vaccaro had 20 assists and junior libero Jane Siri and senior libero Lissa Gilbert had 20 and 18 digs respectively. "Our setters set the tone for this match," said Lady Matadors coach Shannon Ross. "They distributed the ball well, and made smart plays for us all night long."

Miramonte travels to Alhambra tomorrow, October 15th.



Audrey Breitweiser (9), Mary Diamantidis - Captain (1) Photo Doug Kohen



Sophie Smith (15) Photo Doug Kohen



Sandra Neason (12) Photo Doug Kohen

Miramonte Cross Country Finish in Top 20

Submitted by Maggie Sharpe

The Miramonte Cross Country team competed in the Third Annual Scott Bauhs Invitational cross country meet at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in Pleasanton on October 3. Junior Mackenzie Martin competed in the girl's junior three mile course and finished in 11th place with a time of 20:18:36 leading the girl's team. Senior Nick Vedovi competed in the boy's senior three mile course and finished in 17th place with a time of 16:48:87 leading the boy's team.



Nick Vedovi

Photo Jim Knowles



Mackenzie Martin

Photo Jim Knowles

From Struggling to Competing

Campolindo Girl's Golf Team Improves

Written by Dean Okamura



Courtesy Team's website: campolindogirlsgolf.com

Senior co-captains Samantha Carr and Kelsey Aubrey have seen their Campolindo Women's Golf team transform from a small, struggling team to a confident group of athletes aspiring to a berth in the 2009 North Coast Section (NCS)

tournament. The team is aiming to finish in first or second place in the league so they will automatically qualify for the tournament.

As freshmen, the two remember barely having six players come out for the team. This year, co-

coaches Valerie Robertson and Janine Martello were required to limit the number of players to 16. "We had a lot more girls try out than we expected," said Martello with a smile.

Robertson believes that participation has grown for two reasons: the team has become competitive in league play and there is an increase in the availability of scholarships at the collegiate level. Aubrey sees it differently. She credits the coaches for fostering a contagious team spirit. "Coach Val keeps it organized and Coach Janine keeps it fun," says Aubrey. Carr adds, "the excitement of the coaches rubs off on the players."

Martello cites another reason the team has become so popular, "MCC (Moraga Country Club) has been very good to us." The Club

provides free access to the driving range and playing privileges to players. PGA Apprentices Scott Reeves and Eric Zimmerman also provide free instructional advice to the girls. "Jason (Woodworth, Director of Golf at MCC) is wonderful," Robertson adds.

Assistant Coaches Mike Eustis and Tom Carr complete the foundation of the Campolindo Team. Their primary goal is to develop the younger players.

Aubrey believes that potential new players should consider the team because "...it's a fall sport, you will find an immediate group of friends," she says, drawing on her personal experience of meeting her co-captain for the first time at try-outs. Carr adds, "Expect to work hard...really hard, but most importantly you'll have fun."

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