

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte Boys' Tennis Takes First in NCS

By Simon Tryzna



Michael Krakario



Peter Martin

Photos Andy Scheck

For the first time since 2002, Miramonte can lay claim to being the best boys' tennis team on the North Coast. On May 12, the Matadors took out third-seed Campolindo in the morning before upsetting two-time defending champion and number one seed, Monte Vista, 6-1 to take home the title.

The road to the championship match began with a 7-0 thrashing of Maria Carrillo (Santa Rosa) in Orinda on Tuesday, May 8.

Following the match, Coach Michael McCollum said that the team followed the game plan. "They're a young team. [We] did exactly what we intended to do."

Two days later, Miramonte hosted San Ramon Valley, a team they defeated earlier in the year. "[San Ramon has] a tradition of success," said McCollum. "[They play in] one of the best conferences for tennis. Team has real talent."

While Miramonte won by a score of 5-2, the matches were closer than the numbers suggest.

San Ramon Valley has three strong pairs of doubles and the two teams split the first two doubles points. The Mats' number one doubles pair was challenged from the get-go. They dropped the first set 3-6, but recovered to pick up a point, winning the last two sets 6-1, 6-2.

On the singles side, senior Michael Krakaris dispatched his San Ramon Valley counterpart 6-0, 6-0, finishing 25 minutes before teammate Peter Martin dropped the first set of

his match. Martin went on to pull off a thrilling 6-7 (9), 6-4, 10-8 (tiebreak) win.

McCollum was happy with the team win. "The match went as I expected. Thought we'd sweep singles (won three of four) and win two of three doubles."

Awaiting Miramonte in the semifinals was the only team who had beaten Miramonte this year—their Lamorinda rival, Campolindo.

The Cougars, led by captain Maks Tsvetkov, beat Clayton Valley in the first round 6-1 before downing California 5-2 to create yet another rematch versus the Mats.

Miramonte defeated Campolindo in the James Logan Championship and at home in league play, yet lost to the Cougars in Moraga for their only loss of the year.

The familiarity helped Miramonte more than it did Campolindo. Luke Bohuslav dispatched Tsvetkov 7-5, 6-1 to set the pace for his team, and the Matadors lost only three sets in the match. Two of the losses came to Campolindo's freshman, Tilden Oliver, as he defeated Krakaris 6-3, 6-3.

Despite the loss to Miramonte, Campolindo's head coach Petro Petreas was happy with his team's performance in the regular season and in the playoffs. "Our guys played well in all three matches. We were the only team to beat Miramonte during the season, but we just weren't able to do it a second time. I'm proud of the season as a whole and thankful to our

graduating seniors."

Miramonte's win set up a duel of the top two seeds as they faced Monte Vista later on Saturday. Bohuslav once again led the way with a 6-2, 6-2 win. Krakaris pulled out a thrilling three-set win, and the Matadors hung on to win 5-2.

With the NCS Title secured, Miramonte next travels to Natomas Racquet Club in Sacramento to participate in the CIF NorCal Team Tennis Championships on Friday.



Acalanes was represented in the postseason by Dan Cardiff. Cardiff beat Jonathan Kim of Clayton Valley in the first round of the singles tournament before falling to the overall number one seed.

Lafayette Swim Conference Plunges into First Year

By Cathy Dausman

There will be a new conference on the starting blocks this year at recreational swim meets in Lamorinda. The newly-formed Lafayette Swim Conference (LSC) will serve more than 1,000 swimmers in five swim clubs: the Lafayette Moraga Youth Association (LMYA), Oakwood Athletic Club, Rancho Colorados, Springbrook and Sun Valley pools. Gayle Burleigh and Lauren Webster will serve jointly as board co-presidents for the LSC, which begins on June 9.

The LSC conference began as the result of multiple poolside conversations among board members from several clubs: Ted Liu (Sun Valley), Kaaren Brickman (Springbrook), Kristi Buck (LMYA), Jon Wheeler and Carol Spiering (Rancho Colorados), and Mike Millimen (Oakwood). They then presented the idea to their respective clubs.

Last July, LSC held its first official meeting; by October bylaws were in place.

"[It] probably surprised a lot of people," says Liu in reference to the fact the conference was up and running within a year. Wheeler agrees,

saying the organization did an "unbelievable job getting going."

Still, Wheeler wonders about growing pains this year, but says, "by year three, this will be so great."

Those familiar with Lamorinda's swim culture know the idea of a no-cut summer sport open to children ages 5 to 18 has broad appeal. Spiering says recreational swimming is a sport in which the whole family can compete. "Your kids can grow up at swim club," she says.

Buck says LSC wants to be inclusive for swimmers of every ability level, and wants to make its program a positive experience, especially for teens.

In addition to offering more awards, LSC has decided not to score dual meets. It is doubling the number of competitors eligible for final swim rounds. LSC will also emphasize out-of-pool socializing. The conference has scheduled a Bay Area beach cleanup for its members, and a trip to a Concord waterpark. To kick off the season, LSC will host a teen social (tacos, and live DJ music, \$15 per person) at Rancho Colorados Pool on June 21.

Only Lafayette's Las Trampas pool will not join LSC in 2012. Swim team co-director Kevin Strohmeyer says that Las Trampas has been well-served by the Diablo Community Swim League for over 50 years.

However, Strohmeyer is excited for the other programs. "We have been in contact with the founding teams of the new league and are excited about many of the ideas we have heard and will continue to watch the development of the new league/conference as we continually assess the needs of our team."

League co-president Gayle Burleigh says, "This year is our beta test to work out all the kinks. We hope that the other Lafayette team will join us and we have had discussions with Pleasant Hill [Swim Club] to have them join us in 2013 as well."

Wheeler predicts the LSC inaugural season will be "the beginning of magic."

Lafayette Swim Conference is not yet online, but expects to have its website running next month

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