

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Unbeaten Miramonte Football Charges Into League Season

By Karl Buscheck



Tim Tague Photos Gint Federas



Vincent Mossotti



Brian Merken

The Miramonte football team powered its way through the nonleague portion of the schedule with a perfect 5-0 record. Now, the real test begins for the Mats.

"We knew that once we hit league we've got two defending NorCal champions – that represented Northern California in the state bowl last year – right off the bat," said head coach Jack Schram.

The Mats open up DAL play by hosting Clayton Valley and Campolindo on back-to-back Fridays, beginning Oct. 7.

"We've got tough teams coming up," Schram said. "But we've got (time) now to clean up all the little things to see if we can get better and see what we can do."

The team's last meeting with Clayton Valley, who MaxPreps ranks as the No. 38 team in the state, came back in 2013, when the Mats surprised the heavyweights with an upset win in the NCS playoffs.

"We did beat them last time we played them, which is definitely fresh on their coach's mind," Schram said. "They're not going to overlook us at all."

A week later, the Mats will welcome in the Cougars for a matchup that Schram described as the "biggest game of the season, probably." With the challenging games looming, the Mats will be relying heavily on quarterback Tim Tague. The senior has aired out 19 touchdowns in five games.

"The numbers probably could have been doubled – had we wanted to," Schram said, pointing out that Tague has only played about two-and-half quarters of football thanks to all the early-season blowouts.

Senior Nick Foster has been the No. 1 option for Tague – hauling in five touchdowns – but he's one of just six players with multiple touchdown catches.

Before meeting the Mats in the second game of the DAL season, Campolindo visits Las Lomas for the opener on Oct. 7. For head coach Kevin Macy and the Cougars, the top priority is simply trying to get as healthy as possible after navigating a loaded preseason schedule with a 3-2 record.

"We're just so patchwork as we're trying to manage all the injuries and we're going to see what we can do to piece something together for league play," Macy said.

With a depleted running back corps and an inexperienced offensive line, the Cougars will be looking to their most consistent player – senior quarterback Jacob Westphal – to lead the way. Macy singled out seniors Matt Ringquist and Vince Mossotti as Westphal's most important receivers – especially with their rivalry game against the Mats approaching.

"That's always a big one – regardless," Macy said. "But I imagine with the turn of events it's just gotten bigger."

"We're both going in two different directions," Macy added. "They're rolling and healthy and we're limping and beaten up. That will be one of those games where if we can just find enough able bodies that's the goal."

Acalanes, who doesn't see either of their neighbors until the final two weeks of the season, hosts Concord on Oct. 7 to begin their DAL slate. The Dons went 3-2 in nonconference action despite playing four of those five games on the road.

"I think (that experience) will make us a better team throughout our league schedule by playing tough teams and playing the way we did," explained head coach Floyd Burnsed.

For the Dons, junior quarterback Robby Rowell has excelled behind a young, but rapidly improving offensive line. During the nonleague schedule, senior Matt Burns and junior Brian Merken were Rowell's favorite targets, as both upperclassman hauled in four touchdown catches a piece.

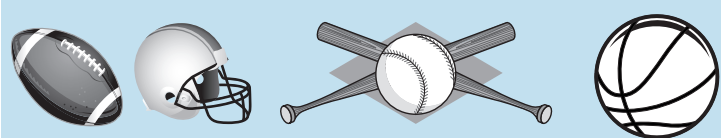
Burnsed explained that his team spent much of its pre-league bye week working on fundamentals and making sure they don't get too far ahead of themselves, with a tricky DAL schedule out on the horizon.

"I think you look at one game at a time," Burnsed said. "It's not looking at Clayton or Campo or Miramonte. It's looking at Concord. That's what our main focus will be – getting ready for Concord."

Nonetheless, Burnsed knows just how enjoyable it will be to end the season with a run of games against the Dons' most-familiar opponents.

"There's a lot of rivals in there in Miramonte, Campolindo and Las Lomas," Burnsed said. "So, playing our district schools is a lot of fun because there's a lot of interest in it and a lot of people come to see those games."

Youth Sports Registration



Lamorinda Rugby Football Club



On-line Registration opens Oct 1st for the 2016 rugby season! Season runs December through March for youth, and through April for High School. Teams for girls and guys ages 6-19. No prior rugby experience necessary. Practices are located at the Wilder Fields in Orinda.

Find out more about our team and how to register online at www.lamorugby.com. For questions, contact Doug Pearson at dpearson@lee-associates.com.

FINALLY, THE REBELS HAVE A CAUSE.

M240i Available in a coupe and a convertible.

Michael Heller, BMW Concord, mlheller78@hotmail.com



BMW Concord

Visit our booth at the Art & Wine



Call Michael Heller 925-998-2150

BMW Concord | 1967 Market ST. | Concord

Your one-call plumber!

LeapFrog Plumbing

Gas Water & Sewer

Head Frog Mo Williams

Does your plumbing give you a FRIGHT?

ZOT! Zap Out Trouble-before trouble zaps you.

50% OFF CRAWL UNDER (It can be scary down under your house!)

Good Preventive Plumbing measures will protect you and your family from true life horror stories; Broken pipes, holes in venting, electrolysis, sneaky leaks, and more eeeeek!

50% OFF Inspection, crawl space plumbing, Inspection \$189 Value!

*visible and accessible plumbing; Homeowners only; most houses Thru 11/15/2016



Family-owned & serving Lamorinda since 1993

green solutions!



We Hop To It!



(925) 377-6600

www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

LMYA SOCCER

If it's fall and it's a Saturday, you will find almost every blade of grass in Lafayette and Moraga covered with kids playing the most popular game in the world--SOCCER. Of all of the groups in the area, LMYA is by far, the biggest game in town with 2,000 participants from kindergarten through high school.

The season starts with the return to school; but even before that, LMYA families start having fun. The Opening Day party is a Free, giant celebration to kick off the new soccer year. Players and siblings are invited to come slide, bounce, or climb on an assortment of inflatables, to take on the Trans-Atlantic Soccer trainers in various games including Beat the Goalie. Food is available and that last minute opportunity to get cleats and shin guards before practice starts the next day. And bring a towel-- you are going to get wet!

Soccer Kick-off Extravaganza



Although LMYA is an "everybody's welcome, everybody plays" organization, it does not take away from the dedication to teach and improve skills, teamwork and sportsmanship. To that end, LMYA works with Trans-Atlantic Soccer Trainers, to instruct our volunteer coaches on the game and how to teach it to players in any age-group or level.



Although LMYA Soccer has just begun, LMYA is already gearing up and registering for the next sport on the Calendar, BASKETBALL which begins in November. It is for boys and girls in 1st grade thru 8th grade. Introductory clinics are offered for the youngest age groups and then skills and strategy sessions for the older, more experienced players. For more information go to: www.lmyasports.com

Watch for other, coming LMYA sports* Teeball, Baseball, Softball and Volleyball, which begin registering, January 10, 2017