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## Miramonte exits in second round of NCS Division 1 tournament

By Karl Buscheck



Photo Gint Federas

After powering to the DAL title with a flawless 10-0 mark, the Miramonte boys tennis squad earned a berth in the NCS Division 1 team tournament.

Seeded No. 5 in the bracket, the Mats advanced to the second round of the competition before Foothill – the champions of the East Bay Athletic League – dumped them out of the competition.

Before entering the premier NCS field,

head coach Michael McCollom had warned of the difficulties that lay ahead.

“We are a very good team – one of my better teams over the years,” McCollom said. “But I can tell you, it’s going to be quite a big (challenge to win NCS).”

In the second-round defeat on May 11 in Pleasanton, the Mats lost to Foothill, the fellow league winners, 5-2. Junior Nico Haet claimed the team’s only singles match win

(6-2, 4-6, 6-3), while the pairing of Kush Subramanian and Dominic Davidson earned the only double victory (6-4, 6-0).

The loss to Foothill marked the first time since Feb. 24 (against Mission San Jose) that the Mats were on the wrong side of the score line.

Miramonte had reached the meeting with Foothill by dispatching College Park, 4-3, in the opening round on May 9 in Orinda.

Even as the Mats claimed just one of four singles matches – freshman Micah Elias’ 5-7, 7-5, 7-5 win in the No. 4 spot – Miramonte triumphed by sweeping the doubles ladder.

“That usually is my goal is to have a real solid doubles performance,” McCollom explained. “I have some wonderful boys in my lineup. The two juniors are William Hwang at No. 1 (singles) and my No. 2 Haet. They’re really strong. Behind that, I have (senior captain) Jack O’Melveny at No. 3, (sophomore) Liam Dowd at No. 4. Then I have a really nice freshman – Micah Elias – he’s really strong.”

While Campolindo didn’t advance to the NCS team tournament – the Cougars toppled out of the doubles competition in the opening round – head coach Alan Weissbaum is confident the program is trending in the right

direction.

The Cougars (11-8 overall, 8-3 in league) will have nine seniors on the roster next spring and one of the team’s rising sophomores – Cal Hunter – has already emerged as a marquee talent.

“I think we’re going to be fairly strong next year,” Weissbaum said. “We’re not losing any of our singles players, so that’s really good for us and I think we’ll only get stronger. Our No. 1 player Cal Hunter is improving nicely and he won the DAL singles tournament.”

In addition to Hunter, Weissbaum singled out junior captain Zach Goldman as an “good all-around guy,” and also paid his respects to one of the Cougars’ departing stars.

“Jake Oxendine was our No. 1 doubles guy and he was a standout,” Weissbaum said. “He pretty much won all the time. He was also one of our captains and it was fun to have him on board and he’s a senior, so we’ll certainly miss him.”

Like the Cougars, the Dons didn’t advance to the NCS team competition. Acalanes concluded its season with a 7-7 record overall and a 2-5 mark in league play, good for fourth place in the league standings.

## Mats, Cougars and Dons girls lacrosse all advance to NCS

By Karl Buscheck



Abigail Burns

Photo Gint Federas

After splitting the DAL crown with Campolindo, the Miramonte girls lacrosse team secured the No. 13 seed in the NCS Division I bracket, their first spring playing in

the sport’s top flight.

“It just shows the growth of the sport in this area and how hard these girls have worked,” said head coach Jackie Pelletier. “Some of the girls were bummed to share the league title with Campo, but (then) we step back and we look and their success over four years – that’s allowed us to move up to the D I bracket.”

The Mats (17-4 overall, 15-1 in league) exited the postseason in the first round of NCS, losing 14-10 to the No. 4 seed Amador Valley in Pleasanton on May 10.

“For such a small school to be right there with the biggest schools in the area is just amazing for us,” Pelletier said.

Ranked No. 38 in the state by MaxPreps, the Mats were anchored by a trio of veteran captains.

“The key to our success, 100 percent, has been our senior captains,” Pelletier.

Taylor Geary – the league MVP – didn’t take part in the postseason, but made it through the first 18 games while playing on an injured knee. Geary, who will join the

team at Claremont McKenna College next season, excelled for the Mats even as she entered her senior season knowing her knee would eventually require surgery.

Pelletier described Lucy Stenovec – the club’s sharp-shooting attacker – as a “quiet confident leader” and called Morgan Johnson a “fierce competitor” and the “most tenacious athlete” she’s ever coached.

“She will hunt people down on the field,” Pelletier said of Johnson.

The co-champion Cougars, who earned the No. 1 seed in the Division 2 tournament, earned a bye in the opening round before smashing past the No. 8 seed Christian Brothers, 16-5, in Moraga on May 12.

With the quarterfinals romp over Christian Brothers, Campolindo – the No. 24 team in the state per MaxPreps – have now produced a 15-game unbeaten stretch.

Captained by seniors Grace Burnite, Claire Cimino, Peyton King and Abigail Burns, the Cougars took the field on May 16 in the semifinals, hosting No. 5 Branson. The finals of the D2 bracket will take place on

May 18.

Like Miramonte, Acalanes (12-9 overall, 12-4 in league) took part in the DI bracket, claiming the No. 16 seed before falling 22-7 to No. 1 Novato on the road on May 10 in the first round.

“They really deserved to be up in that top 16 and I’m glad other people recognized that too,” head coach Courtney Neff said. “Overall, I’m super proud of all their work that they put in to get there and they put up a good fight (against Novato). I was really proud of them.”

The Dons will lose a pair of senior headliners in Julia Mueller and Anna De Roque, who are both set to play at the collegiate level next spring. Despite those departures, Neff believes her team is poised to make another postseason push next spring, noting that the varsity and junior varsity setups are flooded with high-upside underclassmen.

“Acalanes lacrosse overall is a really young program,” Neff said. “And I think it has a really bright future and I’m excited to see everything (the girls) can do.”

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