

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Miramonte outlasts Acalanes 15-14 to win Diablo League



Shaune Lundstrom, Miramonte (at last season)



Lauren Westergren, Acalanes Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

It's said that when there is a rivalry game in any sport, you can throw out the records. Last Friday night, Miramonte and Acalanes girls lacrosse came into their final league game with 7-0 records in league play. Throw in senior night (five for

each team) and there was great anticipation coming into the game.

The term competitive does not do justice in describing the level of play in the game. It was more like a heavyweight fight (without the punches) that went the distance with Miramonte's Shaune Lundstrom scoring the

last of her five goals with 18 seconds left to defeat Acalanes by a score of 15-14.

Both teams came in with winning streaks and a lot of confidence. The coaches felt it was important for their teams to keep their focus. Acalanes head coach Mary Doyle wanted her team to "keep our composure

and take each play at a time and not get flustered or frustrated. If we play our system, we'll be fine."

It's said that familiarity breeds contempt. In this game, familiarity only bred respect. Miramonte head coach Jackie Pelletier appreciated the relationships the players and coaches have off the field as only making the game more special: "I played against Mary when she was at Cal-Davis and I was at California and I'm really close with her. All of our kids have played with the Acalanes kids growing up and most of them know each other's styles."

Miramonte has had a number of games where they started slowly and this game was no exception. Acalanes clearly won the first half, leading by a score of 9-5. The Matadors knew coming into the game that they had to contain Lauren Westergren. However, knowing doesn't always make it so. Westergren scored the first three goals of the game and scored eight goals in total.

Miramonte has been a strong second half team all season and this game was no exception though Acalanes stood

toe to toe with them and did not back down. In the last 15 minutes of the game, there were four ties and four lead changes. Miramonte was led by Lundstrom (5 goals), Boo Dewitt (4 goals) and Emerson Bohlig (3 goals). Freshman Sally Peterson scored two goals and Pelletier called it "a breakout game for Sally and I expect her to keep going up."

Lundstrom said that the team had been pointing to this game for a while: "There was all this pent-up energy because we knew that our teams were evenly matched. It was amazing to come out on top and have all of our hard work pay off. I'm sure we're going to see them again in the playoffs but it sure feels good right now."

Still, Doyle spoke for all in keeping the perspective of the game: "There is a little bit of bragging rights as the girls know each other really well from club teams, but at the end of the game, off the field, we're all good sports and root for each player individually because that's the lacrosse community in general."

## Lamorinda boys tennis teams land on top



By Jon Kingdon

As the boys tennis season has just concluded, once again Miramonte, Campolindo and Acalanes have been key factors in the Foothill League. Miramonte and Campolindo finished tied for first in league play with 8-2 records. Acalanes came in fourth with a 5-5 record, one game behind College Park. It's been a dog eat dog eat dog relationship for the Lamorinda schools. In the six matches between the schools, five of them were decided by 5-4 scores.

**Miramonte**

As the head coach of the Miramonte girls and boys tennis teams, Michael McCollom has been confronted with the whims of Mother Nature. It was the smoke from the fires for the girls and the rain for the boys that forced the team to adjust to the constantly changing conditions. "I can't remember the last normal practice we had," said McCollom. With the weather causing postponements and rescheduling, Miramonte was forced to close the season with six matches in eight days.

Besides the weather, McCollom had to respond to the loss of what he had anticipated being his top two returning players: "Micah Ellis chose to be home schooled which enabled him to play in national tournaments and Liam Dodd was accepted into West Point and has gone into full training and chose not to play tennis."

After seven weeks, Miramonte was confronted with an out of character 3-4

record. McCollom realized that the team was going to need a lot of players to mature quickly and step up and become forces in single play. Mature they did as the Matadors just finished their regular season with eight consecutive victories finishing with an 11-4 record.

Having three freshmen, Clemens Van Dongen, Nishad Elias, Liam Sullivan and sophomores Nicholas Hwang and Peter Reeves playing singles, the hoped for maturity arrived sooner than anyone could have expected as Miramonte went on to win their next seven matches. "It's been a hybrid season," said McCollom. "We are very balanced with the seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshman. It's rare to get this. The freshmen are great kids. They are very mature, well liked and accomplished in the tennis community, commanding a lot of respect."

Two seniors, Dominic Davidson and Alan Zhou, have been very effective doubles players, Davidson teaming with freshman Peter Aroner as the number one doubles team and Zhou playing with sophomore Ethan Arroyo. "Dominic is a pure leader on and off the court and has been my most solid doubles player the last three years," says McCollom. "Zhou in his first year on the varsity is the most fun human being and brings a wonderful esprit de corps to the team."

Doubles has always been important to McCollom and the Matadors: "We pride ourselves on our doubles teams. We emphasize it and other coaches have been following our lead."



Photos Gint Federas

With an 80-38 record in all matches, it's a team that is in great position for the NCS playoffs.

**Campolindo**

Campolindo also began the season getting their sea legs, losing five of their first seven matches. Despite confronting various injuries and illnesses, head coach James Scott never lost his confidence in his team: "I am really impressed how much the team really competes in every match. They just play hard and have come up to the matches. We've really come together as a team."

This would more than explain how the Cougars went on to win nine of their next 11 matches

The singles players have been led by seniors Cal Hunter, Nick Bohm, Eden Yu and junior Benjamin Goldblatt. "These kids are super young men," says Scott. "They have put in a lot of good work and are outstanding people."

The doubles teams for Campolindo have been a real factor in the team's success this season, says Scott: "Our doubles teams are playing well and that was a welcome surprise this season. The players have really bought into playing doubles. I have been really impressed with Josh Fleming who knew it was best for the team to play doubles and he really bought in to it and has really learned how to do it well. We're not relying on our singles or doubles player to win. We just rely on everyone to pull together."

Two sophomores, Noam Ayalon and Cooper Schnurr have not been intimidated by

done a great job for him in their roles: "They been great seeing it as a year-round job. They got the guys to hit in the off-season, scheduling lots of things and bringing the team together as one unit."

**Acalanes**

Like Campolindo and Miramonte, Acalanes was slow out of the gate, losing their first four matches. And like their neighboring schools, the Dons turned the season around winning seven of their last 12 matches. Head coach Curtis Berrien, who was promoted after serving two years as the school's JV coach, spoke of the team's improvement as the season progressed: "The rain set us back but it did so for everyone. The whole team has improved steadily and it's been great. They practice 4-5 days a week and at the end of the season we were playing our best tennis."

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