

Miramonte and Acalanes girls defeated in Division II semifinals



Photos Gint Federas



Acalanes senior night

By Jon Kingdon

The Acalanes and Miramonte girls lacrosse teams proved to be near carbon copies of each other. Acalanes concluded their season with a 16-8 record. Miramonte finished their season with a 17-8 record. Miramonte defeated Acalanes 15-14 in their last regular season game to go undefeated in league play and Acalanes returned the favor by defeating Miramonte in the championship game to win the Diablo Athletic League tournament.

Acalanes entered the NCS Division II tournament seeded third and Miramonte was seeded fourth. Each school won two games prior to their semifinal games. Miramonte defeated Urban (S.F.) 20-2 and Marin Academy 12-7 and Acalanes defeated Livermore 16-1 and Tamalpais (Mill Valley) 10-7. The similarities continued as each school lost to the respective No. 1 and No. 2 seeds in their semifinal games.

Miramonte had lost to the No.1 seeded Piedmont earlier in the season by a score of 13-8 and traveled to Piedmont for the rematch. Piedmont jumped out to an 8-2 lead after 14 minutes in the first half. A key series occurred with only 15 seconds to go in

the half and Miramonte trailing 9-5. The Matadors missed a close-in shot and Piedmont passed the ball down the field and scored with three seconds left to make the score 10-5 at the half.

In the second half, Piedmont extended their lead to 14-7 after nine minutes. Miramonte battled back to close the score to 16-12 but Piedmont went on to score three of the next four goals, winning by a score of 19-13.

Miramonte head coach Jackie Pelletier saw little difference between the teams: "We were even on draws and possessions. The difference was just putting the ball in the back of the net. We did not convert on our opportunities. We hit the post four times and that made a huge difference for us."

Senior co-captain Taylor Johnson, who will be attending Cal Poly SLO next year, spoke highly of her time with the team: "I honestly could not have asked for a better four years playing lacrosse. I know we ended on a loss but I really have no regrets. I lived in the moment and we had the best team chemistry we ever could have asked for. I'll definitely miss being part of the team. There's nothing like being on your high school sports team. The chemistry, the bond and all

that you go through together is something I won't forget."

Despite the loss, Pelletier saw it as a successful season: "We had the biggest turnover we ever had coming off last season and these kids worked so hard and to be this close tonight, it's huge for them. I'm most proud of the fact that there isn't any team in this division that is better than us. Tonight, it just came down to who had a better day."

Acalanes had to make the trip to Novato to play the second-seeded San Marin High School. It was a close first half until San Marin scored three late goals to end the period up 6-3.

Acalanes head coach Mary Doyle pulled the team together at halftime. "We did not come out as strong as we wanted to and weren't quite clicking. At halftime, I told the team that three goals is not a lot to make up. We had a good mindset at halftime and we executed well in the second half."

However, with the game tied at 9-9, San Marin scored the deciding goal with 1:30 left to close out the scoring and clinching the victory 10-9, the fourth time this season that Acalanes lost a game by one goal.

Doyle accepted the loss, but wasn't

happy about it: "It was a heartbreaker, but we gave a great effort. We hit the pipe twice in crucial moments but that is part of the game. I'm so proud of the girls. They fought and played hard and won the second half."

Doyle singled out senior Claire Gallagher and junior Lauren Westergren: "Claire was our MVP. She was so consistent and always gave 100 percent. She was a great leader and you always noticed her on the field. Lauren always showed great hustle providing the spark for us and at times was unstoppable."

Doyle took a lot of positives from her first season as the Dons' head coach: "We played really well and had some great breakout games. Even our losses were good learning experiences and the girls grew a lot and got better every game. It was inspiring to see how committed they all were. Everyone bought into our system and we all had the same goals. That meant more to me than winning the championship, knowing that academics came first and how important it was to be a good teammate and to do things the right way. That's what I am most proud of about the team."

Lamorinda at the Meet of Champions

... continued from Page C1

On the boy's side, the top performer coming into the MOC was senior pole vaulter Marcus Young, whose event was postponed for two days. The delay did Young no harm as he won the event by an extraordinary one foot, 10 inches and will be jumping again at the state meet.

Junior Trevon Sidlauskas finished in fifth in the discus, but has a great future, says Tool: "Trevon is a rising star. He throws the shot and discus and competes in all three

jumps and runs well. Discus is his strongest event, but he could have a future in the decathlon if he wanted."

Tool had no shortage of leaders on the team: "We had 160 kids that came out for track and I had 12 captains on the team. They were a great group and they all earned the title."

Acalanes

Acalanes co-head coaches David Kohls and Joe Escobar had a lot of success in their first year leading the team. Said Escobar: "We had a great season and team experience. The kids did a good job in transitioning

to the new program and were open minded and coachable across the board. There was a good commitment to the team."

The Dons were 5-0 and the Foothill Division champion. Leading the boys was Johnny Choi who jumped 6'7" at the MOC, finishing in third and qualifying for the state tournament. The boy's 4x400 meter relay team was comprised of all juniors (Irvin Chao, Aiden Mosley, Rayce Walton and Kevin Mlynek) and finished in fifth at the MOC. "The jumps were the strength of our team," said Escobar. "We did not give

up a single point all year and Choi set the school records in the high jump (6'8")."

Also contributing all season were Keaziah Smith in the 100 meters and Chris Rogers in the long jump.

A number of the girls were very competitive at the MOC. Anna Weir was seventh in the discus and 13th in the shot put. Mila Mathias was eighth in the 100-meter hurdles. Nicole Frigon was fourth and Lauren Yee seventh in the 800 meters and Emily Sverak was eighth in the 300-meter hurdles.

Choi, Frigon and Anand

Patel were the key leaders for Acalanes, said Escobar: "They did a great job in getting everyone on the same page and handling the intangibles."

At the state tournament this past weekend, for Miramonte, Cassidy Haskell finished 7th in the 1600-meter race and Marcus Young finished in 13th in the pole vault. For Campolindo, Maddie Doane finished 13th in the 200 meters and 11th in the 400 meters. Edward Buckley finished in 20th in the 3200 meters.

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4th GRADE GOLD CHAMPIONS - LAGUNA BEACH

(Front Row): Reese Tierney, Kate Beaver, Michela Barbano, Stella Hamilton, Ava Sandberg, Zeva Robinson, Kayla Schaffer, Grace Eppinger. (Back Row): Coach Lauren McSorley, Olivia Britton, Anna Motes, Madden McSorley, Coach Anna Eppinger.



6th GRADE GOLD CHAMPIONS - MONUMENT BEACH

Coach Chris Evans, Cameron, Zoe, Campbell, Emma, Elaine, Reiney, Mia, Molly, Kaylee, Taylor, Addison, Coach Brian Mikalis.



5th GRADE GOLD CHAMPIONS - MIRAMAR BEACH

(Front row): Lauren Foster, Meryem Orazova. (Back row): Coach Mona Fox, Fiona McCool, Claire Reidel, Madeline Jaunrubenis, Kyla Rose Fox, Rena Liu, Ava Rogers, Molly Jones, Coach Ning Liu



7th/8th GRADE GOLD CHAMPIONS - KENTUCKY

Coach Diane Joyce, Nikita Vayner #8, Katherine Yokomizo #11, Sara Parrish #6, Sophia Alvarado #5, Mya Dunne #12, Golnaz Ahmadih #1, Samya Johnson #3, Alana Brinkman #2 Natalia Kalas #4, Coach Linda Joyce. (Missing Team member): Katie Feldman.

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