



# SPORT

## LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORT NEWS

### Miramonte v. Northgate: First Track Meet of the Season

By Malia McClurg

Training, improvement, personal bests, and team victories – that’s what track season is all about. This past Wednesday, Miramonte and Northgate met in their first meet of the season. Because so many events

(which is one lap around the track and a difficult race of skill and timing) or “which leg do I jump off” (referring to high jump)? Just for reference, it is the leg farthest from the bar.

Over at the long jump,

develop quirky pre-event rituals.

Despite the greenness of these athletes, many surprised themselves by how well they did. Laura Dell’anno, a Northgate sophomore, attempted a high jump



Matt Shoustack 110HH

make up a track meet, and because an athlete can participate in up to four events, sometimes athletes are shifted between events. They can be thrown into events as a trial, to fill a vacant spot, or to maximize points. This is especially common at the beginning of a season.

This is why, when

similar indications of a new season were apparent. There were a lot of scratched marks (meaning that athletes stepped over the white line before jumping), as jumpers tried to find their spot and get their steps timed just right...

Just wait until later in the season. This is when jumpers will have their

for the first time on Wednesday. Even with her lack of experience, or the fact that she was in the Frosh/Soph bracket, Dell’anno sailed over 4’6” bar and landed with varsity potential. Though she looked surprised every time she cleared the bar, Dell’anno definitely has a knack for it. That’s the thing with track. The levels of experience and age vary quite a bit. Physical strength and practice are huge advantages, so the upper class juniors and seniors benefit from previous practice and time. But like Dell’anno, some of it comes down to pure athleticism.

Miramonte senior Katie Weeks is an example of what the combination of experience and skill yield. Her speed, technique, and skill allowed her to take first by a margin in the women’s varsity 100 hurdles heat. But, the day wasn’t over for her yet. After the race, while trying to catch her breath, she said she was also scheduled for the 300 hurdles as well as the 4 X 4 relay race to end the meet.

All in all, the meet was just a sneak peek of the budding stars that will develop over the 2007 track season.

Malia McClurg is the sports editor for Lamorinda Weekly. In high school, she ran the 100H, 300H, and Long Jump, 4X4, and heptathlon.



Trevor Boswell 400

walking around the infield, it was not uncommon to hear frantic questions like “How do you run the 400”

marks, runners will feel confident in their races, throwers will get used to the wind-up, and everyone will

### Good Sports

### But Good Volleyball Players? Not so Much

By Malia McClurg

If games were decided by enthusiasm, personality, or fans, then the Miramonte men’s volleyball team definitely would have won in their match against College Park. Unfortunately, experience, organization and skill were also a factor. Miramonte fell to College Park three games to zero.

Although the game was more entertaining than thrilling, the Matadors did manage to improve during the three games of the swept match.

The uniforms alone told the story. College Park came in with matching jerseys and retro black and white shorts. In fact, even all the boys kind of looked the same — that over-six-foot, shaggy haired “I’ve played volleyball for 10 years” look.

And then

there was Miramonte. I think they were wearing soccer jerseys and decided to make a statement by donning different shorts and looking relatively disheveled. It worked, in the sense that it was a sign of what was to come. But, on the Mats’ behalf, they didn’t take themselves too seriously and had a lot of fun. Their number 10 turned to me after several failed attempts and missed points and said, “Uh, don’t write that down,” or “we’re just warming up and giving [College Park] a little confidence, then we are going to make it happen.” They never really made it happen, but they did work hard.

In addition to hustle, the Mats also had another thing going for them: fans with a sense of humor.

When Miramonte finally got on the scoreboard (by default after College Park botched two of their serves) to make it 2-11, the Matador fans started chanting

“scooooooreboard, scooooooreboard.” While this is usually used to rub a big lead into an opponent’s face, the Miramonte fans took a creative and rather sarcastic approach to heckling. They used this chant whenever Miramonte was losing by a big gap. In the end, Miramonte managed to put 6 points on the board in the first game just before College Park hit the game ending 25 mark.

Yes, the game was light-hearted and funny because of the huge disparity in playing level, but to be fair, the Miramonte guys worked hard and didn’t stop trying. None of the Miramonte team had any previous volleyball experience. This was also their first game after only two and a half weeks of practice, so

take a brief lead over College Park. Okay, fine, it happened because it was the first point of the second game and a College Park error, but that’s not the point.

Despite the fleeting lead, the major highlight of the game came when the Mats hit the ten point mark in the third game. The crowd went wild chanting “dooooooble diiiiigits.” The Mats ended the third game with a 13-25 loss, but it was an improvement from their initial six points. Remember, this is only the first game of the season and as Nicholas Kirkpatrick, a senior on the Mats, assuredly stated “We’ll get ‘em next time.” Or, as another team mate suggested, “Just say we all had mono.”



Eric Johnson, Senior

you have to give them some credit. When losing by double or triple the opponent’s points, they still did their best. They were constantly diving, running into each other, and even heading the ball just to get it over the net. Whether a result of disorganization or effort, I am willing to give them the benefit of doubt. Whatever it was, it carried the Mats to

Malia McClurg is the Sports Editor for the Lamorinda Weekly. Don’t bet against her on the volleyball court.

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