

Dons Get Payback with Balanced Attack

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Acalanes Dons played the Miramonte Matadors Tuesday, Feb. 12 for the second time this year. The first game didn't go as the Dons had planned, as they were beat by the Mats on their own court in convincing fashion. The return game at Miramonte had a different look and feel to it, as the Dons maintained control from the opening quarter. The Dons used a pressure defense, and a balanced scoring attack to return the favor to the Mats, and won this game 53-37.

The Dons were a little too unselfish



Left to right: Eric Obeysekere (35), Joey Anderson (40), Chris Hatfield (14)

Photo Jordon Fong

to start the game, but this style would pay off for them in the long run. Peter Briskey and Eric Obeysekere were able to take Miramonte out to a 4-0 lead with their play early on, but the Mats could only garner eight points in the opening quarter.

Acalanes got an assist from their own crowd who made the trip from Lafayette, as the student fan base used the fake shot clock tactic that worked to perfection. As Miramonte had the ball and the shot clock wound down, the fans yelled out the time left on the shot clock. However, the true shot clock showed that the Mats had a few more seconds to spare, but the players listened to the fans, and forced up a quick shot that missed.

The Dons earned the rest of their points on the night, as Hunter Hewitt was on fire in the first half. Hewitt hustled for a nice reverse layup and pretty shot off the glass to give the Dons a cushion at halftime. Miramonte's Chris Hatfield made a clutch three-pointer just before halftime to keep the score close for the Mats, but Acalanes was able to secure a three-point lead at the break.

In the third quarter the Dons could have forced the ball to their shooting guard, or placed more pressure on Hewitt to score the ball, but instead they chose to pass it. "If two guys are hot, we'll give them the ball, but if not we'll just work it around and find the open guy," said Acalanes forward Joey Anderson. Miramonte was unable to finish well Tuesday night, and it caused them to turn the ball over in the paint. Acalanes was able to capitalize on these mistakes, turning Miramonte turnovers into points.

Anderson was a force, if not the difference maker for the Dons Tuesday night. He was able to take the ball to the rim in a tough, yet controlled manner throughout



Left to right: Bryan Perkins (22), Peter Briskey (21)

Photo Jordon Fong

the game. David Masi had a nice game for the Dons, as he nailed a few nice jump shots, including a three pointer that may have sealed the game. With four minutes remaining, Masi's three-point shot gave the Dons a 47-33 lead, thus hampering any thoughts of a Matador comeback. With the final two minutes of the game, the Dons were able to run the clock down before taking any shots, securing a big win for Acalanes on the road.