



# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Dons Get Payback with Balanced Attack

By Kevin D. Shallat



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



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

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 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 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.

### Mats Manage to Tie Against Northgate after Controversial Call

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Miramonte Matadors men's soccer team survived a scare Wednesday, Feb. 6, against Northgate. The Mats had home field advantage in this game, but both teams had to endure the cold temperatures, as they played in frosty conditions under the lights at Miramonte. The Mats fell down by a score of 1-0 at the half, but were able to tie up the score in the second half. However, that lone goal was the only score that Miramonte could manage, as they finished this game in a 1-1 tie.

Miramonte looked sharp in this game early on, as they passed the ball effortlessly, with a crisp fluidity. As good as the Mats looked, the time of possession early in the game was about equal.

Philip Da Silva was active for the Mats in the first half. Both Da Silva and Trevor Himes did a good job of setting each other up with shots, but Miramonte was unable to score off any of these passes. Da Silva, the league's current leading scorer, was held scoreless in this game, but did record an assist later in the game.

Miramonte looked like they had a plan of attack in this first half, as each player seemed to know what to do with the ball before it was kicked to them. Just when the Mats seemed to gain

control of this game, there was a game changing (hands) call around the Miramonte goal. There was a logjam of players around the Matador goal. Miramonte defender Tommy Sander was unable to get away from the path of the ball, and he was struck in the hands by the shot on goal. The referee deemed it an illegal use of the hands, despite the fact that Sander's hands were close to his body, and the ball was kicked directly into him. The call allowed Northgate's Scott Reddy to score on the penalty shot in the 32 minutes of play. Northgate held the 1-0 advantage going into half-time.

Despite the one goal deficit, Miramonte never panicked, as they felt they were in control for the entire game. The Mats dominated the time of possession for the first 12 plus minutes of the second half. Miramonte played a well rounded second half, as their defense stepped up and held the Broncos scoreless in the second half. Miramonte defender Sam Clark had a great defensive play, as he was able to head the ball away against a shot on the Miramonte goal.

The Mats were held scoreless until the 74th minute of play, when Miramonte scored the



Philip Da Silva Photo Jordon Fong

game-tying goal by way of two quick passes. Himes passed the ball off to Da Silva, who then layed it perfectly in front of the goal, where Jonah Peterschild was there to chip in the two foot shot.

"I usually get at least two chances down the line, and I just crossed it, and that time we actually finished it, so that was good," said Da Silva.



Tommy Sanders (12) Photo Jordon Fong

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