

# Miramonte Lacrosse Suffers From Low Participation

As varsity men's lacrosse plays a tight game against Northgate, many of the underclassmen sit on the sideline and watch. In this nail biting-game many underclassmen who would usually play junior varsity receive no playing time at all. This same situation will happen throughout the season as the Mats see low numbers. The Mats are trying to avoid a similar situation to last year where they kept a large varsity and small JV team which forced many varsity caliber players to have to play down for some games on JV.

Miramonte had the option of keeping a small varsity team and small JV team but the coaching staff decided that a deep varsity roster and high level practice reps for JV players would be most beneficial for the program. "I think it helps the underclassmen in practice because it allows them to play against high competition in practice, but it hinders them at the same time because they can't build that game confidence," said Senior captain John Berg.

Only having one team may hinder the development of the younger players who will see minimal action on the playing field. Usually, the junior varsity team helps develop those players that by the time they play varsity lacrosse they are ready. Some underclassmen still shine on varsity such as Carson Essbhoy '20, a freshman defender. Charlie Hawkins '19, a returning varsity player as a sophomore has been a huge factor in the Mats offense. Hawkins scored the Mats only two goals against a strong Davis team and put in a hattrick against Petaluma in a Mats victory.

Having only one team has not halted the Mats who are currently 2-2 against league opponents.