

# Miramonte Girls' Varsity Soccer Kicks Their Way to the Top

The Miramonte girls' varsity soccer team is looking strong as they head into the home stretch of their season. They are currently ranked second in their Diablo League of 13 teams with seven wins and one loss.

After losing in the first round of NCS last season, the girls are ready for the playoffs this year. "NCS will be difficult but our team has been playing extremely well this season and I believe we have a good chance of winning it if we continue to perform," captain Alison Whipple '19 said. According to MaxPreps, the girls are tied for second in NCS Division III rankings to Petaluma.

January 11 the girls beat one of their biggest rivals, Alhambra, who kicked them out of NCS last year. "I think our team's strongest game was our recent one against Alhambra. We went down a goal early, but were able to bounce back quickly and score two goals against them in five minutes," Alison Whipple said. The varsity girls won 4-2, ending the Alhambra Bulldog's winning streak. "In the Alhambra game we went into it knowing it would be a tough game so our mindset was we just needed to do what it took to win. They're such rivals because they are an extremely aggressive team and last year they beat us. I thought the whole team played really well in that game as all the goals were scored collectively," Ariel Steinberg '21 said.

The captains this season are seniors Alison Whipple, Teveen Aghababian, and Taylor Johnson. "It's a very cool experience being able to be a captain. I love being able to be a leader not only on the field but off it as well," Whipple said.

For some of the club soccer players, the league they played in had a rule preventing players from participating in both club and high school soccer. Some of the girls who didn't participate in high school soccer last year because of this rule have joined the team this year. "Having the addition of many clubs players that were not able to play helped a lot. Also, I think that as a team, we are clicking and have a lot of trust in one another," Whipple said.

At the Ukiah tournament December 15, the girls went undefeated winning 8-0 and 4-0 in their two games. In only 12 games so far, the varsity team has scored a collective 44 goals. January 21 the girls lost their away game Campolindo 0-1. The varsity girls' most important game is home on February 1 against the current leader of their league, Northgate. This game determines who takes home the league title.

Leading the team are Whipple, Isabel Fine '19, and Olivia Grillo '20. "I think our greatest strength is having an entire team that is supportive of one another. If one person makes a mistake, we pick them back up again and encourage them," Whipple said.

---

# Varsity Football Midseason Update

## Week 1

On Friday, August 25, the Mats stormed the field, anxious for the kickoff of their season against the Vanden Vikings. The Vikings traveled all the way from Fairfield to match up with the home team Matadors. Vanden won the toss and chose to defer. The unstoppable Miramonte Matadors trudged their way

down field effortlessly. Eventually the drive was capped off with a seven yard run, courtesy of Peter Stehr '18. The Mats defense stood strong led by Sam Walker '18 with a total of 12 tackles. In the second quarter Vanden rallied and took the lead. However, this was the first and last time the Vikings would cross the goal line. Just before the half, Coach Jack Schram pulled a trick out of his sleeve with a reverse pass. Will Cassriel '18 connected with Keilan Stone '19 for the team's second score to go into halftime with a score of 12-7. The Mats prevailed in the second half, relying heavily on the run game. Peter Stehr, Henry Vacakis '19, and Xavier Clark '18 had a combined 163 yards on the the ground. A proficient performance from Mats resulted in a exceptional 25-7 route of the Vikings.

## Week 2

On Friday, September 1, the Mats football team's spirit rode high from week one with another home matchup for week two. The Mats' second game was against the Saint Mary's Panthers. Once again the Matadors began the game with a stellar opening drive, topped off with a three yard run from Xavier Clark '19 on a read option. The Saint Mary's offense was as effective as a butter knife cutting steak and were shutout for the first three quarters. The defense was led by strong performances from Sam Walker '18, Ben Schmiedt '19, and Travis Armistead '18. The team cruised to victory as Keilan Stone '19 added 2 touchdowns in the game. In the second half second string players and sophomores alike got some time on the field as the margin was insurmountable for the Panthers. Also, kicker Henry Marken '18 bounced back from his week one performance to convert all five of his PATs. With week two in the books, the Mats came out with a still undefeated record of 2-0.

## Week 3

On Friday, September 2, the Miramonte Matadors traveled Concord for their first away football game against the Mt.

Diablo Red Devils. The Mats squad kicked off in their unworn crispy white jerseys. The first defensive possession set the precedent for the rest of the game as the Red Devils went four and out and struggled to find any offensive production for the rest of the game. Donald Trump's notorious wall came to fruition as the Miramonte defense prevented any passage from the Devils' offense forward. The Mats set a new team high with 12 tackles for loss on the game. On the other side the offense moved smoothly and efficiently like a well oiled machine. Running back Peter Stehr '18 was a man on a mission and had a season high of three touchdowns- at that point- as well as 104 yards. Also, Henry Vacakis '19 helped out with 110 yards and adding two more touchdowns. Stehr and Vacakis carried their team to a 40-0 blowout. The Mats' record improved to 3-0 as they focused toward their next home game against formidable opponent, the Alameda Hornets.

#### Week 4

On Friday, September 9, the Mats faced the Alameda Hornets at home. The Matadors once again set a strong precedent on defense for the first drive as the Hornets when three and out and were forced to punt. The offense had optimal field position as they prepped for the first drive. The team barreled down the field and the drive was capped off by a 17-yard run by Peter Stehr '18. Travis Armistead '18 intercepted the opposing quarterback which set up the Mats' offense. The very next play, Xavier Clark '18 connected with Sam Walker '18 a 32 yard score on a screen play. The Mats next score came in the third quarter, when Stehr ran for his second touchdown. Stehr ended the game with a total of four touchdowns, with three on the ground and one catch. The Hornets put up their first score of the game with an 89 yard kickoff return. The last of the four touchdowns from Stehr came from a 61 yard score in the third quarter. The Mats scored another touchdown in the fourth quarter, sealing the game with a final score of

47-6.

## Week 5

On Friday, September 22, the Matadors hopped on the yellow bus and ventured over to Martinez to square up against old league opponent Alhambra. On the first drive, the Alhambra Bulldogs were forced to punt. Defensive end Zach Barker '19 made a tackle for loss on third and long to end the short lived drive. The defense was led by Jake Hassard '18, who had 5 tackles and 2 tackles for loss, and Ben Schmiedt '19, who had his season high: 7 tackles. This week the Mats ended their four week streak of touchdowns on their first drive and were forced to punt right back to the Bulldogs. Later in the first quarter the Mats trudged downfield for the first touchdown of the night. The 90 yard drive was topped off by a 10 yard run by Peter Stehr '18. Both defenses held strong and the halftime score was 7-0 in favor of the Matadors. The Bulldogs tied up the game with a 17-yard touchdown pass. Midway through the third, Xavier Clark '18 connected with Ethan Fischler '18 for a 46 yard reception. Then Stehr converted a 15 yard touchdown run. After the PAT was converted by Henry Marken '18, the Mats led 14-7. In the fourth, the Bulldogs made their way downfield, threatening to score. On 4th and 5 the Alhambra quarterback looked as if he had converted a first down and more until linebacker Ben Schmiedt '19 laid the boom and forced a crucial fumble that gave the Matadors the ball and sucked all the Bulldogs' momentum. Taking advantage of the turnover, Clark threw a 65 yard bomb to Fischler putting the game out of reach for the Bulldogs. Going into their bye week and headed for league play, the Mats are 5-0.

---

# Three Varsity Sports Teams Remain Undefeated

As the leaves begin to fall in the crisp autumn air, so do numerous NCS championship banners in the Matadome. Miramonte's strong tradition of athletic success during the months of fall has been established over the last decade, with multiple NCS championships in each sport. This year has continued that tradition. As of now, three of the seven varsity teams are undefeated: football, girls water polo, and girls tennis.

Although varsity football's competition was one of its softer pre-league schedules in recent years, the Mats stepped up every game, scoring at least 21 points and allowing only two offensive touchdowns throughout the first five games. Their first and most formidable challenge to their perfect record will come this Friday, October 6 against Clayton Valley Charter. The Ugly Eagles' Division I football status is anticipated to be a stalwart opponent as Miramonte looks for a potential section title.

The stacked girls' water polo team has done nothing short of their incredible expectations, rising to undefeated status among extremely difficult competition in Division I, which includes massive schools such as Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley. Only few teams have posed challenges to the Lady Mats' explosive starting lineup, with numerous close scores being caused by absences in said lineup, often because starters such as Carson Broad '18 and Grace Tehaney '18 have been away on official visits to Division I colleges. "I think being undefeated so far has pushed our team to work harder and take things more seriously because the more games we win the more we are motivated to keep up the streak." Captain Kelly Murphy '18 said. If Murphy's supposed positive feedback loop is correct, girls water polo will undoubtedly win another section title.

Although girls tennis has not been quite perfect this season, losing a single preseason matchup to California High School, they have remained undefeated in league, defeating both crosstown rivals Campolindo and Acalanes. The Lady Mats look to continue their perfection throughout the remainder of the season as they've had their eyes set on a NCS championship since the beginning of the season.



---

# NFL Power Rankings 2017

1. New England Patriots- The reigning Super Bowl Champions definitely have the talent to defend the Lombardi Trophy. Even into his forties, Tom Brady continues to shred defenses with ease. Although Brady lost his top WR Julian Edelman in week 3 of the preseason, they made a splash in the offseason by adding WR Brandin Cooks. If TE Rob Gronkowski can stay healthy there is no stopping the Patriot's offense. On the other side of the ball they upgraded their secondary by acquiring cornerback Stephon Gilmore from the Bills. It should be interesting to see if the Patriots front seven can stop the run.
2. Atlanta Falcons- The Falcons were one half away from being Super Bowl Champions last year, and they reload with lots of talent. However, as the reigning MVP, Matt Ryan is surrounded with explosive playmakers including Julio Jones, Devonta Freeman, Mohamed Sanu and Tevin Coleman. However, their defense is the team's weakness, as they were absolutely torched in the second half of the Super Bowl. Look for DE Vic Beasley to have another breakout year terrorizing opposing Quarterbacks.
3. Green Bay Packers- The Packers will once again look to own the NFC North, as they have for many years. Aaron Rodgers paired with his talented receivers will be a scary sight for opposing defences. GM Ted Thompson acquired veteran TE Martellus Bennett via free agency and look for him to click well with Rodgers. On the defensive side of the ball the Packers will be led by SS Haha Clinton-Dix and ILB Clay Matthews. However, the Packers do lack a quality defensive linemen who can rush the passer.

4. Seattle Seahawks- Seattle is destined to make a deep run in the playoffs, as they have for years. Many of Seattle's impact players were plagued with injuries last year including QB Russell Wilson, RB Thomas Rawls, TE Jimmy Graham, FS Earl Thomas and SS Kam Chancellor. Seattle has one of the biggest home field advantages, but last year they looked like a whole different team on the road. Seattle returns this year with a healthy Legion of Boom, which will give opposing offenses problems.
5. Oakland Raiders- The Oakland Raiders took an earlier exit than expected in last year's playoffs. One of the main factors in this early exit was QB Derek Carr went down with a broken Fibula in a week 16 game against the Indianapolis Colts. Before this, the Raiders had one of the most explosive offenses in the league. They made a splash in the offseason by acquiring RB Marshawn Lynch who will be running behind one of the best offensive lines in the game. On the defensive side of the ball the Raiders will be led by last years Defensive Player of the Year, Kahlil Mack. However, the biggest question is the Raiders secondary, who was very unreliable last year.
6. Dallas Cowboys- Despite losing in the first round of the playoffs, the expectation for the Cowboys is Superbowl or bust. Dallas got incredible contribution last year out of their two rookies, RB Ezekiel Elliott and QB Dak Prescott. The two took the league by storm by gashing defenses. Adding Veterans like WR Dez Bryant, WR Cole Beasley and TE Jason Witten into the mix gives Prescott many weapons. However, Elliott will have to serve a six game suspension due to domestic violence issues.
7. Pittsburgh Steelers- The Steeler's explosive offense can carry this team deep into the playoffs. The three B's, QB Ben Roethlisberger, RB Le'veon Bell and WR Antonio Brown are the best trio in the NFL. After serving a year long suspension for marijuana, WR Martavis Bryant will

return and should be the X factor on offense. However, their secondary is their achilles heel as they were torched all year by opposing offenses.

8. Kansas City Chiefs- Kansas City is led by a strong defense with one of the best secondaries in the game. Both CB Marcus Peters and SS Eric Berry were elected to the pro-bowl last year and should continue their success this year. The Chiefs will go as far as their offense takes them. Other than WR Tyreek Hill and TE Travis Kelce their offense simply lacks playmakers. To make matters worse their starting running Spencer Ware tore his PCL in a preseason game and will be out for the year.
  9. New York Giants- This offseason the Giants surrounded Eli Manning with even more weapons. In free agency, the Giants grabbed veteran WR Brandon Marshall to line up opposite of Odell Beckham. They also drafted TE Evan Engram from Ole Miss. Their biggest concern is their offensive line, who were not able to develop a consistent running game last year. The defense does not lack any playmakers in their secondary, look for SS Landon Collins and CB Janoris Jenkins to have another breakout year.
  10. Tennessee Titans- The Tennessee Titans will make lots of noise in the subpar AFC South. The Titans have one of the easiest schedules in the NFL, so they are looking to secure an early playoff spot. Third year QB Marcus Mariota is surrounded with talent, including RB DeMarco Murray, WR Eric Decker, 5th overall pick WR Corey Davis, and TE Delanie Walker. The Titans will have one of the most balanced offenses in the NFL. The Titans have a very underrated defense, who will face below average offenses.
-

# Mirador Discusses the Winners and Losers of the NFL Draft

Winners (Robin)

Cleveland Browns: The Browns are the clear winners in this year's draft. After several years of failure in the the NFL Draft It looks like the Browns might have got this one right. Cleveland started the draft right by picking up All-American Defensive end Myles Garrett. Garrett is a key addition to the Browns struggling defensive line who has applied zero to no pressure on opposing Quarterbacks. The Browns also got a big steal by acquiring one of the best all around player in the draft Jabrill Peppers. Peppers is an elite defensive player who has played multiple positions on the field, proving his dedication to the team over the individual. This is important for the struggling organization because they need their players to lock in and commit long term for them to achieve their goals. Peppers is a flat-out play maker. No matter where he is, he always seems to be in the right place to make the big play. The Browns should be an interesting team to watch this year as they have a lot of young ponential on the team and could do some damage in the years to come.

San Francisco 49ers:

This year's draft choice was no surprise for the Niners. Once again San Francisco drafted another defensive lineman in Solomon Thomas. Thomas, (6'3, 273) is regarded as one of the top pass-rushers in this year's draft. Thomas was named first team All-Pac-12, third team All-American and won the Morris Trophy as the Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year. Thomas started all 13 games totaling 62 total tackles, 14 for loss,

and 8.5 sacks. He is a definite playmaker and should be feared this upcoming season by opposing offensive coordinators. The Niners had two first round picks and with their second first round pick, the niners selected talented linebacker Reuben Foster. Foster is a big risk according to many NFL scouts because of his injury status; but if all goes well and he remains healthy he can become a top-tier player.

#### Houston Texans:

The Texans had the best draft by far out of all 32 teams. The Texans finally established a franchise quarterback in Deshaun Watson. Watson is a dynamic passer who can pick apart any defense and won his team a National Championship. Houston has a great team to put around Watson. The former Clemson QB will be throwing too one of the league's best receivers in Deandre Hopkins and upcoming star Will Fuller. All the signs are pointing up for the Texans and I would not be surprised to see the Texans making a deep run in the Playoffs.

#### Losers (Xavier)

Chicago Bears: The Bears definitely gave up too much to move up only one spot in the draft from three to two. The Bears lost three picks in total to trade up for the second overall pick. With the second pick the Bears grabbed Quarterback Mitch Trubisky. On many mock drafts Trubisky wasn't even projected to go in the top five so the fact that the Bears traded up a spot for him is astonishing. In addition, Trubisky was only a one-year starter at North Carolina raising many question in the football community. In the second round the Bears selected TE Adam Shaheen. Shaheen's mediocre blocking ability might limit his immediate production on the field. With the

departure of Alshon Jeffery, the Bears were in severe need of a Wide Receiver; however, they didn't even address the position.

Kansas City Chiefs: The Chiefs moved up 17 spots to number 10, selecting the gunslinging Texas Tech QB Patrick Mahomes. In the process, the Chiefs lost two first round picks and a third round pick for a player who won't even play for the next couple years. Alex Smith will continue to be the starter in Kansas City, so Mahomes will have to sit. Overall, the Chiefs have a solid team all around. However, they failed to address their offensive line, in addition to wasting a useless pick on an unnecessary QB. This performance has prompted us to place the Chiefs on our losers board.

Pittsburgh Steelers: The Steelers selected edge rusher T.J. Watt with the 29th from Wisconsin. T.J.-the brother of star DE J.J. Watt-plays with a high motor just like his brother. However, at the time there were much more talented edge rushers still available. Projected top 10 pick Rueben Foster, from Alabama was still on the board and would have been a perfect fit for Pittsburgh's 3-4 defense. In the second round, the Steelers selected Juju Smith-Schuster from USC. This pick was quite questionable as Martavis Bryant is returning from suspensions and will line up across from star wideout Antonio Brown. Schuster's big frame won't allow him to play in the slot position, so his immediate production will be low.

---

# Mats Golf Finishes Out a Successful Season

On May 15, the Mats fell in the first round of NCS at Chardonnay Golf Course in Napa, California. 22 Division I golf teams qualified for the NCS match and only three advanced after the day. Both senior captain Alex Meyers and sophomore Connor Stewart scored a team low of 85 on the day.

Overall, the Mats struggled, not having one player shooting under 80. This was quite unusual for the Mats, as they often break the 70's and 80's in each round. The Mats finished outside the top 10 in the tournament.

In all, The Mats had a successful season under first-year coach Jack Schram with a record of 11-2. The future remains bright for the Mats, as they had many underclassmen step up throughout the season. "I definitely had a fun time in my last year of golf. We had a good group of guys out there and I will miss it alot," senior captain Alex Meyers said.

---

# Miramonte Students Participate in Special Olympics

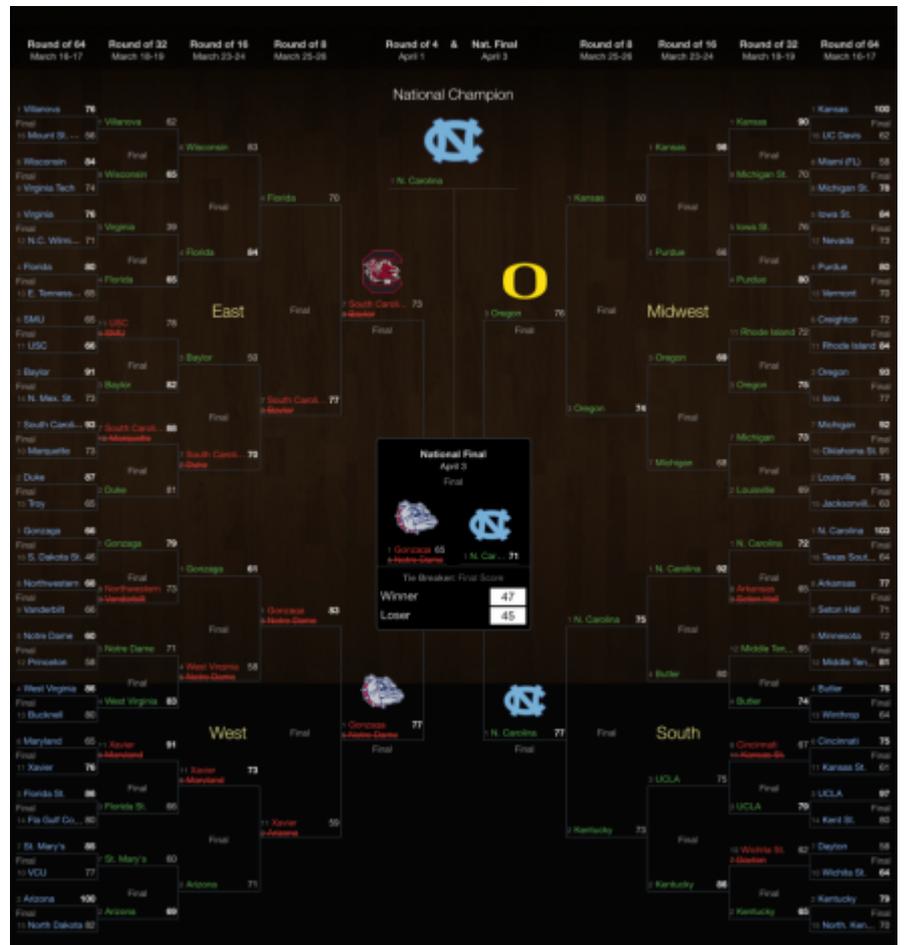
On April 26, Acalanes High School partnered w Contra Costa County Education and the special olympics to host the annual Nor Cal Special Olympics. Acalanes had over 500 athletes from 54 different special education classes in the county competing in track and field events. Students from Stanley Middle

School, San Ramon Valley High School, Miramonte, Acalanes, Campolindo and more participated in multiple events. Students participated in javelin throw, shot put—with a tennis ball, long jump and running. “This is truly something special that my son wanted to participate in and I’m happy that he got to,” a Stanley Middle School parent said. The events started around nine in the morning, and they begun with the 400m (one lap around the track). Many boys and girls were running the track with passion and determination as they passed the finish line together. A reporter asked Miramontes’ very own Nuk-Tae Doherty, “How fast do you think you were going?”. Nuk Tae immediately replied, “lightning speed”.

The special education students went through a 24 week training program with peer mentors to prepare for the event. “What’s terrific about our athletes is they believe they can accomplish anything and that there are no barriers to their success,” David Solo, the president of NorCal Special Olympics, said. The event ended with an awards ceremony where everyone got a ribbon to celebrate their efforts.

---

## **Ryan Little’s Ridiculous Bracket**



March Madness is over, the chaos of the tournament has passed and the North Carolina Tar Heels are champions for the sixth time in history. Other teams proved to be the Cinderellas of the tournament, devastating some, surprising everyone, and stealing the hearts of most. Most everyone has moved on with their lives, mourning their tragically blighted brackets. However, some bracket participants were unbridled with joy from their successes.

A few weeks earlier, the annual bracket returned. The college basketball tournament of 64 teams comes with an abundance of excitement. During the waning weeks of March, everyone becomes a college basketball aficionado. The tournament is single elimination or one and done. In order to advance to the finals, a team would have to go through six rounds. With so many teams and so much variation, it makes the tournament captivating and addictive. Nationwide everyone fills out brackets either with their "expertise" or completely without knowledge of the teams participating. At Miramonte, a plethora of students completed their own brackets. Senior bracketologist Sam Foster proclaims the key to success is to "trust your gut, have some background knowledge of the teams involved, and be absurdly lucky." Students without knowledge of college basketball normally elect teams of a high seed, which correlate with their higher caliber and skill level. However, many know that there are countless upsets during the tournament. An upset is when a lower seed defeats and knocks out a higher seed. Predicting the whole tournament is virtually impossible, which makes filling the bracket so fun.

Each year senior Jimmy Ricksen hosts a pool since eighth grade, where students can pay a ten dollar fee to enter. The one with the most accurate bracket gets the money. This year a total of almost 60 students entered Ricksen's pool and one came out victorious. Although Senior Ryan Little stands at a mere 5 feet 6 inches, his bracket stood tall. He has the

foresight of a psychic. Little attributes his success to “using March Madness strategy over basketball strategy. “He went on to say “I had no idea the caliber of the teams, but I knew their history and the usual tendency of March Madness.” Little’s midwest section was completely perfect, meaning he predicted every single game in the section. The upsets hurt Little’s bracket, but fortunately ruined majority of the contestants brackets too. Little prevailed even with people rooting against him. Senior Alex Meyers posted a picture of the final four on his snapchat: “For those watching with no one to root for, Ryan Little misses out on \$400 if the Ducks can pull off the W.” Little explains in order to win, “don’t listen to the haters.” He plans to spend the money on spoiling his girlfriend. Little has a lucky girl, but an even luckier bracket.

---

## **Miramonte Continues their Hot Start with League Wins**

Mens golf has started the season strong with a 11-2 overall record and 4-2 in league. Last Wednesday, 4/12, the Mats fell to crosstown rival Campolindo in a tight match, only losing by five strokes at Moraga Country Club.

This monday the Mats got a second shot at Campolindo, participating in a dual match, also with Acalanes. The Mats avenged their previous loss by beating Campolindo by eight strokes.

“Whenever you can get a win against those guys it always feels good. The win put us in a better position for the league standings,” said senior captain Alex Meyers.

Earlier in the year, the Mats won the Falcon Invitational at Deer Ridge Golf Course in Brentwood defeating. A key component Sam Sernett '17, shot a low of 74 and was awarded tournament MVP.

The Mats have found success under first year head coach Jack Schram. Schram previously coached at Encinal High School in Alameda. Schram also coaches the Miramonte football team.

---

# The Mirador Reviews the Effects of the Kevin Durant Injury

**Positives:** Durant's injury can be the catalyst that pushes the Warriors over the hump this year. All year the Warriors have been leaning on Durant and he has produced. However, guys like Steph Curry and Draymond Green have totally regressed from last year. Offensively, Draymond PPG, field goal percentage and assist have all dropped. On the other hand, Steph Curry has seemed to lost some of his mojo. Although he is still a superstar in the league, he has dropped off from his back to back MVP seasons. Both of these players must perform in order for the Warriors to win a championship and dethrone the Cavs. With Durant being out for an extended period of time it will help both of these players confidence. In addition, the injury came at a relatively good time for the Warriors. Durant should be healthy before their playoff push, unlike last year's injury to Steph Curry that happened in the playoffs and hindered the Warriors.

**Negatives:** The injury of Kevin Durant is obviously a big loss for the Warriors. Not only are they losing a proficient scorer but it disrupts the flow of their offense. The Warriors have played over 50 games together and now they have to play a whole month without one of their star players. Golden State are definitely going to see some struggle early on. However, Golden State has the group of guys that will persevere and start to figure out how to play without Durant; how many losses is that gonna take before they figure it out? We may not know. The Spurs are closing into the number one seed and right now the Warriors can't afford to lose many more games. In addition, Durant will most likely be much more fragile for the remainder of the season even after he recovers. Let's not forget this is not his first injury. He was injured in Oklahoma City for an extended period of time with an apparent knee injury. The Warriors definitely have to question how this will affect Durant as a player.