

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.

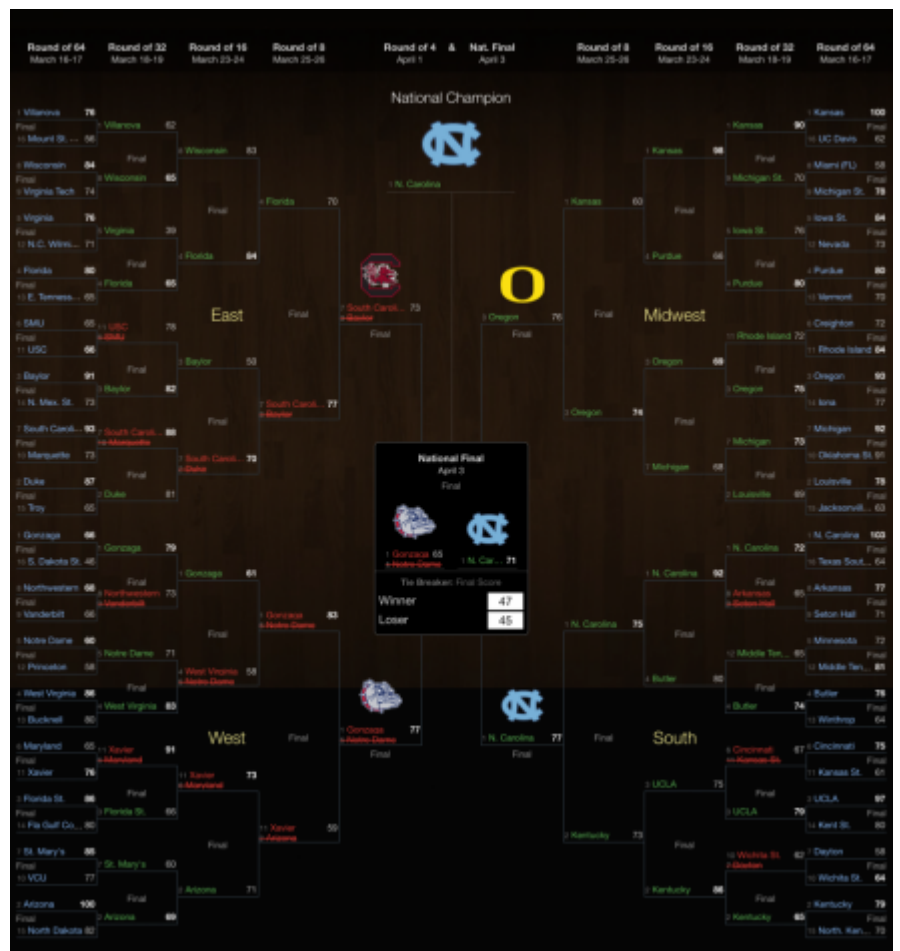
Miramonte Students Participate in Special Olympics

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 for 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.

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.

Miramonte Freshman Basketball Team Completes Undefeated Season

The Miramonte freshman basketball team finished their season without recording a single loss.

The team amassed a 26-0 record, winning with an average score of 60-36.

Center Trevor Sidlauskas '20 realized midway through the season that the team had a legitimate chance to complete an undefeated season. "When we beat all of the teams in our league—that's when we knew we could beat every single team," Sidlauskas said.

Coach Teresa Juergens had a very similar thought. "After we played everyone in league once—because we play everyone in league twice," Juergens said. "After we beat Northgate significantly at their place, beat Campo by thirty, and beat Las Lomas by about the same, I realized that if all goes well, and if they decided to play hard and stay focused, that we would go undefeated. I also knew that it was up to them. No one was going to beat them."

Point Guard Tanner Zwahlen '20 revealed that the team received a burst of confidence after defeating the Miramonte JV basketball team in a scrimmage. "We were leading since the first quarter," Zwahlen said. "I don't think they led one time in the game."

Perhaps the largest threat to the undefeated season was a two-game stretch during which the team won in overtime and in regulation by one point. Zwahlen believed in his team: "I never had doubts," Zwahlen said. "I knew that we were just going to make it and win." Juergens had no doubts about the one-point victory over Tamalpais, but that was not the case during the overtime victory over Piedmont Hills. "When it got down to the last minute and we were down by three, some doubts were going through my mind," Juergens said. "But then once Quenton [Breznikar '20] hit that three and we tied it up to go into overtime, I completely believed that we were going to pull it out. They were really focused in overtime."

Juergens stated that the tryout process was unlike any other year in one respect. "We had 28 kids trying out," Juergens said. "In years past, I think the most we've had is 22. There were a lot of good players. It was difficult to make the final

five cuts. But did I know that we would be this good during tryouts? No, I did not.”

Juergens also believes that the team’s camaraderie contributed to its success. “When you really like people that you’re with, you do more for them,” Juergens said. “It makes you be more unselfish. They just fought harder for their friends than they would’ve on their own.”

Miramonte Girls Basketball Wins First NorCal Home Playoff Game

The Matadors took the floor with purpose on Wednesday, March 8th.

Miramonte jumped out to a 24-2 lead. The team did not allow Whitney to score a field goal for the first 6:10 of the game.

The Mats’ fast pace and lockdown defense were simply too much for the Whitney Wildcats to handle. Whitney continued to attempt to slow the pace of the game in order to offset the speed of the Matadors, but after winning the NCS title for the fourth year in a row, the team was motivated to maintain the pressure and keep the Wildcats on their heels. The speed with which the Matadors played was simply unmatchable. The final score was 83-40.

Clair Steele ‘18 led the team with 17 points. Michaela Thomas ‘17 and Jordyn Bryant ‘18 each scored 13.

The Matadors will host the Elk Grove Thundering Herd on Saturday.

“We’re getting better with each game and I think we could potentially go on to win a state championship,” Colette Kirkpatrick ‘18 said of her high expectations for this year’s team.

Kirkpatrick is satisfied with the team’s work ethic, “Everyone is really motivated and we’re all in the same mindset. We work as hard as we can every day.”

Miramonte Triumphs Against Mt. Diablo

On Friday, January 20th at Miramonte, the Miramonte varsity men’s team and Mt. Diablo High School’s gave it their all on the soccer field. The game was ninety minutes of excitement and nonstop action. Not a single player felt unsatisfied with their efforts despite the fact that Mt. Diablo is a less challenging team to play against in the league.

The game began with an impressive shot from captain, Ben Hodder (‘17) that made its way to the back of the goal and put Miramonte in a good position. In the second half, Ross Gruen (‘18) and Conor Roemer (‘19) each scored, putting Miramonte ahead and ultimately resulting in a victory. Mt. Diablo wasn’t ready to be defeated without a fight though and managed to score two goals during the game.

This game was important for Miramonte because winning league games is critical in advancing to the playoffs. As of now, the Miramonte men’s varsity team has eight wins, five losses, and two ties. These promising results make the team and coaches confident that they will have a strong rest of the season.