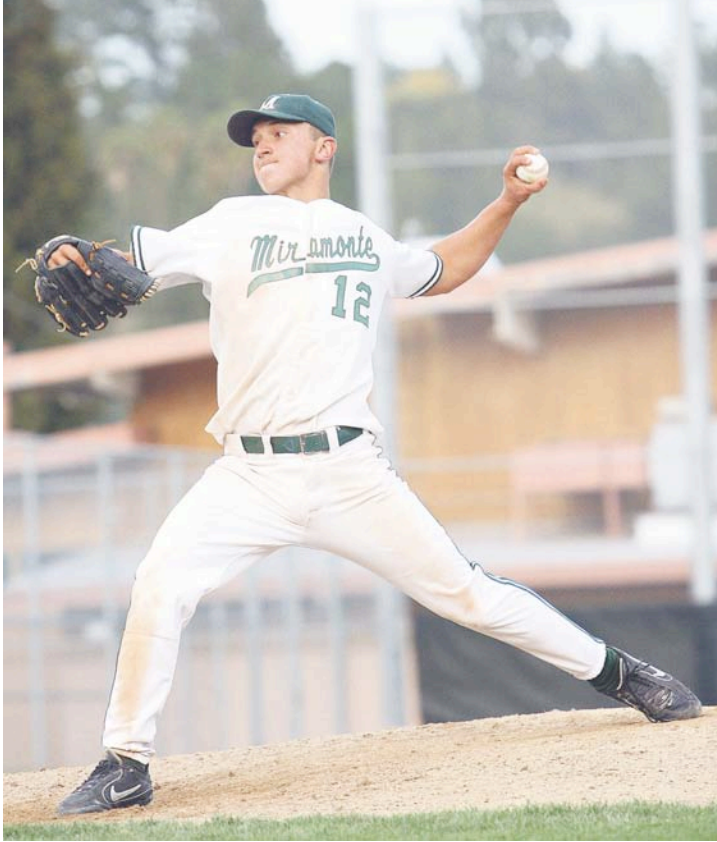


Patience Fuels Comeback as Miramonte Defeats Dublin

By Kevin D. Shallat



Pitcher John Vaccaro (12)

Photo Jordan Fong

Although the Miramonte Matadors have a young baseball team this year, this team boasts a multitude of players that have been on the team since they were sophomores. On Tuesday, March 18, the Mats had an opportunity to show how youth and experience works to their advantage when they hosted the Dublin Gaels in a league match-up, with each team holding a 1-1 league record before the game. After falling behind 4-0, the Matadors showed their patience and maturity, and came from behind to top the Dublin Gaels, 5-4.

Andrew Kjar started on the mound for Miramonte and had a fantastic day. Kjar nearly went the distance for the Matadors, as he pitched six and two thirds innings and gave up only four runs. He started off a little shaky in the first when he hit the first batter of the game and proceeded to load the bases. After walking in the first run of the game, Kjar settled down. He recorded back-to-back curveball strikes with the bases loaded and was able to get out of the inning with only one charged run.

Kjar gave up three more runs in the top of the second. The rest of the scoring was done by the Miramonte offense. After a brief stoppage of play, due to a wardrobe malfunction from the home plate umpire, the Mats were able to get on the scoreboard. John Vaccaro led off the bottom of the second inning with a base hit. The Matadors looked to their big first baseman early and often to help provide the offensive spark. Vaccaro scored the first run of the game for the Mats, as he was able to score on a fielder's choice.

The Matadors would get within one run after Sam Werner and Brandon Walcott-Ayers recorded back-to-back RBI's.

The stoppage of play seemed to take away the momentum of the visiting team. Conversely, it appeared to ignite the Matadors, because they were able to re-group offensively.

As the bottom of the sixth inning began, the Mats found themselves still trailing by one run. With one out and nobody on, the Matadors again received help from their first baseman. Vaccaro punched a hit to right center field where he took a hard turn at first and was able to stretch his hit into a double. Vaccaro was soon caught in a run down on a fielder's choice, but his aggressive base running appeared to inspire his teammates. With two outs, right fielder Matt Lloyd lined a base hit up the middle to keep the inning alive. Werner and Walcott-Ayers did the rest by getting key two-out walks to put the Mats up 5-4.

"I gave the game ball to Walcott-Ayers because he filled in today and did a nice job of seeing pitches, and getting a key walk," Head Coach Vince Dell'Aquila said. Vaccaro came in and pitched the last out of the game to secure the Matador win.



Andrew Kjar (34) pitched six and two thirds innings and gave up only four runs

Photo Jordan Fong