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Miramonte celebrates its first championship in 17 years

Photos Gint Federas

## Lady Mats Secure First NCS Title in 17 Years

By Spencer Silva

After a 17-year drought, the Miramonte Lady Mats (21-5) finally won the NCS Division II water polo championship. On Saturday, Nov. 14, the Mats ended rival Campolindo's hunt for its fourth-consecutive NCS title, winning by a score of 9-4.

The Mats jumped out to an early lead with goals from

Katrina Drake, Skylar Savar, and Carson Broad. At half-time, the Mats held a comfortable 6-2 lead, and by the fourth period, the Mats held a commanding 9-2 lead.

The win over the Cougars (16-10) was a team effort. The team's five sophomores – or, as head coach Noel Murphy likes to call them, his "Super Sophomores" – all

left their mark on the championship match. Drake and Savar led all scorers with three goals; Broad had two; Kelly Murphy notched three assists; and Grace Tehaney drew two crucial ejections. Senior Hailey Eberle also scored and junior Rose Tuttle had two steals.

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## Young Cancer Patient Impacts MOFD Firefighter

By Nick Marnell



Finley Brown, 6, and MOFD firefighter-paramedic Lucas Lambert at the Oct. 3 MOFD open house. Photo courtesy Moraga-Orinda Fire District

A 6-year old girl marched up to the fire engine parked at the Moraga Pear Festival, dragging her brother and babysitter directly toward firefighter-paramedic Lucas Lambert. "Some kids are shy, some are hesitant, but not her," said Lambert, staffing the Moraga-Orinda Fire District apparatus on display that day. "She certainly got all of our attention."

Finley Brown introduced herself to the crew and she explained in detail what she had gone through this year. "She told us about a cancer operation she underwent that removed a tumor the size of a baseball from her kidney," said Lambert. "And she showed us her scars as she freely discussed the whole process." Finley was diagnosed with cancer three days after her 6th birthday in June. She has completed all of her radiation treatments and is undergoing six months of chemotherapy.

"I was thinking, this little girl has been going through hell, and was still smiling, not a care in the world," said Lambert. "It didn't slow her down one bit."

"We teach our kids that, whenever you see a police officer, a firefighter, a soldier, you thank them for

keeping you safe," said her mom, A.J. Brown, who works at the Moraga California Academy of Performing Arts, where Finley dances. "She is well-spoken, and she went right up to the guys and told them what was happening."

So rapt was the MOFD crew that they organized a fundraiser, Dinner for Finley, to help raise money for the Brown family to go on a trip to Disneyland Park after Finley completes her cancer treatments. The MOFD Professional Firefighters Association is sponsoring a raffle of a dinner for up to six at fire station 44 on Saturday, Dec. 12. Tickets cost \$5 each or five for \$20, and they may be purchased at any of the five district fire stations. The association, with the support of the district, hopes to raise \$1,500 for the family.

When he delivered a firefighters' calendar to Finley at her home, Lambert sprung another surprise. Provided he obtains all authorizations, Lambert told Finley that the crew plans to transport her to her final chemotherapy treatment Dec. 21 in a district emergency vehicle.

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