

GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS FINISHES SEASON FOR THE DECADES

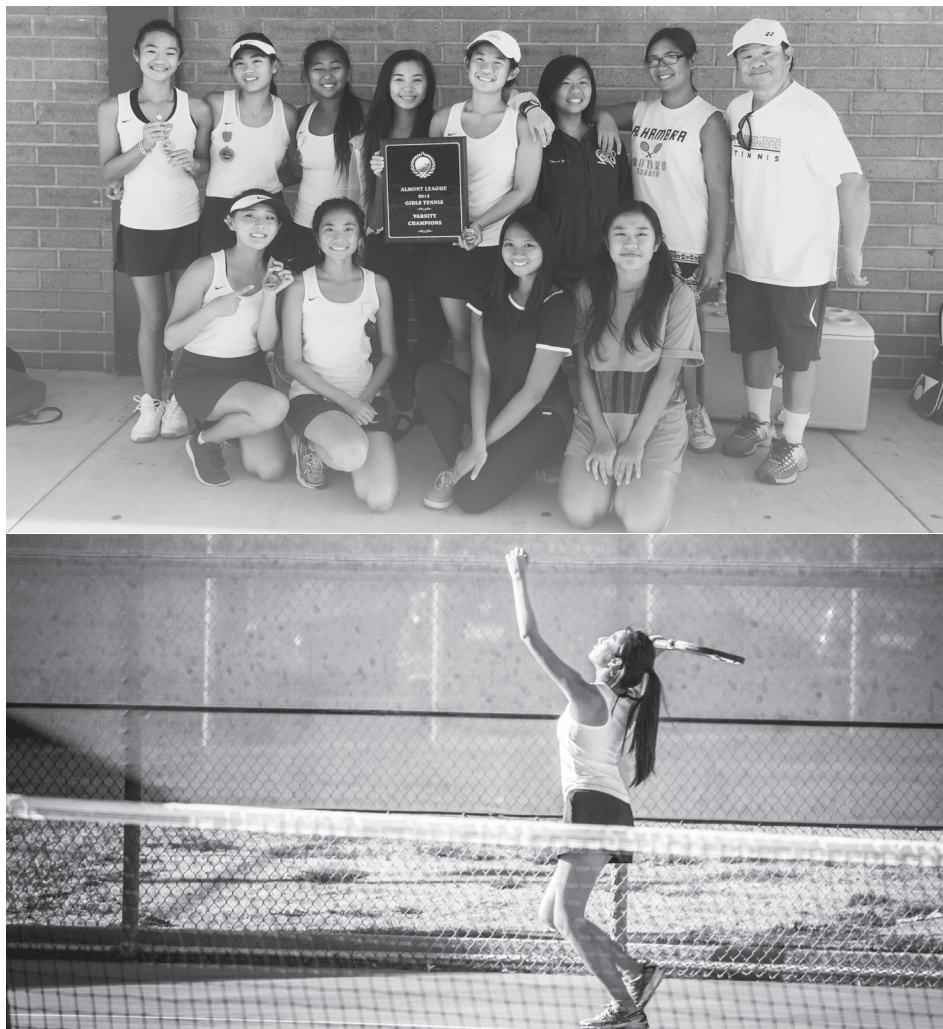
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Staff Writer

With the closing of the regular season, the girls' varsity tennis team entered the familiar territory known as the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) team playoffs. Having played in the CIF playoffs the previous season, this year's team looked to improve upon their past performance and advance further into the playoffs. After the regular season ended, intense practices took place leading up to the girls' first two playoff games. These had resulted in impressive wins against Bolsa Grande (13-5) and Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy (12-6). These crucial victories led the team into the CIF quarterfinals, getting one step closer to playing for the CIF crown.

This successful run in the playoffs, however, would be short-lived. The Lady Moors fought hard in a close game against Serrano High School, but ultimately came out with a loss, ending a tremendous season. As the rackets and tennis balls were placed into storage, the 2015 Almont League Champions reflected on the their season.

"I knew that I, along with all the other girls on the team would fight until the very last set," doubles player Emily Tran said. Seniors took the time to reflect on their last season at Alhambra and expressed their thoughts on the team performance.

"I'm really proud of the whole team," senior doubles player Martina Chan said,



MOOR photos by AAQIL KHAN
A YEAR TO REMEMBER AHS girls' varsity tennis receives their Almont League 2015 Championship plaque on Oct. 30. Senior doubles player Shannon Kha (bottom) serves during a CIF match against Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy on Nov. 6

"especially the seniors for being able to get this far in our last season at Alhambra. It has definitely been a special experience."

While this season has been by far one of the best that Alhambra girls' tennis has seen in over a decade, the girls look forward to an even better season in the years to come. Although many current varsity players are seniors, the team looks to continue where these seniors are leaving off. The juniors currently on the team have expressed optimistic thoughts towards the future of the team.

"When one story ends, another begins. I believe next year's team will be able to at least make it to CIF, as all of the prospects for Varsity exhibit strong potential," junior varsity player Samantha Jones said. "I have no doubt our team will be strong enough to win."

This season has been a special one for the varsity girls' tennis team. Having been on one of the most successful teams that Alhambra has seen in over a decade, all the members on the team are sure to have something to smile about, sharing memories on and off the tennis courts. Many goals have been accomplished and it can be said that this team will only get better. As the seniors on the team leave, the varsity tennis team will continue building towards success. With continued thoughts to strive, another successful season is waiting to burst out of the door. The future of girls' tennis is bright as ever after the end of this season.

Varsity Cross Country Springs Into CIF

BENJAMIN LANGE
Staff Writer

Both the boys and girls cross country teams this year have outdone themselves and are going to CIF this year. With the girls team coming in second place and the boys coming in third, both are looking to excel in the upcoming CIF championship. Varsity runner Yaneli Guajardo commented that to prepare for the championship she wants to work on her technique and make sure her arms are ready. While the teams prepare for the competition, which takes place on Nov. 21, Coach

Rodriguez will be doing her best to ensure they are at their best.

"I just want to keep both team's spirits up and focused and to keep enthusiasm high as well as for individuals to advance," Coach Rodriguez said.

With CIF coming up, it is also time to be looking forward to the next season and how the runners will prepare and improve themselves. Coach Rodriguez stated that she had a great team this year and plans for the girls to come in first place next season as she believes they have the potential to do so.

"I'm going to try to win back the Almont League champ title and come in first as well as help the girl's varsity team win next year," Guajardo said.

Cross country has done very well on both sides of the coin having come in second and third and while they do have their eyes set on the championship this year, they are still looking forward to the next season. Should both teams stay on this course and keep their spirits strong, they should not only make it to CIF next year as well, but come out on top in both boys and girls competitions.

Varsity Football Surmounts Enduring Season

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The Alhambra Moors varsity football team has finished their season with a record of four wins and six losses. Their league record is now two wins and three losses. The league games played were against San Gabriel, Bell Gardens, Mark Keppel, Schurr, and Montebello. The Moors took down San Gabriel 34-13 and during the Homecoming game, Mark Keppel 41-14, but lost to Bell Gardens, Schurr, and Montebello. The highlight game of the league season was against Mark Keppel. Alhambra was able to take over

the game and lead the score 41-14. Tailback Joey Santana was able to carry the ball a season-high 32 times for a total of 186 yards and two touchdowns. Alhambra was able to score on 4 of their 5 offensive possessions.

"It was alright. We did some good things that we didn't do in a long time. We have a better team for next season," cornerback and tailback Harim Rabadan said.

The Moors did well during their league season even though they did not make CIF this year. They are 4th place in the Almont Football League. For next season, the Moors football team is planning on working hard to improve.

"We are in the process of working on [improving the team]. We are going to start with physical conditioning, and becoming better in the weight room," Head Coach Eric Bergstrom states.

Some returners that would make great varsity players are Steven Chester, Sheehan Ramirez, Dominic Wilson, and Andre Morgan, according to Bergstrom. These players play hard and helped the varsity team a lot.

"I feel like we could have played better near the end of the year, [but] we did get better as the year went on," Bergstrom said.

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG

High School Football Season Cancelled, Stirs Controversy

SIMEON LAM
Sports Editor

With high school football teams finishing up their seasons, one California high school decided to cancel the football team's season for a very odd reason. Administration from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School ended the varsity football team's season three games early due to a "large" amount of injuries on the team. "We feel like both the administration and coaches let us down," senior football player Jack Grimes said, according to ABC7. "We're not exactly sure whose idea was it in the first place, but neither one of them would fight for us. Our coach we always thought had our back, and he showed that he doesn't have our back."

Of the 27 players on the varsity team, six were injured which led the administration to cancel the season to protect their players from injury. However, they allowed the varsity players to move down to the JV level for the final two games. This caused severe controversy not only

among the players, but among parents and supporters as well.

According to ABC7, Principal Mitzi Cress said that "we no longer believe that we can safely field a varsity team without putting the health of our remaining student athletes in jeopardy." Many seniors on the varsity team expressed disapproval for a couple reasons. They believed that playing on the JV level would be dangerous for other teams and they wanted to stand up for themselves in the controversial decision. In fact, students and players created a petition that gained nearly 2,000 signatures. Unfortunately, no changes were made for the players, leaving the football team shocked.

"I think it's sad for the administration and for the school to shut down something like football because they always strive for perseverance — that's what they push at this school and for greatness — and I feel like they just cut us off and didn't give us a chance to persevere in this time," Palos Verdes football player Paxton Shive said.

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