

Varsity Wrestling Pins Down Competition, Begins Almont League Play



MOOR photo by AAQIL KHAN

HEAD TO HEAD Senior Jesse Gabriel performs a takedown setup during AHS varsity wrestling's first league match against the Montebello Oilers on Jan. 13.

JOSHUA MORELION
Staff Writer

The Alhambra Moors varsity wrestling team has performed su-

perbly with the team ranking in the top 10 in every tournament. With the guidance of Head Coach Williams, the captains have stepped up the team through their indi-

vidual efforts. It has blossomed the team as true competitors for winning league. With a good work ethic and improving every practice, the team is in a good position.

“As far as I go I’m only just beginning to wrestle closer to my full potential but I still have a lot of things to work on. But as of now it’s just about improv-

ing on something, even a little bit at a time and just getting better,” captain Eric Gonzalez said.

With daily practices, the team is getting closer to their full potential and is aware that there is a lot more to learn. This season has been special because they are averaging 6-9 people placing in the top 8. But similar to what Gonzalez said, the team knows that there is always something to improve on, and so far the whole team has indeed improved.

“The team improves in every little thing they do for wrestling both mental and physical, and for me I work on my technique and try and learn as much as I can,” junior Bobby Ramirez said.

With the season in full swing, everyone is trying to improve in all aspects of their work ethic be it mental or physical, trying to improve their technique or be an all-around better athlete. With everyone following this ethic, the mighty Moors look like they’re in for another good season.

Lady Moors JV Basketball Dribbles Through Preseason



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

ON GUARD In preparation for their game against San Gabriel on Jan. 12, junior Natalie Joyce (left) and sophomore Abigail Goy (right) work on their passes during a JV girls’ basketball practice.

VIVIANNE LAM
Staff Writer

The JV girls’ basketball preseason ended with a record of 7-7. They concluded their amazing preseason with a hard-fought game against the Temple City Rams on Friday, Jan. 8. Even though they lost, they still played to the best of their ability to finish off the preseason strong.

“My players were able to adjust to a different coaching style and play with a hundred percent effort. They had amazing teamwork and I’m very proud of them,” Coach Corrie Wong said.

Coach Wong is a new coach at Alhambra this year, so some old players had to embrace new ways of practicing. According to the coach, they did great this preseason and are looking forward to do even better once their season starts.

“I feel that my team did great this preseason compared to last year. With new coaches and almost a whole new team, we learned how to adjust quicker

and to not only rely on certain players,” captain Betty La said.

This year, with only three returners, due to many of last year’s members moving up to varsity, it makes it easier for the coach to balance out her new coaching skills. The team is trying their hardest to work together and make it an outstanding season.

“To get ready for the season, we would always practice on improving even more for each upcoming game. Our team also created a close bond, as we learned to trust and depend on each other more,” co-captain Emi Takemoto said.

The team works harder and strives to become better at all the components of basketball. During their practices, they work on lay ups and executing their plays. Some areas they improve on is communicating with each other.

“During the season, I hope the girls improve on their confidence with the ball and their hunger to want to win,” Coach Wong said.

The Lady Moors next league game will be on Tuesday, Jan. 19. vs. the Mark Keppel Aztecs.

SHOULD ESPORTS BE CONSIDERED SPORTS?

BENJAMIN LANGE
Staff Writer

YES

ESports are sports where the primary aspects of the sport are housed by video games. In this competition, teams of players on computers are pitted against each other in various different types of video games. Competitions are almost always physical events that occur in front of a live audience. They take several formats, but the most common are single or double elimination, sometimes combined with group stage.

The first known video game competition took place October 19, 1972 at Stanford University. Students were invited to an “Intergalactic space war” whose grand prize was a year’s subscription for Rolling Stone. During the 1970s and 1980s, video game players began being featured in popular newspapers and magazines.

I believe the eSports competition should be considered a sport because to become a competitor, one must have many skills and traits very similar to a professional athlete. Both groups must be very focused and practice for hours on end to be the best. Both competitions net millions of dollars that are directly awarded to the winners with some video games reaching a sum of 18 million dollars for one competition which compares with sums that professional sport players make in a single season.

As well as individual abilities, the teams that compete must have great teamwork and communication just like any other sports team. Overall, competitions such as eSports are slowly gaining more popularity and the amount of skill needed to compete are just as engaged as professional athletes.

ERIC HUANG
Staff Writer

NO

LeBron James, Serena Williams, Peyton Manning...Box-Box? That doesn’t sound right. According to Dictionary.com, a sport is defined as “an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another.” Basketball, swimming and football all fall under this definition. On the other hand, eSports are defined as “a multiplayer video game played competitively for spectators.” Video games such as League of Legends or Call of Duty fit this, which does not require leaving the comfort of your home. Athletes spend countless hours every day training their bodies to compete at the highest level. “Athletes” such as Boxbox, a professional League of Legends player, spend countless hours every day playing a video game.

So how can eSports possibly be considered sports? To even think of comparing the “athletes” of eSports to the traditional athlete is ridiculous. The amount of physical and mental commitment exerted by a traditional athlete is no match for the time a professional video gamer practices. The aching and sweating that come with traditional sports do not apply to eSports. Sure, eSports has the word ‘sports’ in it, but it is merely a competition similar to a card or board game. The ability to sit in front of a computer screen, similar to what I did as I wrote this, for hours on end playing a video game does shine the light on true athletes. True athletes are the individuals that devote their time to training not only mentally, but also physically. There will always be an ongoing debate as to whether the two are related, but let’s settle that debate now. They’re not.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG

Sports Safety In the Past, Present and Future

SIMEON LAM
Sports Editor

In an age when terrorism strikes so much fear into the hearts of the public, one can only imagine the many different ways in which violence and terrorism can harm the public. Decades ago, public acts of violence were hardly on the mind of individuals. Citizens could freely attend and enjoy sporting events with family and friends without having to go through thorough screenings and security measures.

Today, the cold truth is that we must take extra precautions against terrorism in public areas, which is evident in the endless increase of the budget towards stadium safety. In 2011, cities, teams and schools worldwide spent a staggering \$2 billion per year which continues to exponentially increase. Even so, according to the National Center for Spectator Sports at the University of Southern Mississippi, only a third of U.S. sports arenas are taking the right safety measures. The scariest part is that there are so many places for terrorism to strike from high school to college to professional sports. This is the exact reason the Department of Homeland Security ranks stadium attacks as the 12th deadliest act of terrorism. Public officials have so much fear of terrorism at sporting events because of how big some of these events can be. The Super Bowl and the Olympics have long been some of the most feared targets, which has caused safety costs to skyrocket. In last year’s Super Bowl, the city of Glendale, Arizona spent over \$2 million in public safety costs, which seems ridiculous for just a one-day event. However, it is so necessary because of the high risks of violence.

Some major examples of terrorism at sporting events from the past include the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, in which many bombs were planted in the surrounding areas. Many other famous events include soccer events whether in America or overseas. In 2008, the Olympics was tainted by a suicide bomber. In a France-Germany soccer friendly just this past year, several attackers attempted to detonate bombs inside the stadium before being stopped by stadium officials as part of the Paris attacks.

With all these attacks and chances for terror, we must continue to spend money on public safety and be even more careful whether at sporting events or any public entertainment events. The safety measures and screenings can be a nuisance but it is so necessary because every time terrorism is neglected, it comes back to hurt society as seen in the many events that have been tainted by terrorism.