

## BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL CLINCHES HOME CIF PLAYOFF MATCH

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Staff Writer

It was a successful season; the team chemistry was high and games were well played. There were highs and lows, but this season was a one that captivated every Moor. The Alhambra boys' varsity basketball squad ended their regular season in second place with a 7-3 record, falling one game short of clinching a tie for first place with rivals Mark Keppel. However, the Moors clinched a spot in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs.

As the season went on the team showed steady improvement, revealed by a four game win streak towards the end of the regular season. Although the Moors fell to the Schurr Spartans in their last league game, they will get a chance to extend their season into the playoffs and test out their skills against teams that some players have never faced before. As the postseason comes along, the Moors will have to find a way to bounce back and enter the playoffs strong.

"We still need to work on finishing under the basket and working on our shot selection. We need to take better shots and not try to force contested shots," senior guard Jonathan Barajas said.

The little things such as taking smarter shots, playing smart defense, and capitalizing off of fastbreaks will ultimately make the biggest difference in postseason play. After working hard the entire season, the Moors will continue to practice in preparation for their first playoff game.

"CIF is a good place for us to display our talents against teams that we don't normally play against," junior guard Marvin Chau said.



MOOR photo by AAQIL KHAN

**A FINAL STAND** *Sophomore William Delgado drives the ball into the paint during Alhambra's boys' varsity first round CIF basketball game on Feb. 17 against the Burroughs Indians. Despite the loss, the Moors ended their season with a record of 16-11.*

Flash forward four days and the Moors are once again on their home court, looking to grab a win in their CIF game against the Burroughs Indians. From the start, the intense atmosphere was evident as players from both teams hoped to extend their season beyond this point. As the teams

prepared for tip-off, the spectators hoped not to disturb the minds of the players.

Both teams started the game with sloppy play and increased their turnover numbers as the quarter progressed. The crowd, however, continued to cheer as the Moors ended the quarter down 19-9. After a short

huddle, the Moors regained focus and started off the second quarter scoring first, bringing the deficit to 8. This short run would not be enough, as Burroughs capitalized off of three pointers in the second half. The Moors fell to the Indians 72-45, bringing an end to their playoff run.

## Boys' Varsity Soccer Wraps Up Season

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The boys varsity soccer team's season is coming to a close. They played their best with an overall record of 6-16. Following their loss against Bell Gardens, the Moors have had three wins and three losses up until the end of the season. They ended the season with a league record of 4-6.

Again, the Moors won against the San Gabriel Matadors and the Mark Keppel Aztecs at two home games on Jan. 26 and Jan. 28. They didn't prove much of a challenge since the Moors finished them 3-0 and 4-1, respectively.

"They were easy opponents compared to Montebello and Schurr [who were tough]," freshman Raul Godinez said.

Unfortunately, the other three

Almont League schools (Schurr, Montebello, and Bell Gardens) still defeated the team.

"The three Montebello schools are clearly superior as compared to our three Alhambra schools in everything: physicality, experience, technical and tactical abilities. In my opinion, it would require a strong combined effort on everyone's part to change this — players, coaches, administration and parents [need to help and support the team]. I believe it can happen, but it would take a coordinated commitment to help [keep] our three AUSD schools competitive [versus the Montebello] schools," head coach Torres said.

Sadly, with the team's fourth place finish, they just missed out on the opportunity to participate in CIF. The team

would have needed to finish top three in the league to do well against non-conference teams.

"This was a very young team that faced many challenges, particularly in the areas of confidence, communication, technical abilities and overall understanding of the game (tactical knowledge). Nevertheless, there were marked improvements in the last part of the season as we faced our league rivals for the second time. Individually, our goalkeeper improved in confidence and experience. Also, we were able to position them better on the field, thus obtaining better results," Torres said.

The Moors played well this season and had an overall positive demeanor towards their season, despite not making CIF.

## Girls' JV Water Polo Treads Through League

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The girls' JV water polo team worked very hard this season. With so many newcomers this year, the team has greatly improved, coming a long way with their performance in terms of swimming and overall teamwork.

"I want to be faster at sprints and learn how to block better as well as learn how to make better shots while under pressure," junior Adriana Castillo said.

The girls' JV team just had their

last league games and ended with a record of 2-11. With the sea-

"I want to be faster at sprints ...as well as learn how to make better shots while under pressure."  
- Adriana Castillo

son having come to a close, it is time for the team to begin looking toward the next season. The

athletes on the team all have aspirations to be on varsity next season but to do so they will need to improve upon their performance.

In order to improve, many of the players will be joining the swim team, whose season begins as theirs ends, to stay in shape and increase their stamina during sprints. But some of the major points the girls want to become the best for next season are precision shooting, making penalty plays on opposing teams and having outstanding communication and teamwork.



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## SHINING LIGHT ON THE DANGER OF CONCUSSIONS

The movie "Concussion" is a compelling film written by Peter Landesman that is about a forensic pathologist, Dr. Bennett Somali, who discovers a disorder called neurological deterioration. The head injuries, usually caused by football collisions, shake up the brain which causes symptoms including hallucinations, trauma, and memory loss. So is football really a safe sport to play?

I think that football is an unpredictable and risky sport to play. After the movie came out on Dec. 25, it had many football players thinking about their long-term health risks in the games. The film is based on a true story, so it gives many football players an impression and idea on the outcomes of what could happen to them. Knowing that football is a dangerous sport can cause many injuries and trauma. Football may or may not be a fun sport to athletes but it can be very dangerous.

According to the article "Will Smith's 'Concussion' Inspires Teens to Decline Football Scholarships," a high school student from Pennsylvania named John Castello declined 12 football scholarships from colleges because of what the film had showcased. Castello's intention is to influence other students to pick to play basketball over football because of the injuries that may happen. I agree with Castello because many dangerous things could happen to these players. But football doesn't have to be this hazardous; it could be tweaked in some ways to become a safer and guarded sport.

The movie "Concussion" helps a lot of football players to realize how safe they need to be when playing the sport. I would most likely recommend football players to watch this movie so that they could get a closer look on what may happen to them in the future when playing the sport. If concussions are made, it can be a very serious problem both for an athlete's present and future.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG