

Varsity Wrestling Sends Seven Players To CIF After Tackling a Tough Season



MOOR photo by AAQIL KHAN

THE ROAD TO CIF Varsity wrestling captains Jesse Gabriel and Eric Gonzalez practice defending singles in preparation for their tournament. Both made it to CIF, with Gabriel ending in third place and Gonzalez in seventh place.

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Staff Writer

With the wrestling season coming to a close, the varsity team experienced a long journey on the road to CIF. The Alhambra Moors ultimately finished the season in third place in the Almont league. There were some moments during which the wrestlers did and did not execute as expected. Expectations were to win league this year and they were unable to meet that expectation, but with a young team this year, they have no reason to not believe they will win next year.

"The season went alright; we have a young team and took third. We could have done better but didn't execute. I ended up being dominant in the 170 and 160 weight class; I went undefeated in both weights," junior Jonathan Gonzalez said.

They may not have lived up to expectations but they do have some bright spots with seven wrestlers going to the first day of CIF and five going back for the second day. On the bright side, Bobby Ramirez

and Jesse Gabriel will be moving on to the Masters tournament. One downside that the team will have to deal with is losing all three captains since they are all graduating. Seniors Eric Gonzalez, Jesse Gabriel, and Ruben Enriquez have been a big part of this year's team and will be missed but they still have a crop of young talent to keep the program in good shape. This season may not have worked out the way they expected but it was still a solid season.

"Wrestling has helped by becoming an outlet for me to release my frustrations and problems. The mat becomes a safe place for me. My favorite moment is when the ref faces me to the crowd and raises my hand letting everyone know I won. I'm going to miss every aspect of the sport. I will never have these four years of high school wrestling back but it will always help me succeed in life," senior Eric Gonzalez said.

Similarly, the other wrestlers expressed their passion for the sport because it helped build character. Looking into the future, the team is looking to build on what they accomplished this season.

Boys' Varsity Basketball Exceeds Expectations, Begins Preparation For Upcoming Summer

ERIC HUANG
Staff Writer

The Alhambra varsity boys' basketball squad officially ended their season on Feb. 17 with a 7-3 record in the Almont League and a 16-11 overall record. Although the team did not go far in the postseason after their first round loss to the Burroughs Indians, they acknowledged the tremendous effort that was put into every practice and game to get to the point that they did.

"As a team, we had many games where we did play to our full potential. Even though we had the upset of not winning the league title, we were able to showcase our talents in CIF," junior guard Marvin Chau said.

Throughout the season, the team went through many ups and downs. There were games when the opponents were on top of their game, but the players stuck together and fought hard. Every day the big gym would squeak and roar with the sounds of the players partaking in daily practice in an effort to ultimately better themselves and enter the playoffs, and that is exactly what they did. Every practice and game

was intense with the greatest energy exhibited by the players as they battled for the name on the front of their jerseys.

As the basketballs are packed, the jerseys folded and the shoes cleaned one last time, the varsity squad now places their focus on next season. With the departure of six seniors, there will be importance placed on incorporating new rotations and creating a new sense of chemistry on the court. The team hopes that these new faces will be able to contribute positively and play a part in achieving team goals.

"Our focus next season will be the same as this year's. We want to win the league title and go further into the playoffs; maybe we can go undefeated!" sophomore Klemens Saputra said.

Finishing a season undefeated is a long shot, but in the world of basketball, anything can get through the net. After a break, the team will commence practice in the summer in preparation for the 2016-17 campaign. For now however, the cheers, squeaks and swishes coming from the big gym will be put on hold until the time comes again to play Alhambra basketball.

MOOR graphic
by LESLIE HWANG

Girls' Varsity Soccer Concludes Season

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The girls' varsity soccer team season has concluded. Their league record is three wins, five losses, and two ties. This season has proved to be quite an endeavorous one. The Lady Moors worked very hard, but did not make CIF this year. The girls' varsity soccer team ended the season fourth in the Almont League.

"Overall [we did] pretty strong despite a lot of injuries. We didn't necessarily [achieve] the league championship that we were looking for, but everyone had their opportunity. It's been a really great experience for a lot of the girls. Expectations are always high for the program," Head Coach Peter Dodosh said.

Injuries did play a part in the season this year for the Lady Moors. The team had a couple issues with keeping their keepers

healthy. This could have affected the outcomes of some of the girls' league games.

"I think [the season] went okay. We definitely had expected better and to go to CIF, but we plan to just work on our mistakes and improve. Next year we will be ready for season and hopefully make CIF," junior Lauryn Afvarez said.

During the offseason, the girls will be practicing a couple times a week. They will also be joining tournaments as a team to try to improve their skills. The Lady Moors are working hard to try to improve as a team.

"My favorite part of being on the team was growing as a player with the girls."
- Sania Luna, senior

"I feel nostalgic sometimes. I have played [soccer] since freshman year in high school. My favorite part of being on the team was growing as a player with the girls. I played with certain players for years. As a captain I had to step up and it was nice knowing I was supported by my team," senior Sania Luna said.

Girls' Varsity Water Polo Secures CIF Spot

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The Alhambra High Schools girls' varsity water polo team has worked very hard this season to improve themselves. Their constant work ethic led to great results this season. With a record of 7-10, the Lady Moors were able to make it to the CIF playoffs this season. Additionally, with so much pressure on the team to perform well at the CIF first round game, the team practiced over the weekend for the playoff match against Thousand Oaks High School.

"To prepare for CIF, my team worked hard and stayed positive and worked together to improve as a team," senior Joyce Hong said.

In addition to working on their teamwork during practice, the athletes also emphasized making good shots and improving defense against opposing teams. The team has also been endlessly working on stami-

na and endurance, by doing longer sprints, and focusing on back-stroke so they do not burn out in the middle of a game.

With such a demanding season for the team, the girls have had their work cut out for them since the beginning to try and reach the CIF playoffs. Additionally, with their biggest challenge being to win games to make it to CIF, all of their hard work and dedication has finally paid off. The CIF game has been a very important match to the girls and have done their best to prepare and hope to come out on top at the end of the match.

Unfortunately, the Lady Moors fell to Thousand Oaks in their first round match after a long trip. Still, it was a successful season for the team after taking care of their league games to even qualify for a CIF spot. The seniors of the team will be missed but the program looks to move forward after another season.

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