

# Lady Moors Soccer Team Slides Through Ganesha Tournament

**BRYAN ALBARRAN**  
Copy Editor

On Nov. 1, the girls soccer team traveled to Ganesha High School to play their first two games in the Ganesha Tournament.

For their first game, the Lady Moors were matched up against Alta Loma High School, a Division 3 soccer team. The game began with high intensity as the Alta Loma Braves immediately pressured the Alhambra team in their defensive section. With more communication and accurate passes, the Alta Loma girls were able to get past the Lady Moors team in multiple occasions and eventually score one goal against Alhambra. With their heads down low, the Lady Moors finished the first half of the game with a score of 0-1. However, Alhambra went into the second half with more confidence than anything else.

“Going into second half, our girls had decided that if we do lose, we will not easily do so,” junior player Maria Romero said. “We improved our own communication to match up with that of Alta Loma and it ended up being one of the most intense games of the season.”

The second half of the match was mainly played in the middle of the field as both teams fought for possession of the ball. The Lady Moors took multiple hits from the Alta Loma Braves and kept their defensive side up for the majority of the game, but Alta Loma High School scored two more goals toward the end of the game, leaving the final score at 0-3.

After some snacks and more conditioning, the girls were ready to go up against Garey High School for their last game of the day. According to multiple athletes, the game began aggressively, with slide tack-



**SCRIMMAGE!** The Alhambra Girls soccer team follow up their warmups with more drills to better compete in future games.

*MOOR* photo by AHYLIE ROSALES

les and fouls being thrown left and right. After a slide tackle was called on the Garey Viking’s side, the Lady Moors scored their first goal through a penalty. In turn, the Lady Vikings increased their pressure against the defense of Alhambra, soon after resulting in Garey scoring their first goal.

The first half ended with a score of 1-1 and the second half began with the Alhambra team pressuring the Lady Vikings. Shortly after, the Lady Moors scored their second goal by using new plays that they

recently practiced, leaving the game at 2-1. For a majority of the game, the Alhambra team kept the ball away from their goal and made multiple goal attempts. Right before the game ended, the Garey High School girls soccer team broke through and counter-attacked the Lady Moors, placing them closer to their goal.

The competition came to the last corner kick of the game, which was in favor of the Lady Vikings. Immediately after, the Garey High School girls scored their second

goal against Alhambra High School and the game ended with a tied score of 2-2.

“Looking back, our team was extremely proud of our performance because we ended up tying a game against one of the top 30 soccer teams in all of California and we managed to hold our ground against both schools for as long as we could,” Romero said.

The Alhambra girls soccer team’s next game will be on Dec. 20 at Bell Gardens High School.



## The Troubles of VAR

**JOSHUA THAI**  
Staff Writer

In any competitive sport, it is extremely important that everyone playing or participating should be treated fairly. No one should have any advantages over another player or team and everyone should be treated equally by referees or judges. Soccer, or what is known as football to other nations, is the most popular sport with over four billion fans worldwide. With its large following, it is obvious to say that soccer is a very competitive sport. As an attempt to make the game as fair as possible, a project was conducted by the Royal Netherlands Football Association named Refereeing 2.0. The goal of the project was to assist referees in making certain calls, making their job easier and more efficient. In this project, the video assistant referee, or VAR for short, was conceived. The International Football Association Board specified four types of calls that could be reviewed by VAR, regarding decisions with penalties or goals. These calls seemed straightforward but they almost never cleared things up. VAR received backlash from fans worldwide because of its change in approach of refereeing. Some fans even protested against the use of VAR. The idea was promising, but the use of VAR is ultimately failing, due to it

leading to confusion and sometimes even more controversy. Therefore, VAR should not be used in any soccer league or event.

The video assistant referee was first used during the 2018 World Cup Group B opener in Sochi. During the game, a player had been elbowed in the face, allowing the other team to score. The referee on the field consulted the VAR and asked if there was anything wrong with the play. The video assistant referee responded that there was nothing wrong with the play, and the goal given had stayed. After the game, both teams acknowledged that the play that had been reviewed by the VAR was a clear foul but the VAR did not catch it. This instance proves that the VAR will not always clear things up. This is not the only instance where the VAR has complicated the decisions of certain calls.

The video assistant referee changes the way fans view and enjoy soccer. It will make referees more dependent on the VAR, making them lazier. Also, it may be hard to train referees with the new technology, especially those who have been a referee for multiple years.

With time and clearer rules, the idea of VAR has the potential to be successful. However, this technology is still new and should not be used in any soccer event, as it would cause confusion and more controversy.

## JV Boys Soccer Off to Rough Start

**TIFFANY ALEMAN**  
Staff Writer

On Nov. 30, the Alhambra Boys JV soccer team went up against the Temple City soccer team in a home conference.

In what was their fourth game of the year, the Moors went up against the Rams in order to prepare for their league games. This game held a significant meaning to it because in previous years, the final score of the Temple City games have been reflective of the matches against Mark Keppel High School and San Gabriel High School. According to multiple athletes, the game began aggressively since the muddy field had caused many fouls and slide tackles to occur on both sides.

Although Alhambra displayed a stronger sense of connection to one another, Temple City was able to break

through the defense and score. Even though the Moors remained strong, the Rams were able to score two goals in each half by enacting new plays that the Moors have not practiced yet. The game ended with a final score of 4-0 but it allowed the Alhambra boys to reflect on their performance.

“I would say that as a team, we are strong because we have started to learn how everyone plays individually on the field, but we still have a lot to improve on and Temple City showed

us that,” player Alan Carranza said.

Although the Alhambra JV boys soccer team has had a rough start in their pre-season games, they have progressively connected as a team through hard work. After various team exercises and practices, the team claims to be ready for their league competitions. Coach Rodolfo Bravo made sure that the boys were well prepared to go against other schools and the combination of the coaching and new players has provided the makings for a great season.

The tough pre-season will ensure that the Moors are prepared for the upcoming league games.

“Our team works on... agility, our core, stamina, strength and it teaches us to be more aware in the game while performing at our best,” senior player Javier Gonzalez said.

By applying the practice strategies in

the game, the Moors were able to grow accustomed to one another and create a stronger bond. This allowed them to work better in sync through communication and callouts. Although the Alhambra JV soccer team lost Friday’s home game against Temple city by a score of 4-0, the team was still proud of their performance.

Their next home game is against Bell Gardens on Dec. 20.

*MOOR* graphics by RUBY LA

