

Boys Tennis Serve up a Successful Preseason

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Staff Writer

Boys tennis season is about to start, and the team is working toward improving their skills on the court. Although there has only been a handful of games this preseason, the team is looking forward to a productive year.

The team has a distinct vision for what they want to accomplish this year, and they continue to implement those ideas into their practices every day.

"The team has helped me learn the basic fundamentals of the game, and I am excited to keep improving my skills on the court" Senior player Javier Gonzalez said.

Despite the many changes in the weather these past couple of weeks, their playing time and their work ethic have not been affected.

The team has still found time to practice

and prepare for their first preseason game.

Their first test was a home game on Feb. 20 against Baldwin Park High School,

doing the same things in order to create their own winning streak. Their first game ended in a win with a score of 14 - 4.

The players have done their part in preparing for their season, and seem to be excited for it to start.

Their form also seems to be improving with each week that they work on their backhand, forehand, and serve. This particular sport requires many hours of practice in order to gain the correct techniques to be a well-rounded player.

With all the time the Moors spend on the court, it wouldn't be a surprise if they were already on top of their game.

They hope that this season works out well for them, and that they improve from last year. Their main goals seem to

be attainable, because they have showed they are capable of having success.

Their next game will be a home game on March 1 at 3:15 p.m.



SWING Senior Captain Brian Liao practices his swing in preparation for upcoming competitions

MOOR photo by CURTIS LEE

which helped them gain more confidence due to their home-court advantage. With the expectation that they would come away with a win, it helped motivate them to keep

"We won our first game and in the end, we had a lot of fun playing and ended up playing one of our best games." freshman player Ashlan Goy said.



BRYAN ALBAR-CAN

Ignorance Continues in the Sports World

BRYAN ALBARRAN
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In the modern age, the idea of sexual fluidity has become popular amongst certain people, bleeding its way into many aspects of today's media.

The inability to accept this new concept exists in one of the largest aspects of American culture, sports. Although the idea of sexual fluidity is seemingly new, various sports organizations have been reluctant to respect those who decide to change their sexual identity. One organization, known as the IAAF or the International Association of Athletics Foundation, displayed such reluctance by placing their focus on a female Track & Field athlete, Caster Semenya.

Semenya is mainly known for being a middle-distance runner who won the gold medal at the 2012 and the 2016 Summer Olympics. After she won gold at the 2009 Berlin world championships, many questions were posed about the gender of Semenya. Due to the rumors, the IAAF made it mandatory for Semenya to be subjected to gender verification tests to confirm her sexual identity and in turn, prevented her from running any events during 2009 and 2010. In that same year, the IAAF created new rules, which some say targeted Semenya specifically, to place a regulation on an individual's testosterone level. Semenya spoke out in court against the regulations since it prevented those who suffer from hyperan-

drogenism, those who are born with elevated testosterone and athletes who have recently gone through gender reassignment.

Surprisingly, athletes have begun to speak out against athletes like Semenya or transgender individuals and in turn, have given light on the fact that many people in today's society refuse to accept the ideology of sexual reassignment. Tennis legend Martina Navratilova was one athlete who spoke out against transgender women or men in sports by stating that they should not participate in the sport whatsoever.

"It's insane and it's cheating," Navratilova said. "I am happy to address a transgender woman in whatever form she prefers, but I would not be happy to compete against her. It would not be fair."

Although transgender athletes may have a natural biological advantage over their competition, it gives no justification to the discrimination these athletes face on and off the field. If large sports organizations, such as the IAAF, want to clear the issues surrounding transgender athletes, it should be done quietly and should not target a single athlete. The ignorance in the actions of the IAAF does not exist in the fact that they refuse to acknowledge transgender athletes, but in the fact that they have decided to ignore the issues surrounding them and then, decide to wake up and ruin a single athlete's career and reputation amongst her own sport.

Baseball Team Swings at the Titans

ALEC GREGORY
Staff Writer

As spring begins to return to the land, so to does America's pastime.

In their first game of the season the Alhambra Moors baseball team showed that it has prepared for the season. In their first game of the season, the Moors played the San Marino Titans on Feb. 12. The Moors won 9-4.

"After our first game, I feel pretty good about the team and how we will perform in the upcoming season," senior catcher Xavier Perez said.

The catcher was responsible for three of the Moor's 10 hits and scored two runs.

Another large influence on the outcome of the game was the Moor's pitching staff. Junior Diego Moran pitched four innings of shutout baseball while only allowing three hits and one walk and striking out six batters.

This allowed the Moors to take advantage of the seven run lead that they built up with Moran on the mound.

Moran also took the job of creating his own lead very seriously. With two RBI's, two hits, three runs and a

walk, Moran was one of the most productive pieces of Alhambra's offense.

It will be interesting to see what other positions Moran is capable of playing to make sure he stays in the lineup going forward.

The Titans, for their part, did eventually get their offense started, with one run scored in the sixth and three in the seventh.

However, this would be the extent of the damage that the Titan's dealt onto the Moors. This may be because of Alhambra's noticeable team bond.

"One thing in particular that stood out to me the most was the realization of chemistry and

balance that the team has shown in previous and Tuesday's game," Perez said.

Time will tell if the team's bond will be enough to win throughout the season.

For now though, it looks like the team has a competent pitching staff and a high-scoring offense to fall back on when they need to.

The Moors stand a a current record of 1-0.

The Alhambra Baseball teams next away game will be against Bell Gardens on Monday, Feb. 25.

MOOR graphics by JENNIFER SU

