

# Cross Country Breezes Through Invitational

**JOSHUA THAI**  
Staff Writer

After the Cross Country team's strong performance at the Jeff Nelson Invitational, the team continued their season by attending the Cool Breeze Invitational, hosted at the Brookside Golf Course on Sept. 7.

The team hit the ground running in their first meet, preparing them for their next.

"I felt really good going into the race," senior Serena Dueñas said. "I felt that the team was well prepared to race. We are coming into the season with great times on the girl varsity side and we have to defend our title since we won last year."

In the fourth event of the meet, the boys junior varsity large school three mile race, Alhambra High placed 23rd out of 30 teams. Out of 249 people, junior Wesley Chung placed 157th with

a time of 19:47.3 and junior Justin Nguyen placed 188th with a time of 20:40.0.

Two events later, Alhambra High

placed 11th out of 27 teams in the Girls Sophomore portion of the Invitational. Out of 164 people, sophomore Milan Cambon placed 23rd with a time of

Shortly after, Alhambra High placed 20th out of 27 schools with five runners in the boys sophomore race. Sophomore Ivan Huang placed within the top 100, land-

for Alhambra High. The varsity boys placed 30th out of 41 schools with seven runners. Senior Bryan Albarran placed 175th out of 297 people with a time of 18:04.1.



**TO THE FINISH LINE** Varsity girls Serena Dueñas and Alyssa Romero race alongside their team and compete with other schools in a three-mile-long race

*MOOR* photo courtesy of CRYSTAL DUEÑAS

However, the best performance from the team came from the varsity girls. In their race, they placed seventh out of 39 schools. Out of seven runners, four placed within the top 100: Dueñas, senior Alyssa Romero, junior Paloma Sanchez and junior Daniele Santoyo. Dueñas placed 5th with a time of 18:13.9, Romero placed 17th with a time of 18:54.8, Sanchez placed 32nd with a time of 19:25.9 and Santoyo placed 54th with a time of 20:05.5. Dueñas and Romero both received medals for placing in the top 30.

"Everyone performed really well at the Cool Breeze Invitational," Dueñas said, "We were all very pleased with our performance because most of us came back with

our own new personal records."

The team will attend their next meet at the Whittier Narrows, Legg Lake on Sept. 26.

The last two events of the meet, the girls varsity and boys varsity race, were eventful

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## Claire Rodarte

## Misfortune for NFL Newcomers

**CLAIRE RODARTE**  
Staff Writer

The NFL began its 2018-2019 season with a less than impressive start. The league came into this year with seven new head coaches, making each of these programs considerably new in terms of coaching, development and playing strategies. With the future surely looking bright with the new sets of staff, week one of the season certainly did not show this vibrant array of new and refreshing starts.

The 0-7 record of the accumulated new head coaches portrayed the worst opening campaign in NFL history, passing the previous worst record of 0-6 in 2001. Many will look to point fingers at the new leaders for each team, but one must take into consideration what they are working with before making accusations.

All of the respective teams dealt with their own problems during week one. Whether it be penalties, lack of a solid offensive or defensive line, injuries or simply too many points allowed, each program struggled to find a victory by the end of the day. A majority of these teams ended last season in losing fashion, hence the reason they have new sets of staff this year. With this, it can and should be hard to expect much from programs looking to develop and establish a sense of growth and rebirth from within.

Of the seven new coaches in the league, two are returning after a number of years of being away. Pat Shurmur and John Gruden, head coaches of the New York Giants and Oakland Raiders respectively,

both have experience in the NFL but still failed to win their first games. This shows that it takes a certain amount of time for a team to fully develop in order for them to succeed, regardless of who the coach is.

Statistically, the ratio of new coaches' winning to losing is close to even throughout each year, but that is not the best result. From 2013-2017, with the average number of new coaches each year being seven, three or less have advanced to the playoffs each of those seasons. Adding onto the disappointing start of this year, the NFL does not have much to be proud of, especially ones with experienced players and leaders. With long-term returners, it should not be difficult for a team to obtain a win.

On the contrary, the league is growing and moving forward in terms of each team being good. Each of the seven teams that lost in week one had considerable performances, despite walking away empty-handed. They had upsides and played exceptionally well, but that is not always seen at first glance.

The things that people focus on most is the end result, the final score. If they did not witness the actual event, they will not know or care about what occurred during the game. This can very well undermine the programs and give them a bad name, as the public eye pays no mind to what is actually important - the progress and experience they have gained from it. Many are hoping that they will bounce back from an unfortunate start, and will become better as each new week approaches.

*MOOR* graphics by LYLIE EUONG

## Girls Tennis Break Through Losing Streak

**BRYAN ALBARRAN**  
Copy Editor

On Sept. 21, the girls tennis team went up against Schurr High School in an away conference game.

From the beginning of the season to mid-September, the girls were struggling with a season record of 0-9. This was mainly because the team was missing around five of their most experienced players due to wrist injuries. Those missing girls returned to the team a week before their game against Pasadena on Sept. 18 and they began to help their teammates improve.

"Our team this year consists mostly of first time varsities and the lack of experience made it difficult to perform," senior Captain Miranda To said. "However, once our [most experienced] girls came back, we were able to learn from one another and improve."

In the game against Schurr, the teams were evenly matched throughout the first sets. Immediately after the Alhambra Girls won a set, the Lady Spartans would return a win, keeping the game at a stalemate. This ended when Alhambra gained a two set advantage. With an extra boost of confidence, the Lady Moors were able to maintain this two-set advantage until the very end and win, leaving the final score at 10-8.

"I am so proud of our team after we beat Schurr because we really pulled through as a whole and we set a good impression for the rest of the season," To said. "We just have to keep on improving ourselves and hopefully the score reflects how much we have grown. Hopefully it ends up with us as the varsity league champs again."

The Alhambra girls team will be going up against San Gabriel High School on Oct. 2 in a home conference at 3:15 p.m.

## JV Football Keeping up Their Record

**ALEC GREGORY**  
Staff Writer

To start off their season, the JV football team faced the South El Monte Eagles on Aug. 17.

With home field advantage, the Moors set out to beat South El Monte and start the year off strong. Moors were able to keep the Eagles from scoring entirely, and soared to a 1-0 record.

The next game would appear to be quite the standoff, however. In their second week, they faced the Rowland Raiders. The Moors played at home again, but this would not prove to be enough to overcome the Raiders. Yet, Rowland was having the same difficulties, and the teams would appear perfectly matched. The contest would

eventually end in a tie 14-14, leaving the team with an odd 1-1-0 record, and Rowland with a record of 0-1-0. The Raiders have since added a loss on their season.

After the odd outcome of their Rowland game, JV faced the other Eagle, this time from Verbum Dei High School. The Eagles had come off their league starter. This was quite the replay of Week 1 for the team, as they handedly defeated them 22-0.

The last game that the JV Moors played at the time of writing was the South Pasadena Tigers. They were able to score against the Moors easily. The Moors would be handed their first loss at the hands of the Tigers, losing 27-8.

The Moors will face Schurr on Thursday at 3:30 at Moor Field.