

Varsity Coed Swimming Dives into League Season



MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU

DIVE IN The Moor swim team prepares for their last preseason meet on Apr. 4 against the Bell Garden Lancers. Both varsity teams were victorious; the boys won 99-47 and the girls won 89-43.

NATE GARCIA
Assistant Sports Editor

Chlorine isn't often known as the best hair product, but it is recognized as an essential ingredient by the AHS varsity swim team, which spends its after school hours lightening their hair and darkening their skin under the spring sun.

They currently have a league record of 1-1, having lost to Gabrielino on Feb. 26, and defeated Bell Gardens on April 4. This year, one of the teams' greatest

strengths is that the team size has doubled the amount compared to last year's team.

"Last year, we had [half of the swimmers] we have this year, [and now that number has doubled] which is very beneficial [to us as a team]. We work more on strength exercises rather than on technique," co-captain Danielle

Giberti said.

The team holds practice at the Granada Park Aquatic Center daily at 3:15 p.m., where they start off with a 450 meter kick-pull-swim, then move on to different sets assigned by either Head Coach Sarah

Duran or Assistant Coach Nathan Duran. The Moors sometimes begin their school day with a 6 a.m. morning practice in the

weight room. Since most of the team is comprised of newcomers, the coaches maintain intense practices in order for the team to reach its potential.

"I am really surprised, [...] a lot of these guys don't know that much about swimming, but they catch on quick. The way they're going, it's going to be a great run at league finals and CIF," Duran said.

The Moors currently have their eyes fixed on their next meet which will be against Schurr on April 11 at Schurr High School.

"The way they're going, it's going to be a great run at league finals and CIF."

-Nathan Duran

Badminton Causing a 'Racket' in Almont League

ANHAYTE GUAJARDO
Staff Writer

Like every spring sport, the Alhambra coed badminton team has been diligently preparing for league. Having placed third last season with a record of 8-4, the team is hoping to rank in the top three by the time the season ends this year.

The Moors' first league game was on March 26 against San Gabriel, which resulted in a loss of 6-2, and a success against Mark Keppel, 14-7, on March 28, leading to the current league record of 1-1. Despite the first loss, Head Coach Lou Brambila believes that the team's future looks bright.

"Most of the kids on our team are pretty good, but like every match you don't know what will happen," Brambila said.

To keep the team in top shape, the team practices every day from Monday to Thursday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.. With many new faces this year, the team has been working hard to understand the rules and having practice drills that focus on exercise, improving speed and teamwork.

"We [mainly] need to improve to on our full work, but we are a very cheerful team and we give each other a lot of support," varsity player Helen Hunt said.

ANHAYTE'S ANTICS

Giving Homeschooled Kids a Chance to Play in High School Athletics



ANHAYTE GUAJARDO
Staff Writer

One's source of education can be significant in determining one's future, in both the academic realm and sports field. For example there are many talented home-schooled athletes that would like to pursue a career in sports, but are unfortunately unable to join a high school sport because of their source of education. There are currently only thirteen states that allow broad (WC) access to homeschoolers and this year was the second year Virginia tried to be among those states.

A bill called the Tebow Law, named after NFL quarterback Tim Tebow, that would have allowed homeschooled students to participate in public high school sports and other extracurricular activities, was outvoted on Feb. 4 in Virginia by members of the Senate Education and Health Committee. Some opponents who argued the bill stated that it was unfair that homeschoolers did not have to face the same standards that public schools must face.

Homeschooled students should be able to participate in high school sports teams because they deserve equal opportunities instead of being penalized for a family decision to be homeschooled. Parents may decide to homeschool their child because they are concerned about their safety; for example shielding them from negative influences such as drugs and peer pressure. However, that does not mean they should be excluded from participating in the public school's sports team.

Forbidding students to join a sports team can hurt their chances to play sports in college. Letting them participate gives them an opportunity to show their talents and get recognized by colleges just like Tim Tebow. Being homeschooled himself, he received the opportunity to attend Florida State University to play football, and is now a successful NFL football player.

Students should not be denied access to sports that are an activity that can bring communities together and can prove to be rewarding for an athlete's future.

Boys' Tennis Move on Despite Preseason Record

KEVIN KONG
Sports Editor

Going into the regular season with a final preseason record of 0-9, the varsity boys' tennis team was determined to improve in order to continue defending their Almont League title for the third consecutive year. The boys played their first regular season game against their long-time tennis rival, the San Gabriel Matadors, on March 26.

However, the boys lost with a score of 0-18, making the team's current record 0-2 and their overall record 0-11.

"[Our weakest area is] our inexperience, [since] we haven't played enough [games and have] very few experienced players," Head Coach Tom Jelsma said.

The team lost eight seniors last year, leaving only one returning member. The remainder of the team, according to Jelsma, is new to the varsity team.

"[Our main focus is] working on our weak spots and becoming more consistent in our shots,"

-Arie Quintanilla

"[Our main focus is] working on our weak spots and becoming more consistent in our shots,"

sophomore Arie Quintanilla said.

The Moors practice daily after school on the tennis courts and constantly train by running and stretching, followed by team drills, individual drills, practice scrimmages and end with conditioning.

The Moor's fifth regular season game will take place on April 11 against the Bell Garden Lancers.

"We never give up; we have a lot of endurance. [Our goal this year is] to win the league [championship]," sophomore Douglas Pang said.

MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

Varsity Boys' Baseball Hopes to Finish Season Strong, Attaining League Championship After Slow Start

DAVID TAN
Staff Writer

The varsity boys' baseball team has come off to what they feel like is a slow start to the season with an overall record of 5-4.

After winning 2-1 in their previous league match-up against Bell Gardens on March 22, the Moors have a league record of 2-1. Their record places them second in the Almont League behind the Montebello Oilers.

Despite being able to play good defense, their losses this season are attributed to poor batting skills.

"We are disappointed [that] we haven't played better," Head Coach Steve Geweke said, "We need to raise our game and I think we can, it's just a matter of whether [or not] we will."

While the other teams in the Almont League are improving and climbing up

the rank-feel that continue to and improve practice to de-

league in g t h e c o n - f o c u s o n d a m e n - w h i c h h i t t i n g , a n d t h e p e c t o f

ings, the Moors they have to work hard

prove during in order fend their title. Dur practice, Moors tinue to and work their fun-tal skills, include fielding mental as-the game.

"We need to work on the basic fundamentals, because during the game, we think it comes [naturally] but sometimes we make mistakes with the easiest things," captain Brandon Morales said.

Although the Moors did not have an ideal start to their season, they remain focused on defending their ninth consecutive Almont League championship. They also believe that they can make it to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs and perhaps even make another historic run to play a CIF championship game at Dodger Stadium. However, they know that they must remain mentally focused and play diligently to succeed.

"Coach [Geweke] tells us [to focus on] one game at a time; CIF will come if we play our game and that is what we have to do," captain Alan Rivera said.

The Moors' next league game will be on April 12 against Schurr.



CAPTAIN BRANDON MORALES

MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI