

Wrestling Team 'Tapping' Their Way into Season



MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU

ON THE EDGE The AHS wrestling team trains tediously for their remaining league matches.

KAYIU WONG
Staff Writer

With this year's season starting in November for the wrestling team, these past two months have comprised of daily practice and rigorous training for the Moors. According to Head Coach Michael Williams, there are 36 members on this year's team: six returning members from last year and 30 who are new.

"With so many newcomers, we have to focus a lot on rebuilding the fundamentals. Wrestling is a sport that takes time to develop the good technique to win," Williams said. Because of the large

amount of first-year wrestlers on the team, practices revolve around developing basic wrestling styles, reflexes and responses. For the team's experienced members, conditioning and keeping fit are their two main goals. Additionally, the team lost three experienced wrestlers due to academic ineligibility at the beginning of the season, and as a result, many underclassmen this year are being put in the varsity lineup.

Losing these key wrestlers from last season and having such a new lineup proved to be major contributing factors in the losses of the team's first two Almont League matches. On

Dec. 18, the team went up against Montebello and on Jan. 8 they went against Schurr. According to Williams, Montebello and Schurr are the team's toughest and most experienced opponents in the league.

"[Our match] against Schurr went better than we expected and Montebello proved to be a learning experience for us in building up from our [loss] and moving forward," junior Ethan Tavares said.

As the team moves on to their remaining league matches, they are hopeful in defeating their future opponents and qualifying as one of Almont League's top three teams for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). The team had seven wrestlers advance to CIF preliminaries last year and Williams believes his returners this year will qualify. Currently halfway into the season, the team continues to maintain a positive mentality.

"For now we are going to just keep working to match skills to the different body types we have. Even though wrestling is an individual sport, we always wrestle for each other like a family," Williams said.

Washington Redskins' Name Conceives Controversy Among Fans Over Racial Concerns

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Ever since 1988, the National Football League's (NFL) Washington Redskins' name and logo has been a controversial topic due to its reputation of being a stereotypical name for Native Americans.

Organizations such as the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have come up with a solution to change the name and mascot of the Washington Redskins in order not to offend the Native American culture.

According to NBC Sports, last December, the Redskins issued a poll to the public that determined that 71 percent opposed the name change, while 18 percent supported it. Since the last poll that was issued 20 years

ago, the support to change the name has dropped by nearly 10 percent.

Americans and countless Redskins fans have expressed support in keeping the name, believing that the name "represents the strength, character and pride of

find the name offensive and racist, thus leading to the creation of online campaigns such as #changethename and #changethemascot.

"The name Redskins' should be changed because it's racist. [It's] like naming a team Blackskins, Brownskins or Yellowskins," junior Sara Hernandez said.

As support for the name change continues to be present, the debate over changing the

"The name Redskins should be changed because it's racist. [It's] like naming a team Blackskins, Brownskins or Yellowskins,"

-Sara Hernandez

our Indian Heritage."

In a recent letter to fans, team owner Daniel Snyder describes the name as a "badge of honor" and states that the name "continues to hold the memories and meanings of where we come from, who we are, and who we want to be in the years to come," according to the Washington Post.

Although many fans find the name a valuable symbol, many Native Americans and fans disagree. Some Native Americans and fans

name is still in progress and campaigns are currently being held in order to change the name. There has been no revelation to what the name will be changed to; however, to most, changing the name is not favorable. In fact, a number of the Native Americans would rather willingly keep the name. A fraction of Native Americans, though, continue to create movements so that the NFL will change the "offensive" name into one that is perceived as less offensive.

Girls' Basketball Picks Up Pace for Start of Season

KEVIN KONG
Sports Editor

Starting the new winter season with a preseason record of 6-10, the varsity girls' basketball team is continuing their intensive practices in order to stay conditioned for the season.

The Lady Moors kicked off the season with two losses in their Almont League games against the Temple City Rams and the Bell Garden Lancers, making their season record 0-2 and their overall record of 6-12.

The team begins practice daily by warming up and then proceeds to work on individual skills. The team's regimen continues, working on shooting drills, free throws and drills created to improve both the Moors' offensive and defensive skills.

"Our team's strengths [are] hustling and being scrappy out on the court. Our defense creates our offense. Our team is working on new plays to work with during the season and is preparing to play good defense," captain

Miyako Martinez said

According to Martinez, the Lady Moors are working on a new defensive strategy, which combines the more traditional man-to-man match up with the relatively new zone/area defense. As a smaller team, Martinez also pointed out that most points scored by the Moors were created by capitalizing on turnovers from opponents' mistakes.

"We don't really talk on the court. If you don't talk on the court, then you don't know what is going on with the team so sometimes, the

team messes up and gets a turnover. During practice, [Head] Coach [Erick Williams] is always telling us to talk more," junior power forward Kaile Wu said.

As the Moors continue to practice in order to improve on both their defensive strategy and their areas of improvement, such as free throws and communication, they will simultaneously face opponents.

The Moors' next league game will be on Jan. 24 against the Schurr Spartans at 5:15 p.m. in the school's big gym.



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

OPPOSING TENS During the Moors vs Rams game on Jan. 10, AHS girls' captain Miyako Martinez makes a strong crossover against Temple City. Both teams played head-to-head but the Lady Moors faced defeat.

JV Boys' Soccer Acquires New Coach and Enters Season

NATE GARCIA
Sports Editor

As students return to their daily routines under the California sun, the JV boys' soccer team has continued onto their regular season. The boys currently have a record of 4-4-2.

The Moors practice daily from

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. They begin practice with conditioning and fitness exercises, then they move onto passing and touch drills and eventually end with shooting.

This year, the JV team welcomed Coach Brian Hoist, who hopes to remain coaching for the next few years, because the Moors have not had a consistent

coach over the past few seasons.

"I hope to stay here and coach to help this team grow. Even though they're not the best team out there, they never give up. They pressure their opponents during games. It is in their heart to win," Hoist said.

MOOR graphic by GEN THIP-ATIMA

JV Boys' Basketball Trains Diligently with High Aspirations

SIMEON LAM
Staff Writer

After a month of preseason, the JV boys' basketball squad enters league play with a record of 6-4. The team started off 4-0, until dropping four of their last six games. Despite losing recently, Head Coach Danny Nieto affirmed that winning is not his only goal.

"Aside from winning, I expect the [players] to grow and improve, not just in basketball, but in life through

discipline and respect," said Nieto.

With a mix of juniors, sophomores and freshmen, the coaches see an experienced and talented roster with lots of potential.

"I expect [the team] to compete every game and at least get a few more wins," captain Hao Deng said. "[Everyone] should play 100 percent, all the time, no matter the situation."

The team practices daily, excluding game days and Sundays. Practice consists of warm ups, defensive

and offensive drills, scrimmages and conditioning. The team hopes that the hard work they put in every day will transition into their games.

"[I] expect the team to be ready for the next level [...] I also expect to see leaders and a brotherhood," said Nieto.

The Moors began their season with consecutive home games against the Bell Garden Lancers and the Mark Keppel Aztecs on Jan. 14 and Jan. 17, respectively.

MOOR graphic by SYDNEY LI

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