

## Boys' Basketball Boxes Out Competition, Hopes to Begin Run Toward End of Season

**KEVIN KONG**  
Sports Editor

After ending their preseason with a .470 record of 8-9, the varsity boys' basketball team began their Almont League season with a win of 62-49 against the San Gabriel Matadors. Afterward, however, the Moors were dealt four consecutive losses, two of which were lost on buzzer beaters in the final seconds. Following this, the squad faced a rematch against San Gabriel and ended their losing streak with a winning margin of four points. In their most recent game, the Moors held their opponents, the Bell Garden Lancers, at 42 points in order to receive

their third win of the season. Their record currently stands at 3-4 and under the leadership of second year Head Coach Bryan Gonzalez, the team hopes to end the season strong in order to make a push for a higher Almont League rank and a chance to qualify for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) postseason preliminaries. "Our team's goal is to win all the remaining games and get a CIF [seed, but] we are also trying to build a foundation by playing basketball with passion each and every day," captain Matthew Aguilar said. To accomplish their goals, the boys hold daily night practices. Like that of most teams, a basic

practice session includes warm-ups and drills to improve passing, communication and shooting. They then continue in a series of offensive and defensive drills before concluding with five-on-five scenarios. According to Gonzalez and Aguilar, the Moors began the season offensively minded, but began to move toward defensive strategy in order to balance the play both inside and outside the paint. Another key area that the team addressed was the injury of the team's captain and starting point guard, Cesar Gomez. "After we lost Gomez due to a fractured leg, we really had to make adjustments and find a new identity. Now I feel like we are a defensively minded team and



MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU

**AIMING FOR THE WIN** Alhambra varsity boys' basketball team practices in anticipation for the ending of their season.

will keep that mentality as we finish league play," Gonzalez said. Despite recent losses and setbacks, the team looks toward

their last few Almont League games in hopes of qualifying for CIF preliminaries for their third consecutive year.

## Girls' Basketball Looks Toward Next Season



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

**POWER FORWARD** In a varsity girls' basketball game against the San Gabriel Matadors, senior Siciley Munoz is fouled by the opposing team during her attempt to shoot the ball in the third quarter.

**SIMEON LAM**  
Sports Editor

With the current season gradually coming to its end, the varsity girls' basketball team owns a record of 2-5 with both of their wins coming against the Bell Gardens Lancers, most recently

on Tuesday, Feb. 4. However, the team has suffered a couple losses in which they gave up a lead in the second half of games. Led by Head Coach Erik Williams, the Lady Moors have been practicing daily in hopes of earning a couple more wins in the Almont League despite being out of contention

for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs.

"We've been working on the little things, mainly fixing small mistakes like having better passes or rotating on defense," said junior guard Katherine Hui. "We made [errors] at times [in games] but we've been playing pretty good basketball."

As for next year, the Lady Moors have rebuilding to do in terms of their starting lineup due to the number of seniors that are graduating from the program. However, the team will have seven returners to make the transition smoother and keep the team intact. The returners include four juniors, two sophomores and one freshman. With the summer and fall to prepare, the team believes that time will help them improve for next season and also allow them to find leaders on their young team.

As the season closes, the team concludes with two home games against the Montebello Oilers and the Schurr Spartans on Feb. 10 and Feb. 13, respectively, both at 5 p.m.

## JV Girls' Water Polo Team Treads Towards End of Season

**ANHAYTE GUAJARDO**  
Staff Writer

This year the JV water polo team had a competitive season, losing their last game against the Schurr Spartans with a score of 6-12. The girls are training for the upcoming games, currently holding a 1-3 preseason record and a 0-3 league record.

"Our season wasn't as good as I thought it was going to be but I can tell the team is still trying their hardest," sophomore Flora Han said.

Swimming while trying to throw a ball into a net is not always an easy task. According to the team, that is why they have practice every day in order to perfect their passing and treading and to be prepared to battle in the water in their next league game against the Mark Keppel Aztecs on Feb. 11 at Barns Park.

During practices the girls

have increased their drills in order to increase their stamina during a game. The girls must be able to stay strong in the water for a good amount of time before getting tired.

Although this is a young team, consisting of mostly first year freshmen and sophomores, they are improving their tactics with some help from the varsity team. According to JV Coach Fabian, in order to practice certain plays, they have run throughs with the varsity players. This not only helps the team gain more experience in the water, but it helps the girls fix some mistakes made during a game.

"The team is going to end their season with well by gaining experience and knowledge of water polo, in order to come back next year stronger," Fabian said.

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG

## MOOR VS. MOOR: Coach suspension justified?

**WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ**  
Staff Writer

**YES**

The record-setting win of 161-2 for the Arroyo Valley Girls' basketball team against Bloomington High School led to the suspension of Arroyo Valley's head coach, Michael Anderson. The performance by the girls was deemed poor sportsmanship and questioned Anderson's coaching in terms of morals.

With a strong mentality to win, athletes can be quite selfish and may not think about how the opponents may feel. However, showing some mercy would make the athletes more mature and modest about their wins. As a result of the game, the Bloomington girls' spirits were crushed and Anderson's suspension was the practical decision to teach Arroyo Valley a lesson in maturity. The right direction would be showing courtesy during a friendly competition while still winning.

Despite Anderson being suspended, the girls have managed to win their most recent two games and have not acted out in response to not having their coach. However, the suspension was necessary to show that the win was an act of poor sportsmanship and possibly broke some spirits out on the court.

**BRIANA THAI**  
Staff Writer

**NO**

On Jan. 5, Arroyo Valley High School's basketball team scored a total of 161 points against Bloomington High School's two points. As a result, Michael Anderson, Arroyo Valley coach, was suspended from coaching for two weeks for poor sportsmanship.

The girls do not deserve to have their coach suspended for playing at their best. They worked hard during the season and their winning streak has proven that. Suspending the coach had no effect on how well the team had played because even without the coach's assistance, the girls won the next game 80-19.

All athletes should be mature enough to face losses. The girls should not be suffering for playing at their best. Athletes should be able to perform at their full potential; after all, what's the point of hard work when it doesn't pay off?

This win not only helped Arroyo's confidence level, but it also prepared the Bloomington girls for life ahead of them. Life may come easy at times, but at others, one has to work hard until satisfied with the outcome.

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