

## Varsity Basketball Cruises Past Bell Gardens, Winning Consecutive Games



MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU

**COUP DE GRÂCE** In the few remaining minutes of the final quarter, AHS senior Elijah Collins unhesitatingly sinks his free throw, bringing yet another point boost to the already winning Moors.

**SIMEON LAM**  
Staff Writer

As the final buzzer sound-

ed, the crowd stood up to give a standing ovation for the performance by the Alhambra varsity squad. The

Moors had just defeated the Bell Gardens Lancers to even the series between the two teams on Jan. 31

This win was important not only in the standings, but also for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) qualifications.

Facing Bell Gardens, who defeated them by one point in overtime in their last matchup, the Moors looked to avenge that loss at home. After all of the pregame festivities and warm-ups, the Moors took the court, coming out with a fast start. However, foul trouble hurt the Moors, with three starters picking up two fouls each. After leading by as much as 12, the Lancers then cut the lead to four heading into the second quarter. With the score 20-16 in favor of the Moors, both teams traded baskets with the game staying fairly close. By halftime, the Moors led, 39-37.

After adjustments were made in the locker room,

the Moors came out strong again. They stepped up both their offensive and defensive intensity, giving up 12 points in the third quarter to the Lancers. They scored 24 in this quarter, capped off by three consecutive 3-point field goals by their guards.

Starting off the fourth quarter, the Lancers made a late push, cutting the deficit down to only seven with about six minutes to go. But that was as close as they would get, as the Moors subbed their starters back into the game. Guards Miles Ford and Elijah Collins led the Moors to the finish by hitting key free throws and driving for lay-ups. With about a minute to go, the starters were finally pulled, receiving a booming cheer from the stands.

With a final score of 86-68, the Moors pre-

vailed in their second matchup with the Lancers.

"The team fought through adversity and showed a great deal of discipline throughout the game," captain Ricky Martinez said. "We locked down players and played as a team."

The Moors are now advancing forward after beating both the San Gabriel Matadors and the Bell Gardens Lancers.

"This game [showed] how big a threat we really are in league," captain Ryan Gerardo said, "I think we [will] build off this win by staying strong defensively and offensively."

Despite this momentum, the team lost 61-71 to longtime rivals, the Mark Keppel Aztecs. The Moors currently have a season record of 3-4, which ranks in third place in the Almont League standings.

## Sochi Winter Olympics Receives Ambivalent Responses Due to Security Threat

**WESLEY TSAI**  
Staff Writer

In January of 1924, France held the world's first ever Winter Olympics. Now, ninety years later, we have the 2014 Winter Olympics, which will be held in Sochi, Russia, where the snow has yet to fall.

However, there have been major disputes among the International Olympics Committee (IOC) and the Circassians, a group of Adyghe people native to Caucasus. The Circassians demanded Russia to cancel

the Olympics or apologize for the 19th century deaths that the Circassians viewed to be a massacre. Two centuries ago, Tsarist forces killed tens of thousands of Circassians and hundreds of thousands more were driven to exile. The Circassians feel as if the IOC are having the Olympics on a burial ground and requested the location to be changed. If these demands are not met, some have threatened to fight back with violence.

However, this is not the only issue. Many threats have been sent in to the

IOC. The Winter Olympics are being held in a country with an active insurgency capable of coordinating attacks, two of which were suicide bombings in December. Within seven months, the Chechen, a Caucasian ethnic group of the Nakh people, have issued two statements targeting the Olympics. According to NBC News, these threats are meant to be revenge for the blood that has been shed by the Tsarists whether it be in Afghanistan, Somalia or Syria. Vladimir Putin, Rus-

sia's fourth and current president, has stated that he has increased security by 60,000 police officers and that there will be maximum security during the two-week span of the Winter Olympics to ensure the safety of both the fans and the athletes involved in the Games.

"We have a perfect understanding of the scope of the threat and how to deal with it and how to prevent it," Putin said, according to New York Times.

Although Putin stated that he knows how to

cope with the problems, some people disagree.

"I believe that even with so much security, the safety of the people is still endangered. They're not only going to be physically damaged, but mentally too. They'll have the constant worrying of whether or not the attack will occur," senior Vivian Fan said.

Professional athletes such as Dustin Brown, an American hockey player, and Julia Mancuso, an American alpine ski racer, also feel that the event is potentially unsafe for

athletes and spectators.

"Anybody who's not concerned is probably lying, I think it's fair to say there's some concern there," Brown said.

However, foreign delegates around the world voiced different reactions.

"We are coordinating with them. We've looked at their plans, I think we have a good sense of the security that they're putting in place to protect not only the athletes themselves, but also visitors there." President Barack Obama said, according to The Guardian.

## Wrestling Team Ends Season Fourth in League, Qualifying 10 to CIF

**KAYIU WONG**  
Staff Writer

The AHS wrestling team is typically one of the dominant powers during the winter season of Almont League.

The Moors faced a losing season for the first time in four years, ending with a record of 4-5. However, during their league finals on Feb. 1, the team fought hard

in qualifying for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) preliminaries.

Held through a tournament process, league finals determined the top three athletes from each of the 14 wrestling weight classes throughout the six schools in Almont League. These athletes ultimately advance from Almont League to the first round of CIF games. From Alhambra, ten wres-

tlers qualified and will be advancing. From previous years, past performances made the Moors honorable contenders in CIF.

"The team really stepped up during finals. Everyone fought hard dur-

ing their matches and I was surprised how tough they were performing. I am very proud of them



**Peter Sosa**

MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

[...] I could tell they wanted a place in CIF," captain Peter Sosa said.

Before the league championships, the team was victorious in the season's last few matches. The Moors defeated the San Gabriel Matadors on Jan. 22 with a score of 57-18 and the Mark Keppel Aztecs on Jan. 29 with a score of 27-3.

Overall, the team concluded the season in fourth place behind Schurr, Montebello and Bell Gardens.

According to Head Coach

Michael Williams, losing returners due to academic ineligibility and having a team comprised primarily of freshman this year were the two main challenges this season presented.

"As a team, we have grown up. They are better now than they were two months ago. We do have a long way to go, but the potential and diligence is there for next season," Williams said.

### Captains: To Lead or Not to Lead?

**KEVIN KONG**  
Sports Editor

Leadership has always been an abstract idea. People find themselves struggling to define it. More frequently, people wonder about its role in success. Similar to those in professional leagues,



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high school teams often designate one or a few players as the captain of their sport.

Many argue about the purpose of what seems to be a figurehead title, but it appears as though captains can be determining factors in a group's journey.

An ideal captain plays the role of a coach's assis-

tant. They must be knowledgeable of their sport, as any other player must be. However, what separates a captain from any other player is their ability to inspire their team. They are the ones that should be at the forefront of any huddle to encourage their team to give their best effort. They are the ones that should be giving pep talks when the players feel defeated or too tired to continue. But most importantly, they are the ones to hold

their players accountable.

Captains have a responsibility to be able to read a team's performance and carefully approach players. They should neither scold nor pamper the team. As with any leadership role, these commanders must be able to both compliment and criticize others without being perceived as a pushover or a nitpicker. These defining aspects of a captain. Executed perfectly, a captain can push

their team to success, if not in the win column of a scorecard, in the amount of effort established.

However, what appears to be a timeless role may not be addressed in every team. Some groups find they benefit without the presence of a set captain. It's worth noting that team chemistry plays a role in determining if a dominant leader is necessary. If a team openly agrees that they can interact with each other well enough that they

can each motivate one another and hold each other responsible for the overall performance, then that is unique to them.

Whichever adapts to the team, captain or no captain, is perfectly acceptable. However, a team's success and failures cannot be attributed to one person. It's each player's task to find their way to work together in crunch time. Only then can the team find their unique dynamic