



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

**UNDEFEATED** The Lady Moors varsity soccer team prepares for their Feb. 21 CIF game with a motivated approach. The team's Wednesday practice consisted of strenuous conditioning and dynamic drills.

## Varsity Girls' Soccer Triumphant Once Again, Continuing to CIF Playoffs

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The soccer team has come out on top, after placing first in Almont League this season and coming back from placing second last season behind the Montebello Oilers. The team finished the season with an undefeated 7-0-3 record, moving on to the first round of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Behind Alhambra, also qualifying for CIF, are the second seeded Bell Gardens Lancers and the third seeded Oilers.

"It feels pretty amazing! We worked really hard this season and it has been one of our goals this year so I'm happy that we were able to work together to complete it," junior

midfielder Xiomara Diaz said.

The team's last game of the season was on Feb. 13 against the Mark Keppel Aztecs, winning with a score of 3-0. Upon scoring their first goal within the first 48 seconds of the game, the team gained the motivation they needed to finish their season strong.

The team is also hoping to make history this year by being the first Alhambra girls' team to win CIF Southern Division and to continue on to state. The furthest the girls have ever gone was in 2012, when they made it into the third round of the CIF competitions.

"Going into CIF, our goal is to continue to play hard, overcome any challenges that stand in our way and represent our school the best as we can," captain Michelle Badillo said.

In order to accomplish their goals, the team will continue to meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at Moor Field to practice from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. According to the team, they will be working on their communication on the field, making more precise and accurate passes and working on their aggression since the teams they will be competing against will be using more of their body and strength.

The first round of CIF arrived on Feb. 21, where the Lady Moors played against the Pomona Catholic Pacers at Moor Field. The game ended in a sudden death double overtime, which resulted in a 1-1 tie between both schools. However, the Moors lost in penalty kicks, ending with a score of 4-3.

## AHS Alumnus and MLB Star Ralph Kiner Passes Away at Age 91

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On Feb. 6, National Baseball Hall of Fame 1975 Inductee Ralph Kiner passed away from natural causes in Rancho Mirage. Kiner, an AHS graduate, is known for his years in Major League Baseball (MLB), playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Chicago Cubs and Cleveland Indians for 10 years and calling New York Mets games for 52 years.

"With the passing of Ralph Kiner, the baseball world has lost one its greatest ambassadors. He was a man who truly loved our National Pastime and made it better in every way," Chairman of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Jane Forbes Clark, said, according to CBS Sports.

Born in Santa Rita, New Mexico on Oct. 27, 1922, Kiner moved to Alhambra as a child, attending AHS and serving on the baseball team as captain until he graduated in 1940. He was also a part of the Varsity Club, Quill and Scroll Club, Student

Court, Latin Club, Spanish Club and College Preparatory Club. According to ABC News, Kiner served in World War II as a navy pilot and returned to the U.S. as a rookie signed to the Pirates.

According to Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Kiner had his MLB debut in 1946 and led the league in home-runs for seven seasons. He was traded to the Cubs in 1953. During his time on the field, Kiner appeared in the All-Star game six times, hit 369 homeruns and earned the sixth highest home-run ratio in MLB history.

Kiner's professional career ended in 1955 after back problems cut his career short; however, he began broadcasting for the Mets in 1961. Kiner broadcasted for 52 years and became an icon known for his comedic stories, quirky sayings known as 'Kinerisms' and upbeat personality. Kiner, in addition to announcing games, held a post-game interview show called "Kiner's Korner." Kiner was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1975 and his jersey was retired by the Pirates in 1987, according to the Washington Post. In addition, 1987,

Kiner was one of the first athletes to be inducted into the Alhambra High School Hall of Fame.

"Our style of broadcasting is different from that of the new commentators. I prefer the old style of broadcasting in which you talk to the guy sitting next to you as if you were sitting together in the stands," Kiner said to the New York Times in a 2004 interview.

Off the field, Kiner pursued other interests such as family and business. He married tennis player Nancy Chaffee in 1951, with whom he had three children with, and was later married to Barbara Ann Batchedlor and had two more children. According to the Alhambra Source, Kiner also opened his own sporting goods store in 1950 on Main Street with fellow AHS graduate and baseball player Max West named 'Kiner and West Sporting Goods' in 1950.

Six years ago, a statue was erected in Almansor Park by the Alhambra City Council to honor Kiner. According to Baseball Head Coach Steve Gewecke, there was a luncheon held to celebrate the statue's comple-



Photo Courtesy of New York Times

**LEGACY** National Baseball Hall of Fame member Ralph Kiner recently passed away on Feb. 6. His legacy, however, will be carried on through his fans and family.

tion and Kiner had even returned to take part in the festivities. Gewecke, like many others who had met Kiner, remembered him as a humble character.

"Being the baseball coach here is an honor itself because of all the great players we have had here. Meeting the greatest of them all though, it was amaz-

ing. [It was an] experience I will never forget," Gewecke said.

Kiner is survived by his five children and 12 grandchildren. Regarded by many as one of the greatest sluggers in MLB history and a broadcasting legend, Kiner's impact in the sports world and in Alhambra continues to thrive today.

## Varsity Basketball Reaches CIF Playoffs After Victory Against San Gabriel

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As their season comes to a close, the Moors varsity basketball squad prepares not only for the CIF playoffs, but also for their next season. With playoff hopes on the line, the Moors overcame a five-point deficit in the closing minutes to capture a 68-57 win over the San Gabriel Matadors on Feb. 14, placing the Moors in the coveted third seed in the Almont League standings. The third seed is vital because the top three teams in the Almont League receive automatic bids to the CIF playoffs. In

front of the Moors are the first seeded Montebello Oilers (8-2) and the second seeded Mark Keppel Aztecs (9-1).

Finishing with a 5-5 record in league, the Moors fought back to gain a position in CIF playoffs. Even before the game against San Gabriel, the boys' varsity team won arguably their most important game of the season on the line by earning a tough road win at Schurr on Feb. 11 with a score of 48-45.

"This season was a real long and full of challenges. We took those challenges by fighting through adversity," senior point guard Tommy Nguyen said. "It

feels great to be in the playoffs trying to play for something we can be proud of."

Last year, the Moors also made the CIF playoffs with a 5-5 record. Unfortunately, their average record put them in a tough place against a Santa Barbara squad, which led to an early exit and left the Moors looking ahead to the next season.

This year, they hope to avenge that loss and get further into the playoffs. The Moors began their playoff journey against the Alemany Warriors on Feb. 21.

**MOOR** graphic by SIMON ZHAO

## Varsity Girls' Water Polo Stroking to Enhance for the Following Year

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With the final league record at 0-4, the varsity girls' water polo team swam throughout the season and ended their last three, shooting daily and externally on Feb. 12 against the Schurr Spartans, the league's current champion, but fell to a score of 1-23.

"I think we did good considering we had a lot of injured players. Injuries were a problem because for a couple of games, we were missing more than three players at once. That meant that we sometimes didn't have subs in the game," sophomore

wing Joyce Hong said.

Communication was another factor for the team's fall in a couple of the games, and to improve that, the Moors practice such as playing three-on-three, shooting drills and scrimmages weekly to build stamina, endurance and offense for the team which conditioned them for game situations. The Moors perfected offensive plays by practicing shooting drills and passing drills that also helped during game situations.

"For next season, the girls just need to keep playing the way [they] are play-

ing. I would like to work on turning more players and individual players drive toward the goal. As for the turnout for the season, I'm so proud of the way the girls played. They all improved tremendously and often executed maneuvers that left me in amazement," Head Coach Adrian Lopez said.

Because Lopez coaches two sports, the polo team does not have a coach to condition them or work on skills during off season due to swim season in the spring, so the team practices diligently independently or joins swim to further their conditioning.