

Varsity Girls' Tennis Team Aspires for Upcoming CIF Playoff Matches



MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU

DOUBLE THE TROUBLE Junior Michelle Sum and captain Jessica Phung double against Mark Keppel on the Oct. 16 varsity girls' tennis game. The Lady Moors took a loss of 8-10.

KEVIN KONG
Sports Editor

Although the varsity girls' tennis team did not take the title last year, the Moors remain optimistic while preparing for their playoff games. With a season record of 3-5, the team exercises daily by practicing different types of strokes, techniques and often volleying with each other.

"I am confident [that], if the girls play to their full potential, we will be successful. [The team has been] playing well in close matches," Head Coach Calvin Chow said.

To prepare for the upcoming games, Chow has been training the girls in order to find the best doubles combinations for the most practical lineups. In addition to the upcoming Almont

League finals, the team has also been preparing to play in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) postseason playoffs, which includes teams from other leagues from Southern California.

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-Head Coach Calvin Chow

focusing on past losses and focusing on how to improve by winning the next couple of matches," captain Jessica Phung said.

Another issue that Phung pointed out was that several members of the varsity team were becoming ill, which affected the team's

focus and concentration and also helped contribute to losses at the start of the season. Nevertheless, Phung believes that the team is now back to its original health and can continue to work hard.

"Mentally, we need to stay focused and not let our losses affect us in future games. Physically, we are great," junior doubles player Michelle Sum said.

The Almont League preliminaries took place on Oct. 25, however, the Lady Moors did not advance to the semi-finals.

Despite their loss in the Almont League preliminaries, the team is currently qualified for CIF playoff tournaments.

"I think we have a good chance [of winning] and it will be pretty close to the other teams," captain Jessica Phung said.

Lady Moors' Varsity Volleyball Team Overcomes Montebello Oilers in Rematch Game

DAVID TAN
Staff Writer

The varsity girls' volleyball team started the Oct. 18 game against the Montebello Oilers with an Almont League record of 1-5. It was not the season they had hoped for but they came into this game with determination and confidence.

Since their loss against the Oilers on Oct. 2, the Lady Moors have made changes to their defense and continued to improve on their fundamentals during practice.

The team was confident that they could come out victorious against Montebello. They were focused on performing at the level that they felt they were capable of.

"The main focus for our game [is to be consistent]," senior outside hitter Pamela Minjarez said. "The key to winning points is good [defense]."

The Oilers started the game aggressively by scoring the first three points of the game. Montebello led most of the first set until a hit by junior middle hitter Tiffany Sum, tied the score at 19-19. The Lady Moors eventually took a momentary lead at 21-20 after an out-of-bounds hit by Montebello.

However, Montebello prevailed in the first set, winning 24-26.

In the second set, Alhambra came out strong and took a commanding lead of 6-0.

A spike by senior hitter Yvonne Reyes later raised the score to 7-1. The Lady Moors continued to keep their lead large and three kills by Reyes led to a 25-11 set victory for the Lady Moors.

The beginning of the third set started out close with neither team leading by more than five points at a time. The Lady Moors capitalized on the careless hits made by the Oilers and eventually took a more comfortable lead against them. A kill by sophomore outside hitter

ter Kaile Wu advanced the score to 13-8. Alhambra eventually pulled forward and won the set 25-19 on a kill by junior middle hitter Tiffany So.

The Lady Moors closed the game, winning the fourth set by limiting their mistakes. A hit out-of-bounds by the Oilers led to a win for the team. They won the set 25-18 and the game with a final score of 3-1.

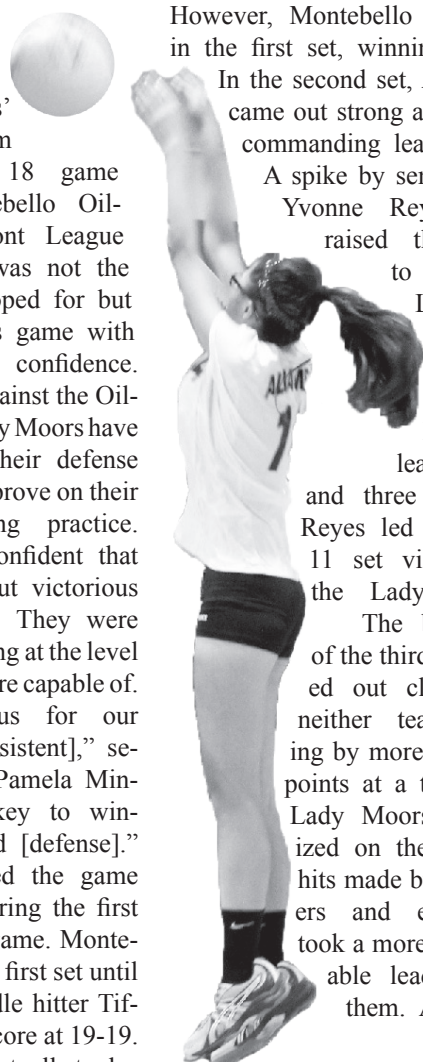
"As a team, I think this was one of the best games that we played," senior captain Taylor Warren said.

Although they won, Coach Tran still feels that there are things that they are able to continue to improve on, such as staying focused and starting out the game strong.

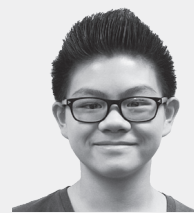
With this win, the Lady Moors advanced to 2-5 in their league record. Despite a win, the Lady Moors feel like they should continue to work to become better and finish their season strong. The team currently has a season record of 2-7.

"When the other team makes a run, we need to learn how to extinguish it quickly. We also need to work on having that 'killer instinct' to finish a team off!" Head Coach Charles Tran said.

MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI



Middle Hitter
Tiffany So



Kevin's Key

Skilled Officiating and the Impact on Student Athletes

KEVIN KONG
Sports Editor

Eight seconds. Eight short seconds turned a NFL game into a full-blown controversy. In the final play of a Seattle Seahawks-Green Bay Packers game on Sept. 24, Green Bay was up 12-7. A Hail Mary, a forward long pass, from Seahawk Russell Wilson to Golden Tate in the end zone became a play that cost Green Bay the game, with the final score of 14-12.

Packer M.D. Jennings had the interception, while Tate only had a hand on it. According to the replacement referees, this was an acceptable touch-down. *Replacements*. The NFL was in a lockout with the official referees, leading them to hire replacements, who are most likely unqualified to be officials. Outrage sparked as the NFL released a statement in which they backed the final call and head replacement referee Wayne Elliot claimed that they were told not to call pass interferences on Hail Maries.

The greed of the NFL, which led to the poor officiating, cost the Packers a game. In today's economy, many students must depend on their sports to help prepare for the future, but one close call can cause a student to miss out on scholarships or awards.

The importance of qualified officiating cannot be stressed enough, not only for obvious reasons, but for the sake of respect. Players and coaches have faith in referees by believing they are qualified to keep the game fair, and that they are committed to their job unlike the replacement referees. These officials must be fair, decisive and even willing to review plays. These should be standards that are met by all referees, not just NFL. When officiating becomes spotty, sportsmanship and conduct become blurred.

Often times, flagrant fouls are called and that typically prevents another, but once some players begin to realize they can commit harsh fouls with no penalty, they get into the habit of fouling with bad intentions.

Much like the way students are held to standards academically, officials must be held to standards in terms of their qualifications. Do they know the sport? More importantly, do they know how to protect the athletes?



JV Boys' Water Polo Swims Through Almont League

NATE GARCIA
Assistant Sports Editor

The boys' water polo team is ending their season with a league record of 0-2. The Moors ended their pre-season with a record of 5-3, and entered the Almont League with a game against the Montebello Oilers on Oct. 2, losing 4-18. Following the game against the Oilers, they played the Bell Gardens Lancers on Oct. 9, ending with a score of 12-20.

"[The team] has been doing better than what we have expected as coaches and [they] have listened very attentively to instruction," Head Coach Sarah Duran said.

The team practices daily at 3:15 p.m. and works on the basics of water polo.

"We swim 300 [meters], [and] after that, we do real game scenarios to prepare us for a game," captain Jeffrey Huynh said.

Some members believe that a few areas need to be improved.

"We are doing pretty well [...] [however], we can improve on our skills [such as] passing, shooting [and] our teamwork," sophomore Vincent Tan said.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO



JV Football Team with High Expectations for Season

ANHAYTE GUAJARDO
Staff Writer

The JV football team has started their new league season after ending their pre-season with a record of 4-2. To prepare for the upcoming Almont League games and finals, the team has practiced every day from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. working on many types of drills such as defensive, offensive, blocking and more. In addition, they work on formations and executing successful plays.

"[We have] been working on trying to perfect the plays and trying to get an idea of what the other team's plays might be," junior right tackle Jonathan Paredes said.

Although they lost their first league game on Oct. 4 against the Bell Garden Lancers with a score of 12-14, the team remains in an optimistic mood towards the rest of their season.

"[The team is] doing well. They had a tough loss in the league opener, but they are going to bounce back in the next game [against the Montebello Oilers]," Head Coach and Athletics Director Gerald DeSantis said.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO