

Varsity Girls' Soccer Conquers Against Current League Champs



THINK FAST Right forward Karina Meza sends the ball flying towards the goal after breaking away from a pack of Montebello Oilers. The Moors won the intense game with a score of 1-0 on Jan. 26.

JIMMY TANG
Copy Editor

The varsity girls' soccer team had two things to celebrate after their victory against the previously undefeated Montebello High on Jan. 26: gaining a win against their opponents and being tied for first place in the Almont League. The Lady Moors were unfazed by the blazing weather on Moor Field as they finished the game with a score of 1-0.

"I was very content with how we performed. We had to make some last minute changes in our defense, [but] we all pulled together to make them work," right

forward Karina Meza said.

The Lady Moors maintained a consistent performance throughout the game, with their midfielders keeping the momentum going and their forwards pressuring their opponents to get to the other side of the field. But it was the performance of the team's goalkeeper Christina Holguin—who prevented a scare after Montebello managed to break through Alhambra's defense—that ensured the team's success.

"We plan to work more on transitioning to different formations. Depending on how [the] other team has their formation, we [will] try to figure out a formation

that will enable us to penetrate through their [defense]," Meza said.

The team is focused on continuing to practice hard and learning from their mistakes. Their victory served as a testament to the team's solid players, who will hopefully perform just as well as they did against Montebello throughout the rest of their season.

"We have accomplished so much. For the first time in six years, we have made it to the first round of [the] California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) qualifiers and I believe we can [even] make it past that," Captain Courtney Moore said.

Boys' Soccer Surpasses Previous Expectations

TINA CHEN
Staff Writer

According to recent studies, scientific experts are coming up with consistent evidence that proves natural talent is irrelevant as talent has nothing to do with greatness. Just as hard work and success are deemed to be synonymous in terms of sports, commitment is the drive that is pushing boys' varsity soccer into greater success this season.

"This year, [we] have newer and younger players that have a better concept of the game and we are more united as a team," midfielder Oscar Acosta said.

Their practice schedule consists of drills and watching filmed sessions of previous games to learn from their mistakes.

With a current league score of 2-3-0, the Moors have already surpassed their last year's score of 0-6-0. They have demonstrat-

ed improvement in this season alone.

"Compared to previous years, we have a better defense, greater team chemistry, and bigger hopes this year," Acosta said.

On Jan. 24, Alhambra played against Schurr High School where the Moors ended with a score of 0-4, ranking fifth in league standings.

"The game was very intense even though we lost, but both teams were focused and gave it their all," right defender Osvaldo Cuevas said.

Though the Moors believe that they had control of the game, their defensive mistakes ultimately affected their chances of scoring and gave the other team goals.

"This year's team has been working much harder than previous years, but it has been too inconsistent and lacks full concentration," Head Coach Netza Bravo said.

UPCOMING GAMES

Feb. 27: Varsity Boys' Tennis vs. Glendale @ Alhambra 3:15

Mar. 1: Varsity/JV Boys' Volleyball vs. Pioneer @ Alhambra 3:15

JV Wrestling Seeks to Improve Throughout Remainder of Season

KEVIN KONG
Staff Writer

Nearing the end of the season, the JV wrestling team, which consists of freshmen and sophomores, finds themselves trying to gain as much experience as possible. The team is tied for second place in Almont League with a prevailing season record of 2-1.

"They wrestle, gain experience and learn from varsity. I call it the nursery. We teach them and bring them along. By the end of the year, some of them begin to show promise," Head Coach Michael Williams said.

The rookies practice with the varsity team daily and participate in several tournaments and matches to wrestle other teams. Typi-

cally, the JV team has as little as four to five athletes; however, this year, Williams has a larger amount of rookies to train. The goal for his JV team is to learn and to eventually ready themselves for the varsity level within their junior and senior years.

"Some of the [JV members] are starting to win. They know the etiquette of how to wrestle a match and the basics that we take for granted," Williams said.

On Jan. 8, the JV wrestlers faced the San Gabriel Matadors with a large lineup of fourteen rookies for the Moors' roster. The team prevailed with a score of 54-6 and a total of nine pins, only being pinned once.

"I think the team is doing very well. We are strong, athletic and have a lot of potential," freshman Rommel Tun said.

Girls' Basketball Demonstrates Progress in Communication Skills

ANGELYNE CHU
Sports Editor

Having defeated Schurr on Jan. 17 with a score of 56-28, the JV girls' basketball team is well on their way to another successful Almont League season. Although their current league record is 1-8, the team is striving to improve their strategies in order to defeat their opponents.

According to shooting and point guard Aliyah Bui, the girls have learned to communicate with each other better than they did in the beginning of their season. They have been running drills that involve passing and developing their verbal communication skills by calling for the ball during their practices

"If we don't call each other's names, somebody might not be paying attention, [which could affect us during a game situation]," Bui said.

Having competed against other schools already, the team has been able to identify their strengths and their weaknesses. According to Bui, their loss against San Gabriel showed that some of the players could not get open on offense. Their other two games against Mark Keppel and Schurr, resulting in a 17-64 loss and 56-28 win respectively have demonstrated that the players need to work on their speed.

"We still need to work taking better shots, getting open, rebounding, giving fewer turnovers and playing better defense," Bui said.

Varsity Boys' Basketball Determines to End Season on a Positive Note

SIDNEY AUNG
Sports Editor

The varsity boys' basketball team is approaching the end of their season with a narrow Almont League record of 3-2. Losing to the Mark Keppel Aztecs with a score of 49-62, the team is aspiring to make a swift comeback and win their upcoming league games as they fight for an entrance into the playoffs.

"We did not execute properly and we didn't close out the shooters. We could have done better by simply playing better defense. With this loss, we look forward to bringing back the Moor pride

by going into playoffs this year," captain Alexander Lieu said.

The Moors are consistently making improvements as the season progresses, working tirelessly during practices and conditioning to stay in shape. Alongside practicing their basketball skills, the team is also coping with one another as a group to become more familiar with their new coach and a new strategic atmosphere.

Many changes have been made to their offense and defense in comparison to previous years, but the Moors are striving to tie in loose ends in order to become comfortable with their new system.

"We are doing well as a team and are adjusting to the system because it is actually effective," point guard Wai Sett said.

In an effort to strengthen their fundamental skills and to gradually develop their conditioning, the Moors practice with speed and intensity on a daily basis. The team believes that solid foundational skills coupled with proper conditioning and a mental desire to win is crucial in order for them to succeed.

"We practice drills to improve our fundamentals and work on our defense as well. We prepare in detail of how we plan on playing the next game," Sett said.



MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI

FINAL THROWDOWN In the Jan. 27 game against the Mark Keppel Aztecs, supporters and players watch as Alhambra's forward Nathan Quinones attempts to rebound the opponent's shot.