

Varsity Baseball Aspires to Defend League Title for Ninth Consecutive Year

NATE GARCIA
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite the chilly weather, spring sports seem to be getting a head start as March begins.

One such sport includes the varsity baseball team, which made it to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section Division 3 Championship, played at Dodger Stadium against Bonita on May 31 of last year. The Moors took a loss of 5-1, but are now hoping to bounce back this year to reclaim their glory.

“We have all of the players that are capable of leading us

to another year like last year, such as winning the league title and having a good CIF run,” senior Andrew Aguilar said.

The team practices diligently everyday in order to be able to reach their full potential. The Moors hold their daily practices from sixth period to 4:30 p.m. at Moor Field.

The team begins with a series of stretches then moves on to practicing their throwing, individual drills, team drills, batting and pitching and ends with conditioning. Head Coach Steve Gewecke believes that the team does have the potential

for another successful season.

“It will be tough to manage last season’s success, [which includes] the most wins in school history; however, we have the talent to have a really good season. Our main focus this year is to try to improve every day and not be complacent after last year,” Gewecke said.

The Moors played their first preseason game against Temple City on Feb. 23, winning with a score of 5-2. They hope to continue their success as they prepare for their first league game on March 12 at Moor Field against the Schurr Spartans.

Varsity Track Team Under New Leadership



Moor photo by YIBEI LIU
RUNNING TOWARDS MOOR Track and field athletes practiced in order to prepare for their first meet against the South Pasadena Tigers that took place on Feb. 28 and resulted in a loss for the Moors.

DAVID TAN
Staff Writer

After Coach Gerald De Santis became the athletic director last year, Andrew Shapiro took over as the head coach of the track team. Under Shapiro, the team has been working hard and staying organized during their practices in preparation for the new season.

“We have a new coach this year [who] has been keeping [the team] organized and disciplined, and that is the main thing in track, because when people are not doing what they are supposed to, we

don’t [earn] a lot of victories,” captain Ezra Broadus said.

During their daily practices, the Moors have been working to improve on their techniques and mechanics. They believe that having perfect form and building up their speed in every event is important to each athlete’s performance.

As the season progresses, the team will continue building on their strengths and improving on their weaknesses in order to become a more well-rounded team.

“The sprinters [appear] to be our strength but as the season moves forward, we should shape up into a strong bal-

anced team,” Shapiro said.

The Moors are confident in their abilities in each event and have already set high goals for this upcoming season.

The Moors’ first preseason meet against South Pasadena resulted in a loss. The boys’ frosh/soph team lost 32-94, the girls’ frosh/soph lost 32-93, the boys’ varsity lost 38-89, and the girls’ varsity lost 26-103.

“[Our goal this season] is to win Almost League again and for some of us to make [it to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs],” captain Alease Wilson said.

Boys’ Tennis Determined to Succeed with the Addition of New Head Coach

KEVIN KONG
Sports Editor

This season, the varsity boys’ tennis team, along with their new head coach, Tom Jelsma, strives to defend their title for the third consecutive year. The Moors last game against Temple City resulted in a score of 1-17. They currently have a preseason record of 0-2.

“[Our] first goal is to win league [because] we have [to] defend our league title. I think the main thing I’ve brought this year to the team has been [the] will to win and very intense practice habits,” Jelsma said.

The team’s practice consists of running, stretching, warm-ups, coach-led drills, individual drills, match play and conditioning. Many players believe that Jelsma’s practices are more

intense than previous coaches’ with his new conditioning methods. Their practices tone their muscles and endurance to prepare for later matches.

“The team has been preparing for the preseason by doing a lot of intense drills to improve our forehand [and] backhand serves and volleys,” sophomore Douglas Pang said.

According to Jelsma, the Moors are strong in their doubles teams, but still require improvement in their singles team, footwork and the ability get to the return serve quickly enough.

“Our goal is to, of course, come out as league champions. So far, our main goal as of now is to improve our strategies and technique,” captain John Chen said.

Moor graphic by SHARON XU



Moor photo by YIBEI LIU
JUST KEEP SWIMMING On Feb. 26, the Alhambra varsity swim team battled against the Pioneer Titans, and was the victor. The teams’ current preseason record is 2-0.

Moderation of Athletics and Why it Must be Stressed

Kevin's Key

KEVIN KONG
Sports Editor

Many athletes spend countless hours for whatever challenges lie ahead. However, when students place a stronger focus on sports over academics, the balance may tip.

On Feb. 13, University of Southern California’s (USC) baseball Head Coach Frank Cruz was fired two days before the team’s season opener against Cal State Fullerton after knowingly breaking a National Collegiate Athletic Association Countable Athletically-Related Activities rule that limits the amount of hours that athletes can spend in activities supervised or directed by the coaches.

In addition to Cruz’s termination, USC self-imposed a reduction of practice hours for the team that will be in effect until 2014. The penalties set forth by USC were completely justified as those rules were put in place for a reason; after all, athletes are students first.

Sports are a dynamic part of many students’ lives and can prove to be rewarding in terms of the life lessons and the scholarships they may bring. However, when too much emphasis is put onto sports, such as in the case of the USC baseball team, the players’ focus on schoolwork diminishes. Emphasis must be placed primarily on school because after high school, only a minority of athletes go into professional leagues. For the majority who don’t make a career out of sports, they must ultimately face the reality of a competitive workforce. Glory from sports-related achievements is only temporary, but an education that can provide a living is forever.

As with everything else in life, moderation is the key to success and student-athletes must recognize that academics are top priority. Sports are in no way a negative experience, but they can become so when students fail to properly prioritize

Wrestling Advanced to CIF, Senior Stephan Ovsepien moved on to Masters Meet

NATE GARCIA
Assistant Sports Editor

The varsity wrestling team has sent seven wrestlers to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Two seniors, Michael Robles and Stephan Ovsepien, placed at the CIF matches.

Robles, who placed sixth in the first round, had a league record of 4-1, while Ovsepien, who finished in second place, had a league record of 5-0. Ovsepien made it past the first round of CIF, which took place on Feb. 15, and moved on to compete in the masters meet on Feb. 22, where he ended his CIF run, placing in the top 19 of the meet.

“[This season] was fun while it lasted; I really enjoyed it for my

last year, but with all the time and work I put into my wrestling, I really thought I was going further than I did. [However], I know what things don’t go as planned. The who to the first round

included Eric Garcia, Ruben Garcia, Aaron Logan, Michael Mediana, Ovsepien, Robles and Peter Sosa. The small team size had little effect on the few individuals who made it to CIF and have continued their success from previous years.

“It’s really an honor to finish out my high school career with [Head Coach Michael] Williams and this year’s team. I attribute my ability of going to masters to the comradery and support of my fellow wrestlers,” Ovsepien said.

Despite not being able to continue in higher rounds of CIF, the team has high expectations for next year as they hope to become stronger. Overall, the Moors have fought hard this season and worked diligently in league and the CIF rounds.

Stephan Ovsepien

Moor photo by JOYCE TSUI