

## Varsity Boys' Volleyball Defeated by San Marino Titans Despite Meticulous Execution

KEVIN KONG  
Sports Editor

Beginning the preseason with a record of 2-0, the varsity boys' volleyball team faced the San Marino Titans on Mar. 4. The Moors played with bravado and skill, but fell short with a game score of 0-3 and an overall score of 60-76.

"We need to really improve on our blocking. We are not the biggest team around [in terms of size], but we definitely are more than capable of getting a few [blocks]," Head Coach Charles Tran said.

The game kicked off with a close point-for-point first set as the Titans held the largest scoring margin, which was three points. There were a total of 13 ties within the first set and, despite strong spiking and excellent dig saves, the Moors could not catch up due to the Titans' powerful blocks and easy returns, thus ending the set with a final score of 24-26.

In the next set, the Moors went on a 0-6 run before scoring their first point. The team was struggling defensively with incomplete saves, but soon caught up to the Titans at 15-15 by hav-

ing persistent spikes and kills. San Marino, however, retaliated with attacks that ended the set with the Moors trailing 20-25 in the set and 0-2 in the game.

In the final set, the Moors gave up several points due to out-of-bounds shots and net violations. After the boys were down 9-13, the set became a point-for-point match and concluded with a set score of 16-25.

"I think [the Moors are] a strong team, very athletic and talented [...] but I think we caught them on an off day," Titan senior setter Kevin Lai said.

According to Tran, their first loss was partly due to a lack of communication on the court and a weaker defense. The team's current preseason record is 3-4, after losing two consecutive games, winning against the El Rancho Dons on Mar. 11 losing again on Mar. 13. The Moors' first league match will take place on Mar. 26 against the San Gabriel Matadors. The Moors will continue persevering through this season to try to make the post-seasonal California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs.



**MOOR** photo by JOYCE TSUI  
**A STRIKING BLOW** Captain Alexander Lieu hits the ball back to the San Marino Titans in their Mar. 4 game. Unfortunately, the Moors took a loss with a score of 0-3. Their preseason record is 3-4.

"Our goal for this season is to come in at least second [place] in league. With that, we can advance to CIF for the first time since '05," senior outside hitter Andrew Lau said.

## AHS in Process of Creating Girls' Lacrosse Team

DAVID TAN  
Staff Writer

What is lacrosse? Many may be unfamiliar with this sport, simply because it is not a major sport in the U.S. and is rarely broadcasted on television.

Lacrosse is a team sport of Native American origin that is played on a field and involves physical contact, which requires the use of protective face guards and mouth guards. It is played using a rubber ball and long-handled sticks with nets. The objective is to score the ball into the opposing team's goal using the lacrosse sticks.

Recently, the Assistant Principal of Business and Activities, Phuong Nguyen, has been trying to start a girls' lacrosse team here at AHS after recent school surveys involving athletics have shown that students were interested in playing lacrosse. In addition, the team's creation can also help decrease the difference between the amount of male and female athletes in order to fit the gender gap criteria mandated by Title IX—which states that there can be up to only a four percent difference between the amount of male and female athletes.

There were two open meetings held on Feb. 25 and Mar. 5 for those who were interested in joining the sport. Nguyen is also trying to bring lacrosse scrimmages to AHS in order to introduce the sport to the students.

The new team is open to all girls who are interested in trying out for the sport. Players at all levels are welcomed to try out, whether they are beginners or veterans. However, before the team can officially be formed, there needs to be a larger amount of girls showing interest in playing the sport.

"I am hoping [that] if we have [enough girls who are] interested, we can possibly start [a team] next year," Nguyen said.

## Wrestling Cut 2020 Summer Olympics by International Olympic Committee, Unlikely for Decision to be Reversed by September

NATE GARCIA  
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The Olympic Games originate from ancient Greek culture, where men would participate in several different tournaments and compete to be the best. One of the sports that has endured through its long history includes wrestling, which was recently cut from the 2020 Olympic Games. The finalized decision was made by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in a meeting on Feb. 12.

"This is a process of renewing and renovating the program for the Olympics," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said in a Yahoo Sports article.

Wrestling was not the only sport on the slate that was con-

sidered being cut. The public expected the modern pentathlon to be eliminated, which is an event that involves running, swimming, equestrian, shooting and fencing.

In protest of the decision made by the IOC, former Bulgarian wrestler Valentin Yordanov returned the gold medal he won at the 1996 Olympic Games in

Atlanta.

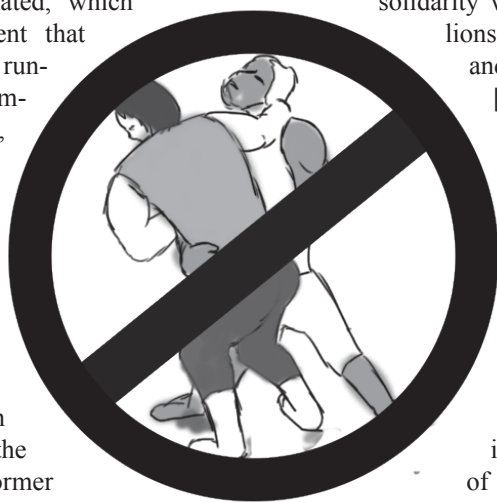
"With this act, I express my solidarity with the millions of athletes and fans of [wrestling] who are condemning the recommendation of the IOC. Our sport [wrestling] is an integral part of the Olympic movement and of the foundations of the ancient and modern Olympics," Yordanov said in a Yahoo! Sports

Article.

The reason why wrestling was removed from the 2020 Olympics was to make way for possible new entries, such as golf, wakeboarding and climbing. The IOC has the option of reversing the elimination, however, it is highly unlikely since the final decision is to be made later this year in September.

"I don't think it was a good idea for them to cut it from the 2020 Olympics because I believe it is the purest sport that has been around since the beginning of the games," senior wrestler Victor Verduzco said.

**MOOR** graphic by ARELI ARELLANO and SIMON ZHAO



## Lady Moors Varsity Softball Heads Toward Victorious Season Under New Head Coach Marlyn Flores

ANHAYTE GUAJARDO  
Staff Writer

Having placed fourth in Almont League last year, the varsity softball team began their preseason record with a record of 4-1. The girls, now under the guidance of new head coach Marlyn Flores, are hoping to earn the league title and move on to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs.

"I think the season will end really [well], we will see new talents. I feel [that the team] will do better [this year]," Flores said.

According to senior second baseman Kryssann Baltazar, with the arrival of the new coach, the team has been brought closer together. Although it has been

a challenge for the team to adjust to the Flores and the new ways that she runs the program, the girls believe that the change in coaching staff has resulted in more confidence and better communication between each other.

"We are a young team [this year], so just coming together as a team [is an accomplishment]," senior third baseman Ashley Day said.

Daily practices are held from sixth period to four p.m. and have taken place all year. The team's practices consist of running, stretching, infield and outfield conditioning drills and hitting. The Moors are also working on strengthening techniques such as batting.

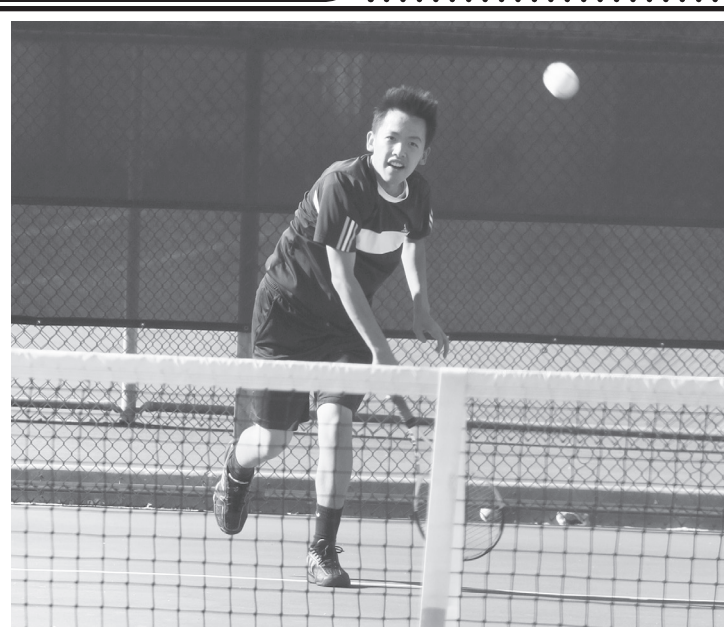
"We need to [improve] in hitting because [...] our defense

is strong, [so] if we start hitting [well], we would be really good," sophomore left fielder Britney Day said.

To help prepare for the season, the Lady Moors participated in the Charger Classic Tournament. Their first game was against Centennial on Mar. 11 with a loss of 0-9; their second game in the tournament was against San Dimas with a loss of 1-11.

As the preseason draws to an end, the girls hope to advance their success as they continue to work hard and prepare for their first league game against the Schurr Spartans on Apr. 9 at Moor Field.

**MOOR** graphic by ARELI ARELLANO



**MOOR** photo by JOYCE TSUI  
**GETTING INTO THE SWING OF THINGS** Sophomore singles player Douglas Pang returns the ball to his Rosemead opponent in their Mar. 13. match. The Moors' first league match is on Mar. 26 against the San Gabriel Matadors.