

## Varsity Wrestling Continues to Persevere on Mats Throughout Season



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

**A STRONG HOLD** Senior Anthony Hutchinson pulls out a win for the varsity wrestling team during an intense round against Schurr High School.

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Staff Writer

It is now that time of the school year when the mats are out on the gym floor and students from the wrestling team are ready for the new Almont League season. After finishing a pre-season with a team comprised of mostly new members, the varsity wrestling team has now returned for the 2015 season with more returners than newcomers.

Last season, there were 36 members on the team and of which only six were returners. However, the team strived to finish fourth in the Almont League and had 10 wrestlers qualify for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) preliminaries. In comparison, this year's team has a total of 17

members with four newcomers. "What makes [this year's team] unique is they catch up with most kids. Other schools have larger teams, but we have to teach fast and hard," Head Coach Michael Williams said.

To start off the season, the team has already had a few matches. One of them included a victory against the defending Almont League champions, Schurr High School in a close score of 36-35. This gave the team a positive idea of where they will place in the Almont League at the end of the long season. According to captain Eric Gonzalez, breaking Schurr's winning streak helps the team believe they can be champions at the end of season.

"AHS has over 18 league wrestling championships to its name and [based on recent matches

and tournaments], this team has what it takes to be [crowned] league champions. Being close to the team also [provides us] with the confidence that we can always pick each other up," sophomore Chris Aldana said.

The Moors are currently tied for first place with Bell Gardens High School out of the six teams in the Almont League. As the season progresses, the team is hoping to win their upcoming matches, win the Almont League Championship and advance wrestlers to represent AHS at CIF. According to Gonzalez, winning boosts the team's confidence, making the team stronger and better.

"We go into every one of our matches knowing that we win or lose based on our own abilities, [and this helps us] win and achieve our goals," Gonzalez said.

**TKO:**  
THE KEVIN OPINION

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## Public Protests in Sports World Symbolic of Progress to be Attained

In Ferguson, protests have broken out after the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown and lack of indictment of the police officer involved, Darren Wilson. In Staten Island, there has been controversy after a police officer, Daniel Pantaleo, allegedly used a banned chokehold to subdue 43-year-old Eric Garner. Both of these events created a divide as many people noted how these cases reflect the attitudes towards African-Americans and the police brutality inflicted upon minorities. Amid the protests surrounding the deaths of Garner and Brown is increasing support for the social movement by prominent athletes. Recently, many in both the National Football League (NFL) and the National Basketball Association (NBA) have used their positions as celebrities to help elicit attention.

On Nov. 30, five players of the St. Louis Rams walked onto the field with their hands up as to emulate the "hands up, don't shoot" gesture of Ferguson protesters. In early December, several NBA players took to the court to show their feelings of injustice. Players such as Derrick Rose, Jeremy Lin and Kobe Bryant donned t-shirts with the words "I can't breathe" to signify Garner's last words.

As a sports writer and a human being, I believe the aforementioned athletes should be applauded for their actions in protesting. The athletes were proactive in becoming educated and supporting a cause, creating a call for action to the public. We are challenged to use a collective voice in order to help remove the racial prejudice that both Brown and Garner faced at the hands of police brutality.

Others may argue that Brown and Garner were thugs, but regardless of whether or not they committed any type of a petty crime, the fact remains that both were unarmed citizens who died in situations that could have been handled in a more humane way. Brown and Garner have been incorrectly portrayed as two individuals who do not deserve the same rights as any other citizen, effectively reflecting the drastic need for public attention. The fact that both Wilson and Pantaleo were not charged for their brutal misconduct, despite several testimonies and even a video of the banned chokehold used on Garner, sends the idea that as a society, we do not acknowledge this dangerous trend. It is because of this we must recognize that the issue the athletes address is not one just for public figures, but one of civic duty to express our opinions. It may seem doubtful that showing individual support can create any real change, but as the athletes of the 21st century have demonstrated, a collective voice can be formed by those willing to speak out.

	<b>Boys' Basketball</b> Jan. 27 @Home	<b>Girls' Soccer</b> Jan. 27 & 29 @Moor Field
	<b>Girls' Basketball</b> Jan. 27 & 30 @Home	<b>Girls' Water Polo</b> Jan. 27 @Granada Park

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

<b>Rancho Cucamonga</b> Foothill & 15 Freeway		<b>Pasadena</b> Lake & Villa
<b>Temple City</b> Rosemead & Broadway		<b>Simi Valley</b> Los Angeles & William
<b>Glendora</b> Route 66 & Grand		<b>Alhambra</b> Garfield & Valley
<b>Lake Forest</b> Lake Forest & Rockfield		<b>Upland</b> 11th & Central
<b>Brea</b> Imperial & State College		<b>Monterey Park</b> Atlantic & Riggan

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## Varsity Boys' Soccer Meeting Their Center Mark

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With only one week left until Almont League season arrives, the boys' soccer team has accomplished a preseason record of six wins, three losses and two ties. The team's three losses were against Rosemead, Duarte and El Rancho, two of which were lost in a preseason tournament.

"Preseason was one of the best years for soccer in about a decade and it has prepared us by building up team chemistry and learning from our mistakes so that in the next game we improve," senior

goal-keeper Patrick Zydziak said.

"For our expectations for league, [we believe] that we have a chance of winning it this year or at least be [qualified for a California Interscholastic Federation], something our team has not done in a while."

The team won their first league game against the Mark Keppel Aztecs on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at home with a score of 3-0. With very high expectations, the team diligently practices throughout the week. Their 6-3-2 record comes down to these few weeks as they take on the Almont teams for the league

championship. The team is sure to show their opponents their diverse team in the ongoing future.

"Commitment, attitude and culture have improved significantly. [This] has shown in our record being our better preseason record while I have been coaching here. We work on technical and tactical abilities [along] with individual footwork so collectively as a team, we are much stronger. We also implement fitness so that we are not out of shape," Head Coach Netza Bravo said.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

## Varsity Girls' Water Polo Suit Up for Season

**ANAHYTE GUAJARDO**  
Staff Writer

As the temperature continues to drop, the varsity girls' water polo team is back and ready for this year's Almont League season. They currently hold a preseason record of 4-4 and after losing their first two league games on Jan. 14 and Jan. 22, their league record is 0-2.

"The girls are working everyday to be tenacious defenders

and have worked tremendously on shot selection, although our team is very young year we have a lot of new growth," Head Coach Adrian Lopez said.

In order to prepare themselves for their upcoming league game against the Bell Garden Lancers, Lopez explains that the girls go through a routine during practice. Starting with a 1000 meter warm up to prevent any pulled muscles, they then proceed to move on to a variety of drills such as shoot-

ing, passing and driving while continuing to work on utilizing every single team member.

Although the team's season has just begun, the girls are very optimistic for the team's future.

"I think we are very strong; we have a small team but we have beaten teams with more than 50 girls. If we beat Bell Gardens and Mark Keppel we have a very strong chance to qualify for CIF Preliminaries," captain Macy Cheung said.