

Varsity Boys' Volleyball Digging Through Almont League Ranks



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

IMPRESSING HOMECOURT In an AHS versus Montebello varsity boys' volleyball tournament on Thursday, May 1, the Mighty Moors defeated the Oilers with a winning score of 3-1.

WESLEY TSAI
Staff Writer

The varsity volleyball team maintains a record of 7-3. Currently in third place in league, the Moors, at one point in the season, ranked eighth in Division Three in the Southern Section of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) rankings. The Moors are currently ranked sixth place in the San Gabriel Valley.

"This season has been a fluctuation due to my injury, but overall it has been a winning season. The progress from last year is tremendous and we exceeded our expectations

of doing better from last year. No matter what happens, I'm proud to be the team's captain," captain Marcel Kurniawan said.

Toward the middle of the season, the team faced an obstacle that took a toll on the team. Kurniawan, starting setter, was sent to a hospital for an emergency surgery due to appendicitis, which took a toll on the team. Senior Marcel Kurniawan had to step down from his position, providing an opportunity for his younger brother, sophomore Greg Kurniawan, to play. In his first game against rivaling San Gabriel, Greg Kurniawan took on the pres-

sure but the Moors fell due to serve/receive errors.

"Marcel played an important role on our team, so when I heard that he could not play for the rest of the season, I was devastated. However, his replacement, Greg Kurniawan, is more than capable enough to fill in for Marcel," senior backside hitter Mitchell Fang said.

The atmosphere and culture is definitely different compared to last year, according to Head Coach Charles Tran. With the Moors holding an overall record of 21-6, the Moors have won more games this year than in the past three years combined.

"The difference from the last few years and this year is the commitment from the players. There is more enthusiasm and team chemistry. For the next year, out of 12 members currently on the varsity program, only four seniors are leaving, leaving next year's team comprised mostly of returners. All I can say is [that] we better win it all next year," Tran said.

The Moors will play their first CIF game on May 13 against the Santa Ana Saints.

Track and Field Ticking Down on End of Season



MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU

HEATED SEASON The AHS track team endures tedious practice under the blazing sun in preparation for their last league meet against the Mark Keppel Aztecs on May 1.

NATE GARCIA

Sports Editor

One second can seem so minuscule in the hours spent during the day. A second, however, can often determine the results of track meet standings.

This year, the varsity boys' and girls' track and field teams are both currently ranked third in Almont League standings. As the end of the spring season nears, the team is optimistic to move on to CIF matches.

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-Joseph Nava

focus on putting their best foot forward in their last two meets, the Almont League preliminaries on May 6 and finals on May 8. The team believes they have become better than they used to be at the begin-

out the course of the season and will be strong in finals," Head Coach Andrew Shapiro said.

As the regular season comes to a near close, both the boys' and girls' teams

Alease Wilson said.

The finals meet will determine who moves on to the CIF preliminaries, as well as who receives a medal for their respective event. This will be the last meet the seniors will compete in their high school career.

"It has been an honor running with the seniors; all of their tips have helped us in our competition. They have helped us set the bar for when it is our time to lead the team," junior sprinter Joseph Nava said.

Moors Baseball Cruising Toward Tenth Consecutive Title



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

THE ANTICIPATION Senior Nick Giambalvo pulls out a swing during the varsity home game against the Montebello Oilers on April 25. The Moors triumphed with a winning score of 1-0.

SIMEON LAM
Staff Writer

Following a 1-0 win against the Montebello Oilers on April 25, the Moors baseball team now has an overall record of 18-3, including a perfect 9-0 record in Almont League.

With a four-game lead in the Almont League standings, the team is the favorite to clinch the league title with six games left. If their lead stands, not only will the Moors win another league title, but it will be their tenth consecutive league championship, setting a new school record.

"I think we have made

good progress this year; I'm very optimistic about the rest of this season," Head Coach Steve Gewecke said. "We started off good offensively, got in a slump, then snapped out of it to play great baseball again."

According to Gewecke, one of the reasons why the Moors have had such a successful season is because of their hitting and their star senior pitcher, Marco Briones. The Moors have already combined for four shutouts this season.

"The main strengths this year are the relationships we have with each other," Briones said. "The hitting and the pitching are defi-

nately our big strengths."

As the season closes, the Moors look ahead to prepare for the upcoming year. With six seniors currently on the squad, next year's team will include an even mix of new players and returners. According to Gewecke, some players will need to step up, whether with changing positions or just training harder in the offseason.

"We're going to need an ace pitcher, a shortstop and outfielders next year," Gewecke said. "We're going to take the best incoming players no matter the age and put them in the best spot to succeed."

Varsity Swim Team Competes for Spot in League Finals

ANHAYTE GUAJARDO
Staff Writer

As the school year winds down, the spring sports teams are beginning to compete in their league finals. The varsity swim team is no exception; they competed on May 9 at Schurr High School against all five of the teams in the Almont League in order to qualify for the CIF preliminary matches. The Moors finished the season with a record of 5-7. Although the team has had to overcome many obstacles this year with the arrival of new Head Coach Adrian Lopez and training the junior varsity team consisting of all new swimmers, the Moors have been able to achieve most of their personal goals this season, including working hard during league meets, [reducing] their personal time and having fun in the process, according to co-captain Vanessa Gutierrez.

"I felt that [the team] did extremely well this season, considering that many of the strong swimmers left due to graduation," junior Brandon Wong said. "We won many meets that I had not expected to win and I believe that we can provide competition for finals!"

The Moors continue to be enthusiastic as varsity swimmers are practicing hard in order to individually qualify for CIF in their chosen events. Their daily practice routines consist of time trial dives and sharpening their skills. The team's last league meet was on May 1 against the Mark Keppel Aztecs, resulting in a loss and finishing in last place in Almont League.

Badminton Team Rallies After Ending Arduous Season

KAYIU WONG
Staff Writer

After finishing the last of their Almont League matches, the varsity and JV badminton teams ended the spring season with a streak of consecutive losses.

The teams' last season game was against the San Gabriel Matadors on April 24. The varsity team won two out of 21 matches while the JV team received one win. The number of winning matches was not enough for the team to earn a victory in their last league game.

According to sophomore singles and doubles player Jessica Mo, losing the graduating seniors from last year and having many fresh faces to the sport were major setbacks to the teams' league record and performance.

"Although our league results were not outstanding, the team still put full potential into every game. This season has been a great learning experience; we [maintained] a positive attitude about improving ourselves and being progressive," senior doubles and singles player Janny Chin said.

Despite the season's end, the team displayed their hard work during league preliminaries on April 29. After a season filled with improvements and technique building, the varsity badminton team finishes the spring season with optimistic hopes for next year.

"I loved how [the seniors this year] treated all underclassmen as if we were a real family. They've taught me so much more than just badminton techniques, [such as] lessons to always focus and give it my all in what I do," Mo said.