

Moors Open with Stellar Scores



MOOR photo by STEWART RYDMAN-ESPINOSA

BATTER UP The varsity baseball team works on their outfield drills during a very hot practice day in preparation for their Almont League game on April 5 against their toughest opponents, the Montebello Oilers.

VINCENT LIN
Sports Editor

The prospects are high again for this year's baseball season as the varsity team pushes further into the Almont League. Although young players make up the bulk of the team, many are returning with varsity experience, providing the confidence they need to play as strong as ever this season.

The Moors show no worry in obtaining another league title, which is an attitude shared by players and coaches alike. But, as any team should at this stage in league, they are focusing on the present and their means to improve by spring's end.

"We know how good we could be, but we're not there yet. That's what practice is for. I have a lot of faith in these players; they're my family," said senior starting pitcher Frankie Wright.

This season expects to see much

from Wright and junior Gary Acuna, whose outstanding pitching disabled their opponents from scoring over two points every game. With a 9-2 record so far, the younger members have gained much experience and demonstrated their ability to play as a team. According to Head Coach

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— Frankie Wright

Steve Gewecke, if they continue to grow, this team could be even better than last year. Experience, of course, is a factor.

"Always, to continue to improve and grow is the first goal. We try to get a little bit better every day," said Gewecke. "CIF championship is everyone's goal, but we can't have that

without some goals leading up to it. So let's qualify for playoffs, let's win league, let's win the first playoff game, and go from there."

Even though the expectations are always high, the Almont League title is not treated like a parting gift for the senior players. In fact, varsity is never senior-heavy, and this year has only three starting seniors. Instead, several underclassmen are placed early into the varsity level, where their skills can grow and culminate for the rest of their stay. Then, with the league title attained, CIF is where they can shine, along with obtaining a possible Division-1 school recognition.

Every year, Alhambra tends to cast a steady flow of naturally talented baseball players. Even with this precedence, the coaches and players always persevere to secure their high rank and ensure the future of the team.

VARSITY BRIEFS

ANGELYNE CHU
Sports Editor

Tennis Starts with Six Game Winning Streak

With a preseason record of 6-3, another new and exciting spring season is in store for the varsity boys' tennis team. Placing third in Almont League last year, the team is aiming to place first this year.

So far, the team has had some shining moments, such as winning against South Pasadena and Glen A. Wilson, a feat they haven't accomplished in four and three years respectively. The Moors are currently

on a six game winning streak.

"[This year's team] is the best that I've ever had. They're very dedicated and we have a chance to win league. Everyone is contributing points to the score, [winning most of their sets]," said Head Coach Jeff Levie.

According to singles player Brendan Ma, the boys are currently working on serves and volleys. This year, they want their doubles teams to come out the best.

"Our goal this year is to have a perfect game of 18-0 and to have number two and three doubles team strong, having them win all three

of time in the weight room in order to build core strength. They are also working hard to be more efficient in their basic skills.

"We are average in every aspect of the game, including hitting, passing and setting. However, we have a lot of room to improve. We need to work harder in order to become more proficient in these areas," said middle blocker junior Steven Uy.

Another important aspect that the Moors are focusing on is their teamwork. They have committed themselves to their practice schedules, which includes waking up at 5:30 a.m. and staying for hours after

sets in their match," said Levie.

Furthermore, number one doubles Raymond He and Michael Vu have conquered all their matches within the last six games that the Moors have won.

On March 22, the team played against their rivals, the Mark Keppel Aztecs, winning the game with a 86-80 point score. This date marks the first time that the Moors won against the Aztecs in six years.

According to Levie, the team is coming together as a whole. Everyone is able to handle their academics along with sports, proving themselves as true student athletes.

school.

The majority of the team has less than three years of experience with volleyball. However, the coaching staff and experienced members are paving the way towards success by acquainting the new members with the sport. Overlooking the lack of experience, the team believes they possess many positive qualities.

"Even though many of us aren't experienced in the sport, we work well together and share a common goal: to win Almont League. I'm sure we can do it if we have that mindset and demonstrate a positive attitude," said Uy.

Badminton Springs into New Season with Optimism

JIMMY TANG
Staff Writer

As a sport that has suffered numerous cuts due to financial deficits, badminton may be reaching its final days at AHS. One of the most noticeable cuts is the loss of the JV program, meaning that AHS badminton will only be represented by a varsity squad this year.

Unfortunately, the team's lack of popularity among the student body has made it a low-priority sport. This is evident during games where the players on the team outnumber the audience itself.

"Badminton has been given a bad reputation; basically, people say that it isn't a sport. We work just as hard as players in any other sport, but we are just not being recognized for it," said senior Wei Li.

The previous season marked the first time in the school's history that the team ranked last in the Almont

League, which it had won just two years before. With a team comprised mostly of players who are still learning the rules of the sport, the chances of AHS regaining its superior status in competition has sharply declined.

"All of [our] players have the skills to perform well in the sport, but their lack of experience takes away a lot of their potential," said Head Coach Johnny Le.

On March 10, the team suffered a loss against Pasadena Polytechnic, losing the game by one point with a final score of 10-11. Close games are always hard to

recover from, but if the players want to increase their chances of success, then their only option is to quickly recover.

"There were many mistakes both on my part and the part of the players. Overall, I saw a lot of improvements, but there were many evident weaknesses on our team such as consistency and endurance," said Le.

"[The players'] lack of experience takes away a lot of their potential."

— Johnny Le



MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI

SPRING START Varsity player Coreen Gallibu hits the shuttlecock back to her opponent in a mixed doubles match with partner Richard Phan. The March 22 game against Pasadena High School ended in a loss of 7-14.

New Members Motivate Team to Push Beyond Their Limits

ASHLEY LOMELIN
Staff Writer

With many additions to the track team, the members still demonstrate a close and strong bond. This bond is evident through the moral support that is shared amongst each other. There are many members that are new to the team, especially for the runners and hurdlers.

According to junior Courtney Moore, runners are expected to do well this year because of these additions. Another reason is because there is plenty of incoming young talent.

"There are many sophomores that can go up to varsity and compete at that level," said junior Jonathan Bird. Due to a low number of seniors this season, several underclassmen were able to move up.

The coaching staff got a few new additions, as Head Coach Jerry Desantis brought in more coaches from the football staff. According to Bird, the football coaches are among the

most dedicated coaches out there because they are always there for the team. In fact, some members see them as much more than simply track coaches.

The new members encourage the team to push past their own limits, as they see the returning members doing their best. According to Moore, the old members give the newer members advice on what to expect in the season and the underclassmen make the older students want to work harder to prove themselves.

"We feel that we need to set standards for the new people. It makes us want to be more than we can be," said Moore.

The first preseason game was at South Pasadena. The team was off to a slow start in the season, but according to Desantis, they are improving every week. The first track meet of the season was held on March 17 against Montebello. It was a victory for both boys' and girls' frosh-soph and boys' varsity.