

Coach Bravo Leaves Varsity Boys' Soccer Legacy Behind

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Staff Writer

COACH NETZA BRAVO

With a league record of 3-7, the varsity boys' soccer team was a couple wins short in order to make the California Interscholastic Federation playoffs. The team tied for fourth place in league, having two wins against the San Gabriel Matadors and one win against the Mark Keppel Aztecs.

"Despite having a really good preseason, our league record didn't turn out the way we wanted it to. I also feel pretty satisfied considering we had a pretty good record as opposed to previous years. The season was worth playing and I wouldn't miss it for anything," senior goalie Patrick Zydziak said.

While the temperature rises, the athletes put their cleats away as their season comes to an end. However, the juniors and younger members don't stop playing as they continue practicing along with the girls during sixth period soccer theory.

With six graduating seniors on the team, the underclassmen will diligently practice to catch up to their peers. They will lose players who started as forwards and goalie.

However, the seniors are not the only ones who will be done



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

playing for the Alhambra Moors. Coach Netza Bravo is planning to retire from coaching the varsity boys' soccer team after an illustrious ten years. With six seniors and one head coach gone, the program will have to rebuild next year not only with players but also a head coach as well.

"I really enjoyed coaching here not only for the love of the game, but because of the students that I coached on and off the field. I hope that [the players] learned from me, [things] such as competing, sportsmanship, perseverance and not all about winning or losing," Bravo said. "I'll definitely miss coaching here. It'll be awkward to not have my schedule affected by soccer, but I am undeniably thankful to [have coached] here for ten years. I've made bonds with players that I've connected with outside of the teacher and coach aspect."

The Moors closed the season with an overall record of nine wins, nine losses, and four ties in their season. Despite the strong preseason record, the team was not able to receive the wildcard play to have a chance to make first round CIF. With sixth period soccer theory, the underclassmen continue to practice in preparation for the following season.

ANHAYTE'S ANTICS: INSPIRATION THROUGH FASHION



ANHAYTE GUAJARDO
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Every sport has their unique style of sportswear. Track and football athletes tend to wear tight pants, while soccer athletes wear a uniform that is much looser. Athletes tend to choose clothes that will benefit their performance. They will look for different ways to increase their performance because in some sports, the difference between winning and losing can be very small.

Competing to be the best in their sport is why people are willing to buy the new high-tech running shoes or the new Kobe basketball shoes; they are designed to help athletes move faster and give athletes a higher performance advantage. For most athletes the brand is also very important because it is believed that the most popular brands will have the most positive effects on performance. Athletic sportswear can also affect athletes in a psychological way. My cross country coach always tells the team, "If you look good, you feel good," giving the team a sense of self confidence and hence, resulting in a better performance. The clothes we wear as athletes influence our behavior and the way we think and act and tend to give us a sense of confidence in our own abilities. The different brands and colors an athlete wears can also affect an athlete's performance; for example, high school teams wear uniforms identical in color creating a sense of pride for their school and giving each athlete a morale boost when performing.

Whenever I compete in a race, I tend to wear my Nike tight black socks and purple bandana because I believe that they will help me perform to my highest potential. The purple bandana is more of a good luck charm, but the socks I bought because they were said to enhance my speed. I don't know if they truly help my performance, but it does make me feel better about myself when I am on the line waiting for the gun to be shot. What athletes decide to wear is very important and sometimes it can either make you or break you.

MOOR VS. MOOR: SHOULD THERE BE REWARDING TROPHIES FOR EVERYONE?

BRIANA THAI
Staff Writer

YES

Athletes are constantly working hard to prove their potential, always attending practice and balancing their priorities, but what happens when they don't win? Athletes are always taught that when they work hard, it will pay off, but that is hard to believe when despite trying their hardest, the outcome is always the same; they never perform better than their competitors and never receive a medal.

Medals are awarded to athletes who the judges believe are the "best" in their category. Usually in diving or gymnastics, the top 12 would receive medals, and everyone else would be given score sheets. In track and field, the top five would earn a medal. In team sports, like soccer or basketball, a team is given a medal when they have won leagues or championships. All the other athletes who did not win are dismissed, despite how hard they had worked that season.

All athletes should receive medals because it boosts self-confidence and gives them something to work for. Athletes do not want to work hard for months — and maybe even years — to attend a competition and come home empty handed. They may lose all hope because today, competitors believe if an athlete does not come home with a medal, they are not considered competition or a "big deal."

When an athlete comes home empty-handed, it's discouraging. It tells the athlete that they did not try hard enough, or did not put enough effort into their practices like their competitors did. It makes them feel that they are a disappointment. Maybe the athlete had a bad day, but they pushed through the competition.

The athlete who did not receive the medal then has no morale and they feel that they let themselves, their coaches and at times, their team down. The result can range from not consistently practicing to their full potential to something as severe quitting the sport.

Medals should not only signify winning but also signify a job well done, on and off the field, court or gymnasium. All competitors should receive a medal for all the blood, sweat and tears they put into their sport.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG

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NO

Despite just participating in a competitive event and having good sportsmanship, every team is likely to have their eyes on winning. It may seem unfair that someone tries their hardest to win a trophy and doesn't, but losing should not bring them down. Also, it may be fair for everyone who participated to receive a medal, but having the knowledge of receiving one would not motivate players to win and earn it.

In sports like track and field, in most cases, the top five finishers in each event would earn a medal. However, the feeling of coming in sixth place may feel rather spirit-breaking. The runner would think it is unfair because they were close, but accepting a loss is also a display of good sportsmanship. Granting a medal to everyone would not give a competitor the sense of winning or losing and the medal would lose most of its value.

From a winner's perspective, earning a medal or trophy comes with the joy of knowing that hard work has paid off. Teams and individuals train for countless hours so that when the time comes, they can compete and win. Although there are those who are unfortunate and go home empty-handed, they should not frown and let a loss hurt them, but should use the competition as a whole to do better next time. The concept of a medal is to reward the best at an event and for those are not "the best," it serves as an incentive for them to try harder and eventually earn what they deserve. If everyone received an award, those who came in first place would not feel any different from those who came in last.

The excitement of medals and trophies either make or break an athlete and other competitive performers. However, these awards build positively onto one's sportsmanship and character. Medal recipients usually remain humble because winners were also once losers. Those who do not receive medals should want to do better rather than getting upset for falling short from a medal. Not everyone should receive a medal because it would decrease the competitive spirit, be less of a learning experience and lessen the motivation to win.



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