

## Race Does Not Determine Place in AHS Athletics

### Mixed Ethnicity Teams

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Staff Writers

In many ways, diversity plays a large part in the overall success of a team sport. Although some may stress the importance of racial diversity, it is the contributing factors of each individual that translates into effective performance.

Considering the large population of Asian and Hispanic students at AHS, it is no surprise that some sports teams at our campus may lack racial diversity. However, some teams, such as basketball and wrestling, are comprised of a variety of students from different cultures. These different cultures are accepted by the players and have found their respective places on the teams.

“Every player grew up in a different area and learned how to play the

game differently. Now that we are united as a team, we bring these different styles of playing to the court and learn amongst each other,” said varsity boys’ basketball Captain Chucky Wu.

With the absence of negative energy associated with discrimination, the players are able to become close with one another. As a result, they work together by utilizing their differences in order to play the game more dynamically.

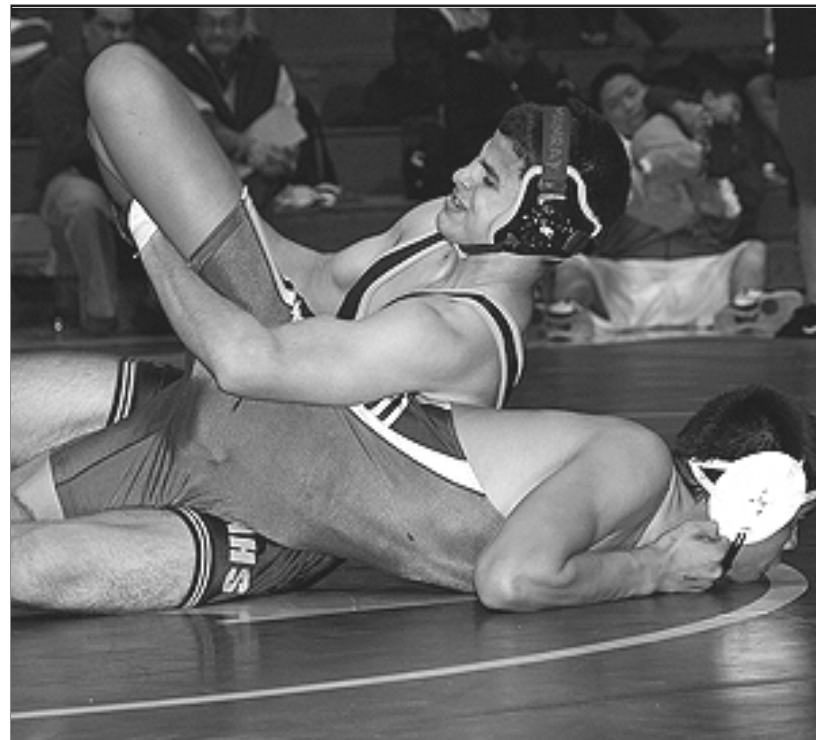
“Race doesn’t really matter to us because we are a team, so we are always supportive of each other,” said varsity wrestling Co-Captain Hugo Perez. The wrestling team consists of a variety of Asian and Hispanic members that have united into a single body of wrestlers.

Cultural differences within the teams are overlooked in light of

the similarities that bring them together. One major similarity that all the players share is their love for the sports; it is through sports that athletes learn how to overcome adversity, develop the ability to work as a team and gain the motivation to practice a healthy lifestyle.

“There isn’t any discrimination between anyone because we accept the fact that we are all unique. In the game of basketball, we each have our own specialties which we work hard for,” said Wu.

The athletic teams on campus embody the idea of unity amongst students with different racial backgrounds and the ability to learn from each others’ cultures. In sports, it is not a person’s ethnicity that contributes to a team’s performance, but rather the individual qualities that decides the outcome of a match.



**MOOR** photo by KATHRYN CHU  
Varsity wrestling Co-Captain Hugo Perez at the Feb. 2 Schurr match



**MOOR** photo by KATHRYN CHU  
Varsity girls' soccer Co-Captain Courtney Moore at the Feb. 3 San Gabriel game

### Limited Diversity Teams

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The welcoming quality of a culturally diverse team is always ideal, but where does that leave sports that are dominated by one racial group? Contrary to what one may perceive, these more homogeneous sports are confident in accepting athletes of any color, so long as they meet the qualities that any team would value.

Varsity girls’ soccer Captain Courtney Moore has been playing soccer for eight years, but has never witnessed any cultural discrimination among the teams she has played in. Moore, who is half Caucasian and half Filipino, joined AHS soccer indifferent to the fact that it is dominated by Hispanic cultures. Instead,

she welcomes diversity on the team based on personal skill.

“Before we even judge how they look, we judge how they play and how they can contribute to the team,” said Moore.

The varsity team consists of fifteen players, only two of which are not Hispanic. The minority members are never singled out because the team understands that they are equally valued for their contribution, including Captain Moore.

“We’ve played against schools, like Diamond Ranch, whose entire team was made up of Caucasian players, and they were really good, [so] we wouldn’t judge anyone based on race, inside or outside our team,” said Moore.

Similar beliefs are held by the

boys’ tennis team, which, although sprinkled with a few members of other ethnicities, consists of predominantly Asian players. However, this majority has not played a role in team chemistry over the years. Varsity singles player Brendan Ma comments that race and character are separate distinctions, the latter of which is considered in new players.

“No one has a problem with one race or other races being on the team. It’s all in personality that [could] make a member dislike another, not their origin,” said Ma.

Clearly, the surface is the least important factor when joining AHS sports. No matter your culture, you can be the star of any team, if you have the drive and the sportsmanship of a team player.

## ‘Butt Drag’ Incident Raises Concerns Over Sexual Assault

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Within a contact sport as intense as wrestling, referees and other officials ceaselessly scrutinize matches to insure that no foul play occurs. In a Fresno high school, one athlete was accused of sexual assault. In a move that has been described as the ‘butt drag,’ a wrestler hooks the opponent’s tailbone in order to turn their body to the user’s advantage. However, this incident involved an athlete inserting his fingers into the opponent’s titular body part in an attempt to turn him around. Needless to say, the technique began raising questions about its legality.

Seventeen year-old Preston Hill is the alleged sexual assaulter and 15 year-old Ross Rice was the victim. Though the description of the act was graphic—Rice was said to have been painfully assaulted for at least thirty seconds—Hill’s attorney attested that within the intimate sport of wrestling, physical contact is unpredictable and that Hill did not intend to harm his opponent in

that context. Nevertheless, the event caused a wave of concern to wash over parents, student athletes, sports officials and administrators alike.

So what exactly are the rules regarding sexual assault in contact heavy sports such as wrestling?

“It’s common sense; we just don’t allow it. Some coaches out there can be unprofessional or inexperienced and they take it too far. We have to take the brunt of that bad publicity,” said wrestling Head Coach Mike Williams.

Upon further research, it was revealed that the ‘butt drag’ move is also commonly referred to as ‘skinning.’ The actual technique mentions no use of the invasive move used by Hill however.

The apparently risky maneuver is sanctioned by wrestling officials but after the publicity of Hill’s case, the rules may be changed to put many people’s minds at ease.

“In wrestling, we face a lot of dangers in every match we compete in. You never know what the other guy is going to do to try to win,” said varsity Co-Captain Richard Poun.

**“You never know what the other guy is going to do to try to win.”**

— Richard Poun

## JV BRIEFS

**SIDNEY AUNG**  
Staff Writer

### Girls’ Water Polo Solidifies Team Communication

The girls’ JV water polo team looks forward to their next Almont League game after their 4-19 loss to Mark Keppel. The team is content with various areas of their game but realize that there are plenty of areas that need improvement.

During practice, the Lady Moors are working hard to improve efficiency in running their offensive and defensive plays by performing inten-

sive drills. These drills also pave the way for better communication and teamwork, which the team believes to be the key to a successful performance.

“Water polo is not an individual sport. Communication is crucial; everyone needs to be on the same page, working towards a common goal,” said Head Coach Sarah Duran.

The team is aiming to reach higher level of comfort with one another. The coaches want to instill confidence in the team and encourage players to speak their mind about winning strategies. During both of-

fense and defense, they must communicate with each other to promote awareness. This contributes to fewer turnovers, more steals and smarter defense.

“Defense plays a huge role in determining the outcomes of matches. If we play solid defense, our offense will come naturally,” said set Kristen Moore.

Although the Lady Moors are coming into their next game with a 1-2 record, they are hoping to play the rest of the season out with a competitive spirit while gaining experience along the way.

**VINCENT LIN**  
Sports Editor

### Lady Moors Step Up Confidence For Season’s Close

The JV girls’ basketball team is on the tip of the scale as they struggle to raise their 4-3 Almont League record. Earning a 6-0 preseason record, the Lady Moors aim to finish league on the victorious side in order to consummate their overall season.

After the success of preseason games and their fourth place ranking in the El Monte tournament, the girls entered league facing a different type

of competition. According to shooting guard Amy Chow, the girls felt a lack of confidence against stronger teams such as Mark Keppel and Schurr, which were some of their first league matches. They lost 24-82 and 18-67 to those schools, respectively, in their first games against them.

“We lack defense sometimes when we don’t have confidence in winning games like Keppel and Schurr, for example. We just got intimidated too easily,” said Chow.

Chow claims that their confidence has begun to improve since then, which has helped them to win games

against schools such as Montebello, San Gabriel and Bell Gardens. They defeated Montebello with a score of 50-32, and Bell Gardens with a score of 32-30. The Lady Moors boast other assets that have proven to be their strengths on the court.

“We have good communication skills and that helps us with our offense. Height is one of our disadvantages, but our speed makes up for it,” said point guard Tracy Yoshimizu.

The team lost 14-75 in their second game against Keppel, and now Schurr remains the toughest competitor in their four remaining games.