

Track Finishes League with Undefeated Record

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Staff Writer

The varsity track team has proven themselves far past their expectations by going undefeated in pre-season with a record of 6-0. They have also won all of their Almont League meets with a record of 5-0.

Their biggest goal is to triumph as league champions. According to Coach Jacob Ochoa, a lot of practice and hard work has contributed to their current success but the team should strive to do even better for league finals.

The coaches are even stricter this year compared to previous years. Not only have they added more practices, but they have also demonstrated their excellent work ethic through maintaining a rigorous training schedule.

"We cannot miss practice, or we cannot compete," varsity runner Lee Yee Pee said.

The team has been working hard with more running and longer practices. The team, overall, feels they have been thriving, mostly because they have won all preseason track meets and use it as motivation to continue on for the rest of track season.

On April 14, there was a league



MOOR photo by STEWART RYDMAN-ESPINOSA

HURDLING TO VICTORY Varsity runner Charissa Wood surpasses the competition and gives her final kick to take first place in the 400 meter hurdle at the Mark Keppel track meet on April 14.

meet against Mark Keppel, which resulted in another win for the Moors. However, the team felt that they could have achieved much more. They used their bi-week (a week without any meets) as preparation for their next and final league meet.

"I feel we shouldn't take this team lightly and do the best we can," sophomore Ezra Broadus said.

Their preparation and devotion was a success as they won their final league meet against Schurr on April 28. Not only was this a milestone for the track team, as the Spartans are one of the strongest opponents in the league, but it also marks an undefeated season for the Moors.

Following this accomplishment, the varsity boys' were victorious as

league champions. Their success is a testament to the tough workouts they have endured over the season.

The track team is planning to use their current league champion status as motivation to inspire next year's squad. Despite their successes, the Moors are still looking to make improvements in order to excel even further next season.

Briefs

Badminton Conquers Disheartening Losing Streak

JIMMY TANG
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It is a difficult task to stay motivated when a team experiences loss after loss. Fortunately, this pessimistic outlook was not how the badminton team chose to handle their game against the Pasadena Polytechnic Panthers on April 19. After several months without any wins, the team entered this game hoping to end their season with at least one victory.

"I didn't pressure myself because I knew that my teammates would [support] me even if I messed up," girls' doubles player Kathleen Chen said.

As the Panthers entered the large gym, the Moors prepared themselves for a game that could possibly end their disappointing losing streak. The mixed doubles games were up first.

"I was both calm and nervous because I had never played against Pasadena Poly before and I was expected to win my games," mixed doubles player Jie Tan said.

After 21 grueling matches, the Moors defeated their opponents. This victory was especially fulfilling due to their previous encounter against the Panthers, the Moors suffered a desperately close loss of 10-11.

"I'm proud that the team won, but it was too soon to celebrate because there were still other games coming up," Head Coach Johnny Le said.

Unfortunately, the team may not be able to redeem themselves next year due to the constant cuts implemented by the district. These cuts serve as grave reminders that this may be the badminton program's final season.

JV Volleyball Reverses Fortune with New Victories

JAMES HO
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For AHS' JV boys' volleyball team, this year was an opportunity to rewrite their history; last year's season ended with the team receiving losses in each of their matches. But they met the challenge and exceeded their own expectations by finishing preseason with an undefeated record. Going 6-0, JV won all their preseason games and is now half-way through Almont League with a 2-4 record.

So far, the team has triumphed over Mark Keppel and Bell Gardens at their home courts but has not retained the success they enjoyed during their winning streak in preseason. The players attribute this slump to their own neglect of practice.

"We felt good about winning those preseason games but then we got lazy during practice," Captain Derek Tu said.

According to Head Coach Tiffany Huang, the team is going over a review of basic techniques. Coming out of a zero-win streak last year, the number of victories they experienced this season is a perfect example of the results of determination.

"We improved greatly, tremendously. Our goal is to simply win as many games as possible," Tu said.

Among AHS' rivals in the league are Montebello, who are undefeated this season, and San Gabriel, which the team will be playing as their last match. Holding third place in league, the JV is also concentrating on having as much fun as possible.

"We are kind of in a slump. But I believe that they can win the next four matches," Huang said.



MOOR photo by STEWART RYDMAN-ESPINOSA

IT'S OUTTA HERE The varsity baseball team faced off against the formidable Mark Keppel Aztecs on April 19. The game ended in a strong victory with the Moors defeating the Aztecs 6-0.

Baseball Endeavors to Raise Scores by CIF

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Nearing the end of Almont League, the varsity baseball team is passing through all the stages of definitive season progress, from a slow start, to soaring scores, to midseason difficulties and, hopefully, recovery. Reaching a steady 11-1 league record, the Moors are ready to enter the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) with optimal chances.

The team is proud of their hitting abilities, which have been strong from the start, as the team batting average is higher than in previous years. According to Head Coach Steve Gewecke, their defense has also been tough, with many of the

players able to throw outs. These qualities garnered pleasing results, until they had somewhat slackened around the middle of league.

Most notably since the loss of their third game against Montebello, the players tended to lose momentum in many areas, even though they defeated the Oilers the first two times. The Moors were up 4-0 at first, but left numerous runners on base, threw few strikes and allowed many opponents to walk bases, leaving them in a 4-8 deficit. Although they are now on a winning streak, Gewecke has seen this pattern appear still in following games.

"We need to find a way to keep the offense consistent. We have to do the

Sports Commentary

Are Ethics Really Ethical?

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In certain schools, honor codes are provided to the students and they are expected to abide by them, usually due to specific religious reasons. In most cases, these honor codes pertain to strict religious beliefs and moral opinions that the school rigorously upholds. Brandon Davies, an NCAA basketball player from Brigham Young University (BYU), was recently suspended for having premarital sex, which violated BYU's honor code.

Following his suspension, the team demonstrated their determination by continuing their pursuit towards NCAA success without him. Davies was BYU's third leading scorer and his role on the team served as a valuable asset. As a result, his loss would dramatically impact the team's performance, which was evident in the 82-64 loss of their first game against New Mexico University.

"Everybody who comes to BYU, every student if they're an athlete or not an athlete, they make a commitment when they come," BYU Head Coach Dave Rose said in an AOL news article.

With the idea of commitment in mind, consequences are bound to follow. However, the consequences of Davies' situation are unreasonable in the sense that an athlete and his team are penalized for misconduct that doesn't pertain to athletics at all. Cases like these where personal decisions prohibit an athlete from performing are more common than expected. Michael Vick, an NFL player, was suspended from playing football due to gambling in illegal dog fights.

It is not to say that athletes should not be punished for their actions. However, the administration needs to wake up and realize that there is no point in prohibiting an athlete from participating in his sport due to behavior that demonstrates no correlation with the sport itself.

Instead of focusing their penal system entirely on their honor code, it would be more understandable if the administration punished the athletes based purely on the nature of their actions. They should ultimately acknowledge the lack of reasoning behind their penal system.

same stuff [in practice] but with a different approach, so the kids don't get mentally tired," said Gewecke.

Their latest games against Bell Gardens, Mark Keppel and San Marino have yielded victories with lower scores than before, winning with only three to seven points. Despite the addition to their record, the scores do not represent their potential for CIF. According to pitcher and outfielder Jose Amezcuita, it is only a matter of improving their mood in order to raise themselves back up.

"We know not to let our guard down and give up early in the game. We just need more life on the bench and to pick each other up when we need to," said Amezcuita.