

## Girls' Basketball Prepares for Almont Title

ANGELYNE CHU  
Sports Editor

With both new and returning players, the varsity girls' basketball team is ready for another competitive season. The Lady Moors are hoping for a better Almont League record this year and ultimately to qualify for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs.

According to Captain Lauren Wong, rebuilding team chemistry is necessary due to many players who left the program this season. Because the new players are learning quickly, the team is beginning to pick up where they had left off.

"[These players] have made significant contributions to the team and have definitely made a positive impact. They brought a new mix to the team and we get along very easily," Captain Michelle Tan said.

During the fall, the team have been conditioning, improving their physical strength in the weight room and practicing im-



MOOR photo by STEWART RYDMAN ESPINOSA

portant skills in the gym. The players are currently working on a new offensive strategy that requires every player's contribution. According to Tan, everyone has a job to make the play happen, whether it be setting up a shot for a teammate or running until they can find an open shot.

"We're working on communicating more efficiently on the court, because it gives us a better understanding of where each person is at a certain time," Wong said.

From Nov. 28 to Dec. 3, the girls played in the Pioneer Tournament where they lost against Bell Gardens with a 1-3 score. According to Wong, this game was to identify the team's strengths and weaknesses and to prepare themselves for their game against them during season.

On Jan. 24, the Lady Moors faced off against Bell Gardens once again in the league game. Although the girls' lost 37-42, they were better prepared this time around.

"We had a good first half, executing our plays and moving the ball well, but second half we weren't running offense anymore and we started to panic, making mistakes [though we know not to]," said Wong.

## Wrestling Anticipates League by Dominating against Montebello



MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI

**THROWDOWN** In the Moors' Jan. 11 match against the Bell Garden Lancers, senior Captain Ernie Ornelas takes down his opponent, winning his match. The Moors defeated the Lancers with a score of 49-22.

KEVIN KONG  
Staff Writer

Behind the doors of the wrestling room, one could expect to find wrestlers pushing themselves to prepare for Almont League. The varsity wrestling team is currently ranked sixth overall of six different high school leagues.

"Our team is pretty good. We are well physically, but we need to work on our mentality. I think we can take league and make playoffs," senior Co-Captain Ernie Ornelas said.

Head Coach Michael Williams believes that with preparation, the team can qualify for the California Interscholastic Foundation (CIF) postseason matches. The team can improve by wrestling other teams at matches and tournaments. Williams expects he can advance the team on new techniques because they are past the fundamentals.

With improvement, there are also various concerns that can slow their progress down, including possible injuries and empty weight classes, creating considerable draw backs.

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it points out weaknesses and strengths so we can make adjustments," Williams said.

On Jan. 4, the Moors wrestled Montebello, winning 37-28. At one point, Montebello was up by five. However, Alhambra raised the score to gain a lead as Sidney Aung, Aaron Logan and Stephen Ovsepien all pinned their opponents. One underdog in the com-

petition was Mario Arrendondo who had to face Almont League's best heavyweight from Montebello. Arrendondo and won 16-10, despite being nearly forty pounds less than his opponent.

The team defeated faced Bell Gardens on Jan. 11 with a score of 49-22. Josue Garcia pinned at 195, while Ernie Ornelas pinned at 220. On Jan. 8, the wrestlers took part in the Nogales Super Champions Tournament. This tournament hosted some of the state's top high school wrestling teams. Alhambra took charge and was ranked sixth out of forty-five teams. Jairo Alcaraz won first place, Michael Robles earned second place and Alfred Ginez received third.

"We are a very seasoned team, although we have had to fill [empty] weight classes. I feel [that] we are going to be league champions this year," senior Manny Reyes said.



## The Sandusky Scandal: A Case of Misplaced Idolization

JIMMY TANG  
Copy Editor

The relationship between coaches and their players is one of mutual respect. Coaches respect their players' wishes and players respect their coaches as mentors and adults. As an athlete, I have become familiar with this type of relationship, and it is for that reason that the recent sexual harassment scandal at Pennsylvania State University makes me question whether some athletic coaches are being given too much freedom as a sign of respect.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the incident, here's a brief description: a former Penn State football coach, Jerry Sandusky is accused of "inappropriately touching" underage boys in The Second Mile, a youth organization Sandusky founded in 1977. Several of his colleagues allegedly witnessed these incidents but didn't report it; citizens were outraged and some staff members were let go. How could this have been prevented?

This question requires more than just a simple response, so let's start at the source: schools. Schools spend a lot of time on their image, especially with their sports, so if a respectable college football coach offers his services, they are most likely going to comply with his demands. The school will give these coaches as much freedom as they desire in return for some major wins as long as the students don't complain. Maintaining a good image may be important, but is it worth turning a blind eye to the possibility of students being taken advantage of?

The ideal purpose of sports is to build a person's character both socially and physically. This is the ideal that schools should be aiming towards rather than maintaining decent rankings. Sandusky's colleagues were not willing to risk their reputations by reporting him; as a result, Sandusky was able to remain under the public's eye in the midst of his heinous crimes.



## JV BRIEFS



### JV Boys' Basketball Aspires for Stronger Season

SIDNEY AUNG  
Sports Editor

The JV boys' basketball team is preparing for a new season after finishing their previous season with an Almont League record of 2-8. With a new coach and new strategies to implement, the Moors are anticipating an exciting

year with a favorable outcome.

"The new coaching staff is making major improvements to this program. I think we are going to perform well this season," Captain Fabio Corrales said.

The team is placing a heavy emphasis on defensive pressure, aiming to wear down opposing teams by stopping their offense and controlling the tempo of the game. They are hoping that efficient defensive strategies will lead to easy points off of turnovers.

The team has also been practic-

ing hard in order for the players to improve both physically and mentally. They are emphasizing preparedness and the need to practice with intensity in order to execute their game plans efficiently.

"Being mentally prepared is crucial because it ultimately affects the way the team plays," Corrales said.

Ultimately, the boys are optimistic about their season and are hoping to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired from their practices.

### Girls' Varsity Waterpolo Aims High for Success

TINA CHEN  
Staff Writer

As most of the student body reaches out for a sweater, the varsity girls' water polo team puts on their swimsuits and prepares for season by practicing constantly.

"This year, we have been conditioning a lot more during practices, so we do many drills to

work on our skills," Captain Nita Ramirez said.

While the workouts consist of the usual treading and lap swimming, it also includes weight training and running to build strength and stamina.

"[Our coaches] helped us a lot by getting in the water with us while we practice and taking their time to make sure we're learning," Ramirez said.

With a team consisting of new players and only two returning members, the Moors are striving to gain experience and become comfortable with the sport.

"I'm just here to have fun. I love water polo, and I enjoy playing [the sport] more than anything," player Kristen Moore said.

However, after losing many of the seniors from last year, the Lady Moors were put to a disadvantage. Luckily, the new varsity players are communicating and working well with the other members.

"We're still trying to build up our teamwork with each other, but thankfully there is a lot of raw talents on the team this year and everyone is improving overall," Moore said.