

Wrestling Demonstrates Exceptional Effort Throughout Season



MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI

CHAMPIONS AT WORK Senior Co-Captains Hugo Perez and Richard Poun wrestle each other to practice for CIF. The wrestling team has dominated through their season, enabling them to enter CIF with high hopes.

SIDNEY AUNG
Staff Writer

After dedicating countless hours towards preparing for Almont League, the wrestling team has proven their skills once again this season. Their preparation and hard work allowed a significant number of members to qualify for CIF. In league, the team took an impressive 4-1 record, losing only to the Schurr Spartans, which ended a 13-match winning streak.

“Most of our matches against Schurr were only lost by a point or two. The important thing is that we redeemed ourselves and came into the league finals and won against the same wrestlers we had previously lost to at home,” said Head Coach Mike Williams.

At the league finals, the members

of the team displayed exceptional effort and talent. Four members took first place in league, and an MVP title was awarded to Captain Hugo Perez, who also placed third in league. The participants who qualified for CIF include two freshmen, four juniors and three seniors.

“I’m confident about CIF this year and I plan on being successful this year. As long as I stay focused, I know I can bring Alhambra back a CIF championship,” said Captain Hugo Perez.

It is crucial that they stay in shape throughout the offseason in order to be well prepared for next year’s league season, which the Moors plan to start with nothing less than an undefeated record. In order to accomplish this goal, the upcoming varsity squad has to prepare both physically

and mentally in practice.

“It’s important that we maintain a tough attitude during practice because it will ultimately translate into our performance during matches,” said Perez.

The team consists of a large number of young players who are excited to be the stars of next year’s wrestling squad. Under the guidance of an experienced senior lineup who will be graduating this year along with a seasoned coach, the prospective players feel confident in their abilities to fill in the respective varsity spots.

“I’m always disappointed to see my seniors leave, especially when they have matured as much as they have. However, we have a solid lineup next year and I have confidence in their abilities,” said Williams.

Lady Moors Third in League, Reach First Round CIF

ANGELYNE CHU
Sports Editor

The varsity girls’ soccer team ended their fluctuating season with a 5-2-3 Almont League record, placing them third in league. The team qualified for the California Scholastic Federation (CIF), which they have not played in for six years.

According to Co-Captain Courtney Moore, there have been many negative assumptions about the team, motivating the girls to prove them wrong. Their determination led the girls to place third in league.

“No one thought that we could do this, not even our peers outside of soccer,” said Moore.

One major factor that encouraged the girls to commit was Head Coach Armando Gutierrez. He gave the girls a stable environment and among the coach and the players, there is mutual respect as well.

In preparation for CIF, the girls practiced regularly, building up a lot of excitement, as well as worry. Because the team had not qualified for six years, the girls did not know what to expect from their opponents.

“Not knowing how strong your opponents are just makes you want to work harder to prepare,” said Co-Captain Andrea Pineda.

On Feb. 17, the team played their first CIF game against Milken Community, ending with a 0-1 score loss. According to Moore, the girls were all in the game, trying their best while some started becoming frustrated and giving up after one point was scored from their opponents, even though sixty minutes was still there on the clock.

“We got a little over excited and over confident and going into the game like that will mess you up. A game is ninety percent mental and ten percent physical,” said Moore.

Nevertheless, the team had the most successful season that they have had in years. Gutierrez would like to give special thanks to Assistant Coach Steve Morales, Coach Oscar Diaz, Coach Netza Bravo, the AHS athletic department and a special thanks to all the players.

“They believed in my philosophy and my technique, and applied [on the field],” said Gutierrez.



MOOR photo by VINCENT LIN

ONE STEP CLOSER Left midfielder Kharina Houston makes a pass near the opponent’s goal in varsity’s Feb. 17 first round CIF game against Milken Community. The girls lost 0-1, bringing an early end to their CIF season.

Varsity Briefs

VINCENT LIN
Sports Editor

Numerous Quits Limit Girls’ Water Polo Season

A disappointing season concluded varsity girls’ water polo as the team took an 0-4 Almont League record. The quitting of several members since the formation of the team took its toll as the remaining girls struggled to play through the season with severely limited numbers.

Over half of the original players quit throughout the season, which started with high expectations due to the numerous sign-ups and high

interest. These quits were outside of the control of the collective team, since the quits were mainly due to individual setbacks, such as the conflict of practice exhaustion and personal business.

“[The limit] made it difficult because we didn’t have any subs for varsity or JV, so we had to play through whole games,” said wing player Taylor Ortega.

With a lack of spare players and the great fatigue of a water sport, the Lady Moors could not exert their full strength toward the end of their games. According to Ortega, this overworked an otherwise strong

team. The communication problems they had were resolved with team activities that brought them closer together, and they learned a lot from coaches Sarah and Nathan Duran, who were dedicated to teaching techniques from their own playing experience.

The future of the team, however, will look bright if the same problem does not occur next year. Even so, the coaches will start practice earlier and offer more in their third year of coaching AHS aquatics.

“The girls next year will do better; they just need more girls to be committed to the sport,” said Ortega.

freshmen this year, as there were not enough experienced players to take the varsity stage.

“With a new team comes bigger challenges. This year we were rebuilding the team and working out the kinks,” said varsity Captain Rodrigo Banuelos.

Indeed, it is the inexperience of the players that is a main obstacle for the team. Varsity teams usually consist of mostly senior members and a mostly freshmen team is rare. Other league teams have much more experienced players.

“Next year the team will know each other better. We’ll have more

confidence, trust and a family feel that will give us more of an advantage. At the same time we will be working harder in our games,” said Banuelos.

The Moors did not place within the top three ranks in the league standings to qualify for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) championships, as Bell Gardens and Schurr are currently tied for first place. The focus at this point is to unite and prepare for next year’s season.

“Our Head Coach Netza Bravo is with us the whole way and is really motivational,” said Banuelos.

Varsity Basketball Completes Season with Mixed Emotions

JIMMY TANG
Staff Writer

From the start of their season to the finish, the varsity boys’ basketball players managed to remain dedicated to their team and continued striving for success. Although their fifth place ranking in Almont League may be somewhat disappointing, there is no doubt that these athletes entered this season with enthusiasm, which served as an important motivating factor.

“[Our final ranking] is very disappointing because many of the games we lost were very close,” said varsity Captain Chucky Wu.

The team’s aggressive approach contributed to their two wins; however, their lack of focus and communication on the court caused them to lose many of their games. This season also provided much insight for the returning players by allowing

them to identify their strengths and weaknesses.

“We have many fast players on the team and the seniors are very experienced, but overall, we need some major improvements,” said shooting guard Wai Sett.

As another year draws to a close, the players look back on this experience with mixed feelings. Many of the players express no remorse for this season. However, other players feel that the team did not live up to their full potential.

“We could have done a much better job if we had been more focused and well-prepared,” said point guard Christopher Acosta.

Although not every player shares Sett’s sense of acceptance, there is no doubt that this year’s varsity squad conquered many difficult obstacles that will prove crucial for next year’s players as well.

“I feel that we could have done a better job if we had been more focused.”
— Christopher Acosta