

Swim Team Develops Positive Attitude from Increased Numbers



MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI

JUST KEEP SWIMMING Senior Captain Jonathan Lee races the 200 individual medley against a Gabrielino opponent in the swim team's first meet of their season, which yielded a 94-75 victory for the varsity boys.

ASHLEY LOMELIN
Staff Writer

With new members joining the swim team, the season is expected to improve due to a bigger, more formidable team and a positive mindset. In addition, they have four role model members who qualified for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) finals and CIF masters returning this year: seniors Justin Tran, Patrick Yin, Jonathan Lee and junior Steven Wang.

One of the hardest challenges new members are facing for the upcoming season is the dedication that is required for practice. Since the prospective members have just begun, they are not at the level it takes to be as motivated as the returning swimmers.

"It's going to be a difficult and interesting season because there are a lot of new kids and returners, [with] so little time to get new members

caught up to old members," said Assistant Coach Nathan Duran.

However, the new players have also brought a different and more positive mindset to the rest of the

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-Jonathan Lee

players. The team is confident that this change will promote their success in league and CIF. On a lighter note, having a larger group has brought fun and interesting moments to the team.

"This year, we'll have more people going to CIF, and our varsity boys relay will be the fastest it's ever been," said Captain Jonathan Lee.

According to Head Coach Sarah Duran, the season is predicted to be

competitive for all levels. The two hardest challenges they will have to face during the season will be competitiveness, commitment and being able to keep a consistent work ethic. Duran is happy to know that the new members are following in the returners' footsteps, working hard and being inspirational role models.

Lee also stated that because he had been a part of a swim club, he will try to motivate the team and support them to the best of his abilities.

"I hope that this year's new attitude will leave a lasting impression, so that after the seniors leave, the team will continue to be as strong," said Lee.

Their first official meet of the season was on Mar. 1 against Gabrielino, which ended with a 94-75 win for the varsity boys. The team is proud to have had a strong start by beating one of their toughest competitors.

Girls' Lacrosse: Potential New Sport at AHS

JIMMY TANG
Staff Writer

Alhambra High School: home to academic scholars, seasoned athletes and one day, possibly tough lacrosse players as well. For the past six years, the proposal to add a girls' lacrosse team has been discussed among the school's administration but has remained stagnant. The school's dwindling budget has made it difficult for the school to add a program that requires steep fees for transportation and equipment.

"We have been considering [this idea] based off of student interest surveys and female students who have expressed their interest in the sport," said Assistant Principal of Business and Activities Jeremy Infranca.

Lacrosse is a team sport in which athletes score goals by shooting a ball into an opponent's goal, using a lacrosse stick to catch, carry and pass the ball. Because lacrosse originated on the East coast, its popularity is slowly rising in the West. Unfortunately, here in the San Gabriel Valley, the team would have to travel farther distances to compete against other schools.

"Our ability to afford this program

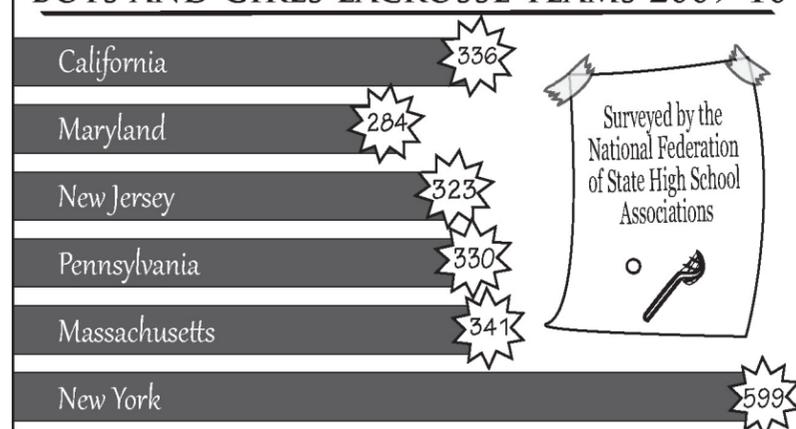
is an important factor because there are only two or three schools in the area that have girls' lacrosse teams," said Infranca.

Currently, there are no official reports stating that a lacrosse team will be added. However, as more students express their interest in this sport, the likelihood of it being added is improving. Many factors will be weighed in as the school decides whether this proposal will prove beneficial to the student body. One major factor that will be taken into account is the school's opinion on having a girls' lacrosse team.

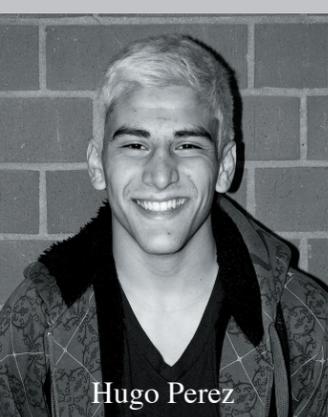
"Having a girls' lacrosse team would be a great idea because, to my knowledge, it is not a very popular sport in the area, so this exposure would give female students an opportunity to explore a new sport," said junior Taneshia Ngo.

The process of adding a new sport is both grueling and time-consuming, but in the end, the school would benefit from the experience students would gain. With lacrosse added to our roster, students will have more opportunities to find outlets in which they are able to establish their character and further explore their interests.

BOYS AND GIRLS LACROSSE TEAMS 2009-10



Player Spotlights



Hugo Perez

MOOR photo by KATHRYN CHU

wrestling mat, he has developed a remarkably close bond with his teammates, as well as with his coach. Throughout his career, he has grown into an accomplished athlete and a well-rounded individual.

Accomplishments

- 2 Almont championships
- 1-year 3rd in CIF, 2-year 1st in CIF
- 3-year Masters qualification
- 1-year varsity Captain

How do you feel about your high school wrestling career?

My entire four years were amazing, I didn't expect to change so much and accomplish so much in four years!

How did wrestling improve your character and help you mature?

Over the years I definitely changed as a person; I learned to be more confident but also to be humble. I learned to deal with mistakes and learn

from them, and most of all I learned that to really be the best, it takes hours and hours of blood, sweat and tears. In other words: hard work.

Do you have further plans for wrestling after high school?

I do have plans to wrestle after high school; I think I will wrestle for the rest of my life, whether it is through coaching or wrestling in college, but I plan to do both.

What is your future career? What major do you want to pursue in college?

I am still undecided as to what I want to do, but right now I am interested in going into law enforcement as a career, so I will possibly major in criminal justice.

What advice do you have for the future wrestlers of AHS?

Don't ever stop wrestling when you're out on the mat, work hard and set your goals high!



Andrea Pineda

MOOR photo by KATHRYN CHU

VINCENT LIN
Sports Editor

Although the varsity girls' soccer team owes its season to some fortunate factors, including having a returning head coach for the first time in years, it is always the will of the players that make it happen. The ones that remain to the end as Lady Moors become leaders of the team, whose presence unites all others, even through the most tumultuous years. Senior center defender Andrea Pineda has been a part of AHS

soccer for four years, and as Co-Captain among only three senior players this year, her leadership has helped drive the team to their first CIF game in six years. Despite her position, she emphasizes the importance of a collective team bond as the key to a good soccer season.

Accomplishments

- 1-year JV Leader
- 1-year JV MVP
- 1-year varsity Captain
- 1-year CIF entry

What have you learned since your first year on the soccer team?

I learned to communicate better with people, and I became more talkative and confident. I gained courage and determination in myself to become a better player. I also learned how to play different positions that I've never played before.

Why is building a team bond such an important aspect of playing?

We're able to communicate better, have fun and give constructive criticism. On the team, there isn't just one person you talk to, we're all really close. That way, we're just able to enjoy it all together. No matter if we win or lose, we have fun every time.

Do you plan on playing soccer in the future?

I've been playing soccer since fourth grade; it would be hard to imagine stopping, so I plan to play in college.

What do you want to become in the future?

I want to study nursing in college to become a registered nurse.

What advice do you have for the future soccer players?

You should remain positive and determined in taking first in league next year and making CIF again. Don't let others get in the way of reaching your ultimate goal.