

GIRLS SOCCER PLAYS ON THEIR OWN TURF

By: Emilie Cady
Reporter

Valencia's Girls' Varsity Basketball is notorious for their hard work and dedication to the game and this year is no exception.

As the new year arrives, so does the new season for Girls' Basketball. In previous years, the Tigers showcased their athletic abilities, winning Empire League four years in a row. The Tigers started out with a bang their first game on Jan. 6 against Tustin High School, with an outstanding score of 59-23.

How far will the Girls' Varsity Basketball go this season? According to Coach Mr. Frank Lopez, the girls have a triumphant future. "The girls have been practicing since June of last year and are very

prepared for this season," said Lopez. There are eight girls on the team this season, three of whom are freshmen.

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The team's goals for this season



JILL SEYMOUR (11) ON THE FIELD PRACTICING. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.

are unique, due to the incoming freshmen on the team. First and foremost, the goal is to win Empire League.

"Another main goal is to improve the team as best as [we] can," Lopez said. "I want the newcomers to

understand and establish tradition that has been instilled on the basketball team for the past few years."

For the remainder of the season, the team is playing its second round against the Empire League schools: Tustin, Yorba Linda, Pacifica, Cypress, Western and Kennedy.

The school that the Tigers are most eager to play is Yorba Linda High School. Yorba Linda High School gave the Tigers a run for their money by defeating them the second game of the season on Jan. 10. For the rematch against Yorba Linda High School on Jan. 31, the Tigers are eager to snatch victory.

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team has had a successful season thus far and is ready to finish strong. Hopefully, the girls will be able to continue their streak by winning Empire League for a fifth year.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

Yorba Linda vs. Valencia @ 7:00 PM
Location: Yorba Linda High School
Date: Monday January 31st

Western vs. Valencia @ 7:00 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Tuesday February 8th

Kennedy vs. Valencia @ 7:00 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Thursday February 10th

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tustin vs. Valencia @ 7:00 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Thursday January 27th

Pacifica vs. Valencia @ 7:00 PM
Location: Pacifica High School
Date: February 2nd

Cypress vs. Valencia @ 7:00 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Friday February 2nd

BOYS SOCCER

Tustin vs. Valencia @ 3:00 PM
Location: Tustin High School
Date: Thursday January 28th

Pacifica vs. Valencia @ 5:00 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Wednesday February 2nd

Kennedy vs. Valencia @ 5:00 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Friday February 9th

GIRLS SOCCER

Tustin vs. Valencia @ 5:00 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Thursday January 27th

Western vs. Valencia @ 3:00 PM
Location: Western High School
Date: Tuesday February 8th

GIRLS WATER POLO

Yorba Linda vs. Valencia @ 4:15 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Monday January 31st

Cypress vs. Valencia @ 4:15 PM
Location: Valencia High School
Date: Friday February 4th

THEY SHOOT THEY SCORE: BOYS BASKETBALL

By: Dominique Riutort
Editor

"With hard work comes great results," said small forward and shooting guard Blake John (11). With dedication and perseverance, one can achieve great results as seen by Valencia's Varsity Boys' Basketball team.

Despite starting off slightly "rusty," the Tigers are now performing at their full potential, having won 2 out of 3 tournaments and starting strong in League.

Coach Yoshimura has high hopes for League and California Interscholastic Foundation (CIF), which begins the third week of February. His strategy for the upcoming games is simple: to win them. With star athletes Greg Hammond (12) and Omar Perez (12) leading the team, the Tigers have had nothing but success and victory.

Of course, behind the stars is the rest of the hard working team, including seniors James Holden (point guard),

Greg Lovcik (center), Malik Stafford (small forward), Robert Barr (shooting guard) and D.J. White (center).

Yoshimura believes that the Varsity Boys' Basketball team has a reasonably solid chance of performing well and making it to CIF. In fact, Yoshimura believes that our Tigers are so good that they stand a very good chance of advancing to the end of CIF and even winning the title.

SEAN STEINKE (11) DEFENDING AGAINST TUSTIN'S HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.



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BOYS' SOCCER EXTENDING THEIR LIMITS

By: Nathaly Romanes
Editor

Valencia's Boys' Soccer is amongst our strongest athletic teams. They have gained this high recognition through their hard work. This quality has led them to success in the previous playing seasons. Last year they placed first in Empire League, as well as made it to California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Let's hope that with their growing progress the Tigers will continually beat the competition and keep their prestigious record from previous years.

To reach such an honorable position in sports, the soccer team works not only on their offense and defense, but also on their overall technique that ultimately puts them at least a notch above many other teams worthy of their competition. The coaches focus on overall improvements in the game. They have been intensely focusing

on their training methods this season. During their two-to-three hour practices, they work on fitness, positioning and shape, small-sided games and handling the ball. With their intense efforts, there is a high probability that the Tigers will keep up a good playing season.

Despite their brilliant performance last year, the Tigers are playing better as the season progresses. "The team has been doing alright; (getting better each game) playing tougher, and every element of our game is getting better" said Coach Gardner.

The soccer team has a strong goalkeeper trained by Bryan Escalante. Assistant Coach Leonard Takahashi also helps with the overall dynamics of the team. The defensive side of the team is made up of strong players such as, Andrew Song. Other very strong players that contribute a significant amount of success to the team is, Hugo Valadez and Peter Vanegas; they are both outside midfielders.

The team is participating in Division II in their league playing against their greatest competitors this year, Kennedy and Cypress High School. We hope the soccer team the best this year and may their goals be ac-

complished. With the right amount of Tiger spirit as well as pride, tradition and excellence, Valencia's Boys' Soccer has a good chance at accomplishing their goals of getting better and giving their competitors a great game.

VINCENT NGUYEN (12) PRACTICING HIS PASSING ON THE FIELD. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.



GIRLS' WATER POLO GOING SWIMMINGLY

By: Samantha Green
Reporter

Valencia's Girls' Water Polo team is full of determination. From their early morning practices to their games, their determination has led to past success and will lead to future success.

This year's season started at the end of November and will last until the first week of February. The team is fairly young, so the 35 member varsity and junior varsity team is working on building their strengths in the water. Captain Karen Kim (12) is leading the way.

There are about 12 games left in League and the girls hope to dominate like in previous years. Normally the girls come first or second in league and have managed to make it to playoffs ever since Coach Marganian

started coaching at Valencia. Marganian was on the water polo team when he attended Valencia and hoped to continue the legacy by coaching here.

After coaching at Valencia for five years, the most fulfilling thing that he's found is "watching [the team] improving, seeing them improve in maturity, win games and learn to live better."

Valeria Sosa (12) agreed with Marganian. "I like the environment and the fact that we spend time

with each other," she said.

The team is like a family and unites as one in order to fulfill their goals.

The difficulty of the game stems from having to prevent players' feet

from touching the pool ground and learning to treat water.

"With water polo, you need to be dedicated and determined to be a strong team," said Coach Munoz. "The game is physically harder than any sport. You need to learn

how to swim and tread water. It's demanding physically and mentally. You get pushed to limits you

never thought you'd overcome."

The girls learn how to meet these physical demands by having practices Monday through Friday from 5:45 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They do several drills in practice, including swimming sets, leg work outs and practices with passing and shooting the ball.

"There are no star players — just a team," said Marganian.

The girls persevere and work together as one. Water polo demands much more than determination; it shows players how to be strong and how to overcome obstacles. Many of the girls that start the program couldn't swim and now they're some of the best swimmers in the school. You can start at the bottom and work your way up to the top — that's what the team hopes to do and is an analogy we can all use.



KIANNA DANTES (9) SWIMMING LAPS TO PREPARE HERSELF FOR A GAME. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.

HERE'S THE SCOOP ON GIRLS' BASKETBALL

By: Richard Ma
Reporter

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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JESSICA CHUNG (11), JOCELYN GARCIA (11), BRIDGET LICARI (12), JASMINE KYI (12). PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.

