Girls' Tennis Starting Soon

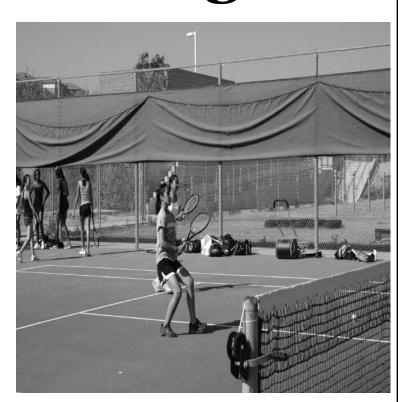


Photo by Rafael Espinosa

Girls tryout for the girls' tennis team on August 15.

Sujin Shin Features Editor

The Otay Ranch High School girls' tennis team is ready to get onto the courts again for another great season.

"I'm really looking forward to improving my skills and being really close to everyone again," said Lily Huynh, varsity tennis player.

Tryouts start after school on August 15 and will last until August 17. To be on the team, girls will need a positive attitude and a high level of dedication.

"Coach will look for people who are not afraid to work hard and will listen to his instructions," said Huynh.

The team holds high expectations this year for itself; some members of the team are already going out onto the courts to get back into routine. New girls who want to join the tennis team can look forward to series of sit ups, warm ups, and different exercises.

"Being on the team will require hard work and dedication," said Huynh.

Girls from all grades have the chance to join this team.

"We have so much fun at practices and games," said Huynh.

Boys' Water Polo Makes a Splash



Photo by Sara Gagarin

The boys' varsity water polo team begins its season with conditioning.

Sara Gagarin Managing Editor

The Otay Ranch High School boys' water polo team is ready to hit the pool once again for a strong season. This year, the players are all planning to give a new level of dedication. The varsity team especially feels that it needs to finish as strong as ever since most of the athletes are seniors.

Many players, including Giovanni Lucatero, have individual goals as well.

"I'm planning on trying new moves I picked up this summer and to study the game on paper more," said Lucatero, varsity player. Teams from all the schools pose a threat so the boys on the team can't afford to underestimate anyone, especially the Mesa League teams.

"Bonita and Eastlake are our school rivals and we must strongly act by defeating them, but this year Hilltop might be giving us a challenge as well," said Miguel Montes, varsity player.

With last year's seniors gone and new players eager to learn the game, the returning players are eager to get closer and work more as a team.

"Because I'm a senior, I'm excited to bond with everyone for one final season," said Lucatero.

Girls' Golf Team Has High Hopes

Daejah Anderson Business Manager

Otay Ranch High School is starting the school year with various fall sports, including girls' golf. The first practice of the season will be on August 15 at the Salt Creek golf course. The first match will be on September 7 against Olympian High School's team.

The coaches, Greg Sullivan and Joe Rankin, are preparing the girls for the matches by focusing on driving, chipping, and putting. The girls' golf team is always open to anybody interested in golf whether one has experience or not.

Every year more girls at ORHS have been taking interest in the sport of golf, which has given the team a chance to be bigger and better

Isabelle Cabana, a junior at ORHS, has been on the girls' golf team since she was a freshman and has high expectations for this season.

"I expect that we bring home banner again, because I'm pretty sure we do have the potential," said Cabana.

Based on last year's results, Coach Sullivan would like to improve the team's concentration and control over nervousness. The team is confident that with enough practice, it can be the best in the district. Hopefully with the same hard work and support from both team and the school, the varsity girls' golf team will bring home another banner.

Upcoming Sports Events

A Mustang does not have to be on a sports team at Otay Ranch High School to be involved. The spectators are a large part of the athletic success at the Ranch. Students can support by joining Monty's Crew (visit Dan Kray in room 708) or by simply coming to the sports games.

Football

9/2 Elsinore @ ORHS, 7 p.m. (preseason)

9/9 Serra @ ORHS, 7 p.m. (preseason)

9/16 ORHS @ Mission Bay, TBA (preseason)

9/23 Ramona @ ORHS, 7 p.m. (preseason, Homecoming)

9/30 Hoover @ ORH, 7 p.m. (preseason)

Cross Country

9/9 Mustang Invitational @ Rohr Park, 3 p.m. 9/17 Mt. Carmel Invitational @ Morley Field, 11:55 a.m. 9/23 South Bay Invitational @ Rohr Park, 3:30 p.m. 9/30 Mater Dei @ ORHS, 3 p.m.

Golf

9/7
Olympian @ EHS, 2:30 p.m.
9/13
Hilltop @ EHS, 2:30 p.m.
9/14
Mater Dei @ BVHS, 2:30 p.m.
9/15
Eastlake @ EHS,2:30 p.m.
9/19
Bonita @ EHS, 2:30 p.m.

Field Hockey

Mt. Carmel @ ORHS, 3 p.m.

9/2 Mira Mesa @ ORHS, 3:30 p.m. ORHS @ Vista, 3:30 p.m. ORHS @ RBVS, 4:30 p.m. 9/10 and 9/17 ORHS Invitational, all day 9/14 Clairemont @ ORHS, 3:00 p.m. 9/16 ORHS @ Escondido, 3:15 p.m. 9/21 El Capitan @ ORHS, 3:30 p.m. 9/24 Serra Tournament, all day

Sports Banners on the Move

Charwel Manlapid In-Depth Editor

Inside Otay Ranch High School's gym, your head will turn... not to the huge Mustang logo but to the wall opposite of it, holding our school sport banners.

"A good reason of why it's there is because it serves as intimidation, showing all our victories and continuity, compared to other schools where it's scattered around the gym," said Dean Nafarrete, ASB Dean.

ORHS has an abundance of sport banners, many dark and light blue, few gray, and two white. These colors are not only for mere decoration but to distinguish the banners: the dark blue represents the boys' sports while the light blue represents the girls' sports. The gray banner was earned by the Academic Decathlon team in 2005 while the white ones are CIF state banners achieved by the boys' soccer team in 2007 and by the boys' volleyball team in 2011. To earn a banner, a varsity team must be the champion in its league.

But as the years progress and as multiple banners are added per season, the wall is filling up quickly. Have you ever wondered where our banners will go once the wall is full?

"We will start to put them on the wall where the Mustang logo is, on its left and right side," said Mr. Nafarrate.

So be expecting the wall with the Mustang emblem to contain some sports banners, boasting our athletic victories on the other side of the gym.



Photo by Marla Schieferstein

The wall in the gym with the banners is filling up quickly so future banners will be placed on a different wall.



Photo by Helen Bae

Alessandra Corrao, Aldo Moreno, Cesar Ramos, and Jose Corona prepare for the first cross country practice.

On the Run Mustang Cross Country Begins

Charwel Manlapid In-Depth Editor

Running multiple miles a day in whatever weather the day brings and working through numerous workouts is Otay Ranch High School's very own championship cross country team.

The team is headed by Ian Cumming, who has been at ORHS since it opened in 2003, and under his guidance, the team has consistently earned banners for the school. The 2011 season began on Monday, August 15 and started on a good note with some varsity returnees, such as seniors Zach Velasquez and Steven Martinez and juniors Carina Gillespie and Catie Ledesma.

Coach Cumming has high expectations for this year's season and hopes to win league on both the boys' and girls' side, ultimately earning two more banners.

The first meet, the Mustang Invitational, will be on Friday, September 9 at Rohr Park; the first race will start at 3 p.m. The first league meet is against Mater Dei High School's team on Friday, September 30 at ORHS, also at 3 p.m. Be sure to support your fellow Mustang runners on these days and at future meets!

Girls' Field Hockey Even Stronger

Esteban Mora Staff Writer

Last year's Otay Ranch High School's girls' field hockey team was a huge success, according to Brianne Rodriguez, who coaches the team. Placing second in the Metro League, the team was thirteen and eleven overall. At C.I.F. playoffs, the team was beaten by another team competing in the same league.

"Each end every person on JV and varsity worked extremely hard last year. The girls can definitely attest to that. They know that wins, even losses, do not come easy. Everything they have ever achieved has been through hard work. Last year's accomplishments are only a preview of what the girls are truly capable of achieving and I believe they can go further this coming season," said Coach Martinez. "As a coach, I feel very fortunate to have such a talented group of student-athletes."

This year, Coach Martinez has high expectations of as well as high confidence in the girls' field hockey team. The team looks forward to making ORHS proud by winning a league banner. Currently, Bonita Vista High School's team is the team's biggest

competition and beating BVHS is a high priority for ORHS's team.

"My expectations for the team are what they expect

of themselves. As a coach, the best I can do is support and facilitate their goals at practice and during games by using my prior experience as a player and coach. It is up to them as players how hard they are willing to work in order to achieve their goals. I support them 100% and believe they are capable of great things," said Coach Martinez.

Coach Martinez also gave advice for girls looking forward to trying out. Leadership qualities and a general field sense are very important. It is important to be in good physical condition to compete. Girls should be ready for a very long season and to work hard.

Signing up for a sport is very easy; clearance packets are the most important part. Clearance packets were due for girl's field hockey by August 10, the day of the first tryouts. The tryouts went

well, with many girls showing up ready to play, and the first game, which is highly anticipated, will be on Wednesday, August 31 at 3 p.m.



Photo by Leilani Luna

 ${\it The girls' field\ hockey\ team\ works\ hard\ at\ practice.}$