

Girls water polo off to fast start

■ **SPLASH:** Lady Nitros take second place in Burbank Tournament, start Pacific League play Jan. 5 at Burbank.

BY NICOLE SAFARIAN
Staff Reporter

So far this season the girls' water polo team has started off on a good run. It seems as if the team is ready to take on the challenges that will come their way in the coming season.

The one game they lost in the Burbank Tournament was against El Segundo. The game ended up going overtime, testing the girls' ability to play under pressure against an aggressive team. They ended up losing to El Segundo by one point. It was a loss that was difficult to deal with, but the girls still managed to keep a positive attitude.

With a total of three wins and four losses in the Burbank Tournament, the girls are really working hard in training to be successful in the upcoming season. To be able to get the wins they have been practicing harder. They are getting better playing

as a unit day by day. In their training, they placed extra emphasis on defense, which is led by Milene Minassians and Desiree Garcia-Solano.

Given the amount of preparation they have put in, the girls know their roles in the pool. "Although we have not practiced as much offense as we have defense we have managed to put together a solid offense led by senior Kristina Terzyan and Arpineh Ohanian," Coach Forest Holbrook said.

Holbrook's goal is for every player to be able to play every position. They are going to apply everything they've been learning into full effect in their upcoming games, especially the one against rival Crescenta Valley, which won the league title last year. This time around the Nitros feel that they have a good chance of winning against them.

"We look after each other as a team," said varsity captain Minassians. "We have good chemistry."

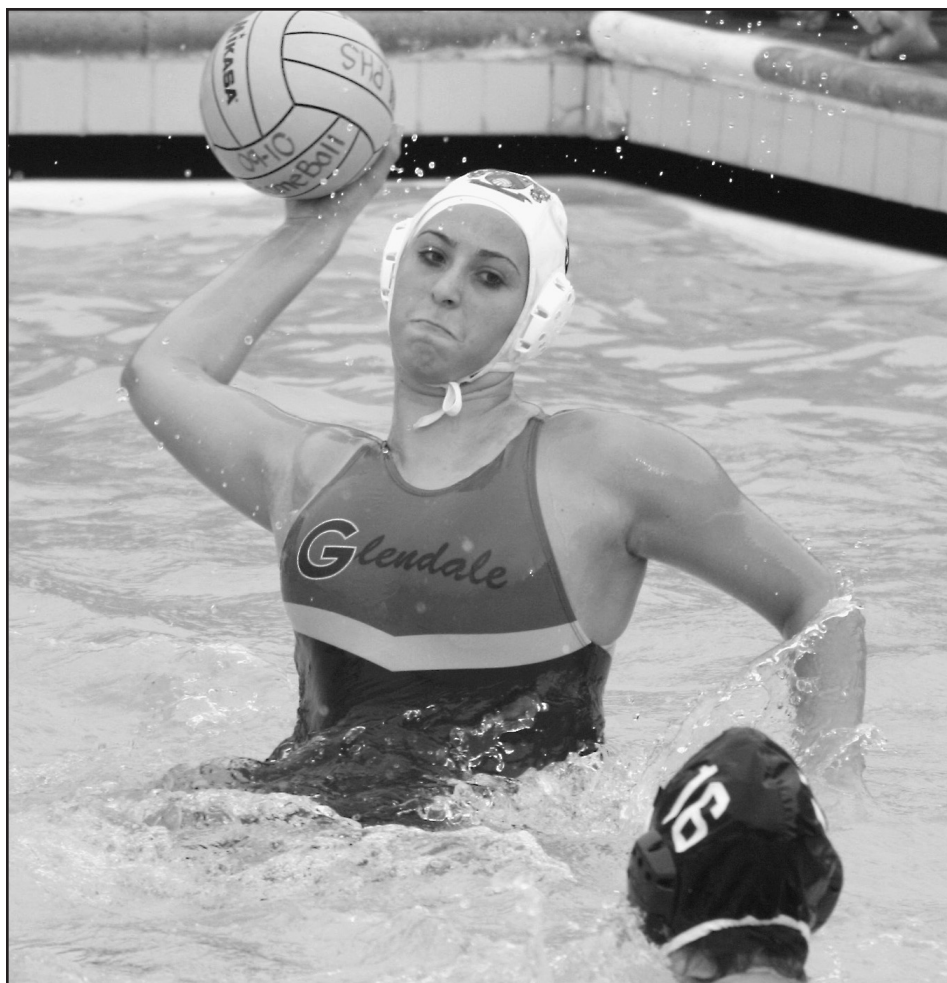


Photo Courtesy of Stylus

DOMINATION: Kristina Terzyan elevates herself for a powerful shot.

Boys' basketball team meets Pasadena Jan. 4

■ **SWISH:** Boys basketball wins three straight games, leaving them with a 3-5 record.

BY ERIC ZADOURI
Sports Editor

The boys' basketball team lost its first three games and won its last three. Linden Anderson, one of the pivotal players of the team, has rejoined the team after missing the first week of the season. There were also other health problems such as a flu that plagued the team for the beginning of the season.

The team participated in the La Canada Tournament this week. They played Bonita on Dec. 20 in the semifinals. Unfortunately, they lost to Bonita, but they thought that they performed and compete well against them.

The following night, they played against Muir. They led the Mustangs for most of the first half of the game, but they gave in to their pressure during the second half and lost.

They ended up being in fourth place in the La Canada Tournament.

Next up for the boys is the Hart High School Tournament, which will occur over the winter break. They begin the league games during the break at Pasadena on Jan. 4, followed by a home game against Arcadia on Friday, Jan. 7.

They are working on improving their 3-5 record. They are also training hard and practicing for the game against Hoover. The rivalry will definitely be exciting as both teams will give their best in that game.

"We think we will continue to improve on our current 3-5 record, and of course look forward to an always exciting game vs. Hoover," Coach Steve Snodgrass said. "The Hoover game is always impossible to predict, both teams tend to get so geared up for it that anything can and usually does happen," he said.

David Yetenikyan leads the Nitros along with Anderson and Anthony Tahmazian, who is from Clark, in scoring and rebounding.

Ghazarian's buzzer-beater lifts girls team

■ **EXCITING:** Lady Nitros show early success so far in the three tournaments they have participated in.



Photo Courtesy of Stylus

POWER: Senior co-captain Serah Mirzaeian battles her way inside the key to score another two points for the Nitros.

BY JUSTINE VELASQUEZ
Editor-in-Chief

A new season is coming for the girls basketball team. For the past few weeks the girls have been competing in tournaments to prepare themselves for the actual grueling season.

The girls have participated in three tournaments. With a pre-season record of 7-4, the girls are definitely ready to enter the new season.

In one of the tournaments, the girls played against Montclair Prep. The game ended up being a very thrilling one. Stella Ghazarian showed her clutch skills by draining a shot from half court with one second left, which won the game for Glendale by two points.

"It was intense," said Ghazarian. "My teammates attacked me after the shot. It was a great moment for me and for the team."

They have been practicing constantly and rigorously in order to keep themselves in shape for the new season. So far, the girls believe that they have the right amount of

talent as well as the right amount of chemistry to have a really successful season. They worked hard, and continue to work hard, and they want to produce good results from all the diligent practice.

Even before the season starts, they have set standards for themselves. They aim to win the league championship and participate in the competitive environment of the CIF playoffs. They want to have a positive season, in which they would undoubtedly work hard to achieve their goals.

"As long as we go into every game like it is our last and everyone brings what is expected from them on the court, we definitely won't have a problem," said Ghazarian.

Coach Tania Adary said her standout players are Ghazarian, a four-year varsity player, senior guard Serah Mirzaeian, and senior forward Keasha Luna. Other starters for the team are junior center Nina Sahakian, who stands 5'11", and outstanding defender Michelle Tomasian, who is on her third year on varsity. The coach is also excited about the play of sophomore Kristineh Zadourian.



Photo Courtesy of Stylus

HIGH PERFORMANCE: David Yetenikyan maneuvers through his defenders, getting into the paint for a shot.