



SENIORS! THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Sheri Moriguchi

An atmosphere of relaxation and fun surrounded the Senior Class as they gathered at the Manteca Water Slides on September 25. The first of a number of SENIOR activities kicked off the Class of 1990's final year at AHS on a light note.

The Seniors took advantage of the fun-in-the-sun to escape from the pressures of their senior year. Erik Willis commented, "It was great to get away from school... no deadlines."

Immediately upon arrival, some seniors took advantage of the sand and beautiful weather and played beach volleyball and football. Others spent the morning relaxing after the long bus ride. Soon, word penetrated the crowd of sun-goers that the slides were opening, and the beach cleared.

Manteca opened four slides in the morning. An inner-tubing ride, the Water Rapids, opened around lunch time. Ben Brooks said, "The Rapids were fresh! You could go crazy!"

Senior Class President Greg Hoffman commented, "It was great to see the senior class come together. Everyone seemed to be having a good time. I would've liked to see the girls take off their t-shirts, though."

The staff at Manteca was very cooperative. The park was pleased with the overall behavior of the picnicking seniors. Mrs. Tsurui, the seniors' secretary who attended the picnic, said "I had fun... The kids were well-behaved."

The advisors, who among many other things, prepared lunch for the famished watersliders. The eight advisors "helped to make the day successful," stated Brandi Galvin, Senior Class Vice-President.



Kevin Chang, Jake Bayani, Chris Noriega, Shawn Welch, and Nick Azizian take a break from the action and keep their eyes on the girls.

Leadership Determined for Freshmen Class

Maria Camba

Many of us do not consider freshman events important. On the contrary, last week's freshman elections determined the individual roads of the candidates in future ASB elections and the success of their class a whole. Throughout the year the elected officers will unite their class in spirit and spur them on to further success.

Petitions for candidacy were

turned in on September 22. The candidates were given two days to campaign (i.e. placing posters around the rotunda with "original" slogans), and voting was held last Wednesday during brunch, lunch, and after school.

The candidates for President and Vice-President were the teams of Monica Chung and Tho Vo, Janet Parker and Emily Jose, and Baktash Farzana and Eddie Echols. Collectively, the presidential candidates wanted participation and involvement from their

class. In turn, they would try to "give them a boost" as Janet Parker stated and lead their class into an exciting year by "giving them not one dull moment" as Baktash Farzana promised.

Other candidates included Thao Nguyen, who ran unopposed for Class Justice. Kerstin Low, Christy Nance, Matt Lipps and Shawn Dulude, who were in the running for the two senatorial spots.

When it came down to the final minutes of a tension-filled election day, Christy Nance and

Matt Lipps succeeded in winning the senatorial seats, and Thao Nguyen secured the Class Justice seat. However, the tension would continue for another day when the teams of Janet Parker/Emily Jose and Baktash Farzana/Eddie Echols discovered that there would be a

run-off election; it was a case where one vote did count.

After all the votes were tallied, Janet Parker and Emily Jose won the President and Vice-Presidential positions.

Congratulations to the winners and good luck to the Class of 1993.

RUSH WEEK ATTRACTS NEW MEMBERS IN DROVES

Students Eager to Participate

Elliott Chin

"Sometimes, half the students who sign up at Rush Week don't show up for meetings because they have other things to do," said Alfred David, Publicity director for the Spanish Club.

Although there was an excellent turnout for this year's "Rush Week," the fact remains that club attendance will dwindle after the excitement of the moment dies. Often, students will sign simply for the fun of it, needlessly lengthening sign-up sheets.

This year, nearly a dozen clubs maintained sign-up tables in the Rotunda. Among them were the steady, dependable clubs such as

CSF, Spanish Club, and French Club. Joining them were some rising clubs, including Aspiring Writers, Science, and Chess clubs, each a year old.

The French Club is the unofficial exemplar of the old clubs. They have a strong following and were looking for new members.

Referring to the great number of students who signed up during Rush Week, Chris Tso, 11th grade representative for the French Club, stated, "So far it seems like Freshmen were coming by the dozens."

However, the experienced clubs had to compete with the young and fresh clubs. They drew a considerable number of new

members, and the outlook for these new clubs seems bright.

Rush Week seems to have been a success. Many students showed up to join the clubs, and, as Mrs. Gehrke observed, the underclassmen showed enthusiasm and interest that had been missing for the past few years. Although Rush Week got off to a slow start, it peaked during mid-week. The French Club reported over a hundred and thirty members and one of the new clubs, the Science Club, drew nearly ninety members. Even if only half those members

show up for club activities, 1989 proves to be a fun-filled year for the students and for the clubs.

CAMPUS NEWS

Don't forget these important test dates:

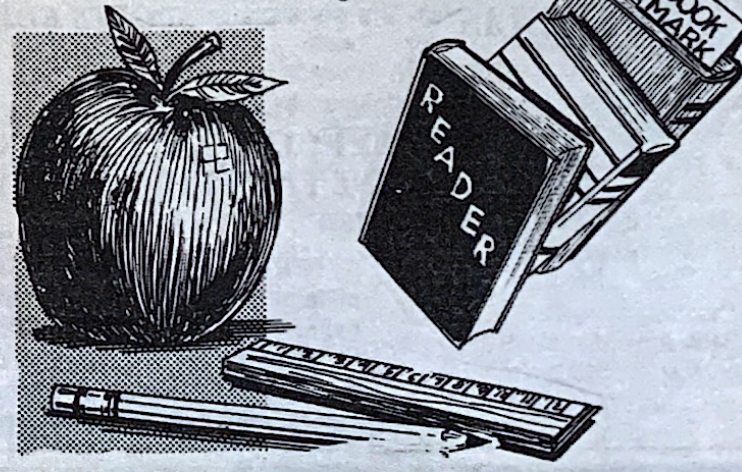
October 14	SAT	8:00 a.m. at AHS
October 21	PSAT	8:00 a.m. at AHS
October 28	ACT	8:00 a.m. at AHS

College Night is on October 21 at Ohlone 6:00 p.m.

Don't delay! Order your yearbook now before it's too late! Prices for October are \$30 w/ASB and \$35 w/out ASB. Turn in all orders at Gateway.

Spirit Week Update:

Oct. 23	Class of 1993 Spirit Day
Oct. 24	Class of 1992 Spirit Day
Oct. 25	Class of 1991 Spirit Day
Oct. 26	Class of 1990 Spirit Day
Oct. 27	Homecoming Rally
	Homecoming Game at TAK
Oct. 28	Homecoming Dance



162 DAYS TO GO!



Co-editors Nils Talbot and Rebecca Ehsan

Well, you missed it. Your last chance to flee Fremont and join the circus instead of going through another school year passed by September 6th. You're just going to have to make the best of it.

The American Express would like to welcome the class of '93 to our school. Don't worry, Freshmen, you won't have a bottom locker forever. And if your expectations of what high school would be like have been shattered, just wait until you get to the hard classes in the years to come.

On a more positive note, we can all look forward to Spirit Week, athletic events, formal dances, and, of course, summer vacation. Well, maybe that's a little too far away to be looking forward to, so just take it one day at a time.

For the Senior class, this year marks the end of childhood and the beginning of our adult lives. Pretty profound, huh? But don't get a swelled head; we're not there yet. Plus, if you're planning on college next year you'll be a FRESHMAN again! The ultimate in irony.

In case you haven't figured it out yet, what you are now clutching in your hot little hands is the American Express, our school newspaper. We have an excellent staff and will strive to do our best to present you with the news, commentary, feature stories and sports information that is of interest to American High students.

If you have an idea, a comment, or a response to an article, you may write a letter to the Editor, and put it in the American Express box in Faculty Commons. Letters must be signed to be published.

So, try to make this year as rewarding as possible. If things don't work out, you can always join the circus next year.

VIEWPOINT

TO BURN OR NOT TO BURN

Nils Talbot

Politicians have done some crazy things to maintain voter support, but the most ridiculous I have heard of is a constitutional amendment against flag burning. So what if a few people decide to burn a flag every once in a while? They're not posing a threat to anyone. "Normal" people who witness a flag burning aren't going to become communist revolutionaries just because they are exposed to a different point of view.

There is a threat to the American way of life, however, when the government starts taking away the rights of the individual. Remember the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, boys and girls? The documents which protect the minority from the majority? If you take away one right, you set a precedent that makes it easier to take away the next. The freedom of expression is one of the most important rights to most Americans. But you have to let everyone have that right, or it's worthless. Flag

burning is certainly distasteful to most people, but you can't go around banning everything you don't agree with.

People often speak of "dying for the flag." But which is more important: the piece of cloth or the ideals and freedoms for which it stands? One of those rights is that of political expression. If you buy a flag, you should be able to determine that particular flag's value for yourself, whether that be a symbol to be respected or a tool with which to express your discontent with your country's policies. It's not like there is only one flag in the whole country for everyone to use. So buy your own and do what you want with it.

Perhaps the worst part of this problem is that flag burning is such a limited and unpersuasive act that it really shouldn't be the center of so much commotion in our government. Aren't there more pressing problems the Supreme Court and Congress should address? Few politicians will admit that the whole issue is stupid because they don't want to be labeled as un-American. They

won't jeopardize their chances for re-election by doing the right thing, and that's a tragedy.

Finally, what if flag burning was outlawed? One proposal for punishment was a hefty fine and a year in jail. Prisons are already so overcrowded that many serious criminals don't have to serve time, but they want to lockup a protestor for a year. Boy, that's the kind of reasoning that makes me proud to be an American, buckos!

The U.S. government should not take away its citizens' rights, even if it's a right few take advantage of. Compulsory patriotism was a tool used by Stalin, and Khomeni to control their people. We recently saw the repercussions in China when students tried to express political views contrary to those of the government. That's certainly not the kind of legislation we need in our "lighthouse of democracy," the U.S.A.



BRING BACK OUR ARTS!

Nancy Gee

I walked into Mr. Tranchina's office ready to bombard him with questions about our school's so-called "art" program. After all, this is my senior year, and I finally get to take the electives I want. The problem is that there are not any classes available that I prefer.

I asked Mr. Tranchina only one question: "What happened to the Arts program?" His answer was straightforward but unexpected. Frankly, I wish it were a more positive answer.

Until 6 years ago, the balance between classes required for high school graduation and electives was equal. In 1983 the state passed SB-813, a bill which reformed the curricular framework for high schools. Required classes were increased; electives consequently decreased.

Do we, American High, have to incorporate SB-813 reforms into our curriculum? Yes, we do. If American High does not follow the state plan, the state reduces our financial aid. It is apparent that state spending on education is limited to begin with.

But SB-813 is not the only problem high schools face. 70% of AHS students, those who plan to go to college, have to meet another set of required classes: college-required courses. This, in turn, limits students' elective courses. The problems do not end here. The highly-publicized state-wide teacher shortage will cause staffing problems for both elective and required courses.

Passing SB-813 is the public's way of unconsciously saying that the Arts are not a high priority. Luckily Mr. Tranchina disagrees with this majority. He feels that this cutback on elective courses creates an unbalance in the school day. Because of Mr. Tranchina, AHS was able to get a drama teacher and arrange a contract with a drama group known as Stage 1. AHS students will be allowed to participate in Stage 1 productions at AHS during the school year.

AHS students appreciate good music, books, and movies. They know there is more to life than just math and science. As students we can support the Arts program at AHS by joining clubs such as Drama, Aspiring Writers, and our school magazine, Genesis. Participating in the school play or in the audience can help, too. Help give a little light to the glow of creativity.

FRESHMEN

FLOOD AHS

Tim Madrid

American High's walls are closing in on us. All the luxurious space we used to have is disappearing every year. It occurs to me that the number of new students attending this school (freshmen, of course), multiplies every year. The Class of '94 takes up one-third of American High's population, totaling approximately four-hundred and fifty pint-sized, loud-mouthed, limp-walking ninth graders. This is over one-hundred and twenty more than the amount of seniors that left last year. The ninth grade classrooms are filled to the limit, and clear walkways in the rotunda are scarce. Many times I have had to take numerous detours around carrels and tables to avoid huge freshman throngs just to reach my locker!

If all you upperclassmen thought the school was getting overrun by freshmen last year, this year we're getting completely flattened by them! It's like millions of dribbling rats swarming over defenseless kitty cats. I just hope we will be able to contain this thundering herd and put it in its rightful place (last place in spirit rally and all bottom lockers will suffice.) I can tell that ninth-grade teachers are already losing sanity by their loud, beating hearts and self-inflicted hair loss.

Who knows what will happen in the future if these freshman influxes keep up yearly? All teachers might go totally insane or maybe the title of "upperclassmen" will be eliminated altogether. I just hope whoever is responsible for this impossible dilemma sees all the misery he or she has caused and spends the rest of eternity with his or her ears full of freshman gibberish and body stomped on by little freshmen feet.

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FEATURE

EAGLE EYE



Which Cartoon Character Do You Think You are Most Like?



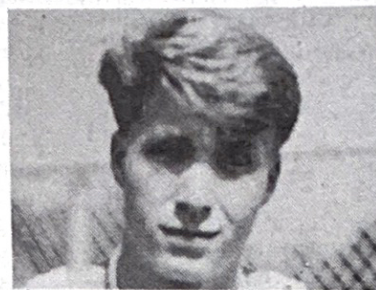
Madonna Aflague
FRESHMAN

"Minnie Mouse, because sometimes I'm shy."



Stephanie Escoto
SOPHOMORE

"Woody Woodpecker, Because I like to laugh."



Kevin Congdon
JUNIOR

"Scooby Doo, because sometimes I act dorky."



Kevin Enderby
SENIOR

"Garfield, because when I'm sleeping I don't want to be touched."

"LOOK, LISTEN, AND LEARN"

Nancy Gee

Maybe you have seen him lately, wandering around the school in a grey suit wearing conservative glasses. He is solid, curly-haired man who just arrived on the American scene. Perhaps you spoke with him for a short while in his office about changing your schedule. Do you wonder who this man is? He is Mr. J. David Duncan, American High's new vice-principal. Mr. Duncan worked at Mission High School for 22 years, 10 years as a teacher and 12 years as a counselor. In 1986 he transferred to Irvington High to work as an assistant principal and as an interim-vice-principal. This year, American High is fortunate enough to have Mr. Duncan join our school.

Mr. Duncan is essentially replacing Mr. Bonacorssi, who

retired from his job as vice-principal last year. Mr. Duncan's responsibilities include scheduling classes, managing student attendance, and organizing student management for the class of 1992.

Mr. Duncan has been adjusting comfortably to his new environment. He says that he finds American to be warm and friendly, much like Irvington High. He finds that American students are appreciative of the things that staff and administrators do for them.

Mr. Duncan's approach to his first year at American High is to look, listen, and learn. He states that before he can do anything for the school, he has to get to know American.

Mr. Duncan describes American as "busy, communal, warm, and friendly." We all look forward to seeing what Mr. Duncan can offer our school.



Mr. Duncan

[AHS is] busy, communal, warm, and friendly
Mr. Duncan

Foreign Students Get a Taste of Life at American The Great Exchange

Melanie Ness

Buon giorno from Down Under! This year at American we have three foreign exchange students in the Junior Class. Living with John Hsu is a seventeen-year-old Italian boy named Mateo Teresa. We also have two Australian girls with us: Skye Kellol, living with Josh Lieb, and Emma Tennint, living with Charisse Ng.

Mateo will be here until the end of the first semester. So far he is enjoying his stay. In his spare time, Mateo and John like to play tennis or pool. When he has time to spare at home, Mateo usually goes out with friends to parties or dances. Mateo prefers American schools to his school in Italy. At home, he has one class all day, and the teachers switch classrooms. School hours in Italy are 8:20 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. with a ten-minute break. He also participates in track and field and plans to try out for the AHS soccer team.

Like Mateo, Skye is also enjoying her stay here. However, she likes the schools in Australia much better than American



Skye Kellol
Emma Tennint



Mateo Teresa

schools. Back at home, she has a different schedule everyday. They also have strict dress codes. For instance, they aren't allowed to show their shoulders or wear thongs. Emma doesn't like the idea of getting up early, either, since her Australian school

doesn't start until 8:45 a.m. In her free time, Skye enjoys going out with friends to night clubs. She also likes to play volleyball.

Emma Tennint generally agrees with Skye's views about American schools. She and Charisse enjoy going out and sightseeing together. One thing Emma says about the people here is that the boys are much friendlier than the girls. Emma has been involved with jazz dancing for eight years now. She enjoys modern rock music but also enjoys listening to X100. She was surprised at how people dress up for school here. She says we pile on the make-up and wear our hair really high. Emma also said that no one in Australia would ever wear high heels to school.

All three of our exchange students here at American are friendly, and they're ready and willing to meet new people. So if you see them around school, just walk up and say "Buon giorno" or "G'day, Mate!"

FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

Janine Figuerido

As confused as a foreigner in a new country, you enter the teeming melee of shouts and screams and bustling bodies, otherwise known as: the rotunda. Like the first time you go to a crowded roller rink, your senses are overwhelmed. Will you fit in? Will your friends have changed? All these questions and more bombard your head. Your bottom locker awaits. As you finish putting your paraphernalia in your locker, you look up and see a familiar face. Somehow things worked out. Alas, you're in high school.

Does this sound familiar? We all remember this, the freshman experience, as a somewhat terrifying yet exciting moment in our lives. Recalling the first day of his freshman year, Jason Montes states, "On the first day I felt dumb and didn't know what

to do." For others the first day wasn't such a hardship. A minority of the freshmen class had a different experience. Eddie Echols says, "I expected more...being on the football team gave me that extra edge on the first day." Almost all freshmen discover a different high school than the one they imagined. "It was different from what I expected...I found it to be the same as junior high, except that there are more people and more excitement," states freshman Kristin Miller.

High school is not meant to ruin a person's life. It is simply another stepping stone toward the more challenging obstacles in one's life. For most freshmen the first-day terror is over. For those who got lost in the 300 wing, like Jason Montes, or went to third period before they had break, remember: your freshman year can only improve.



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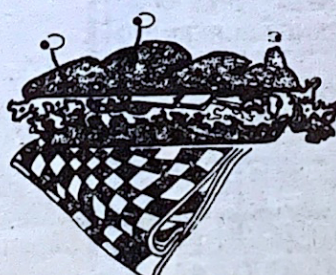
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Varsity Eagles Play *Sportslook:* Tough Schedule

Erik Willis

Candace Black

The youthful American High football team kicked off the 1989 season with one of the toughest pre-season schedules in the Mission Valley Athletic League.

In the season opener the Eagles faced Monta Vista, who was rated number two in the East Bay Alameda Prep Writers Poll. The Eagles fought tooth and nail but were unable to come up with the big play and lost 21-7. Although the Eagles lost, the team played well against the high-powered Monta Vista Mustangs.

"We played Monta Vista very well. The team was able to move the ball, and our defense played with intensity," said senior quarterback Scott Delbridge.

After losing to Monta Vista, the Eagles were unable to regroup and lost to Independence High School 25-6.

"We played only half the game," said coach Cain. "The second half was a tragedy. The team had mental breakdowns and physical mistakes."

The Eagles are a young team with only three returning lettermen. The team's veterans are senior fullback and linebacker Tim Fowlie, senior tight end and defensive end Ryan Plash, and defensive tackle and guard Tony Gorman. With the lack of experience at

the varsity level, playing a tough pre-season schedule could benefit the team.

"The team should be able to learn from [its] mistakes by playing good teams. We will know what it is like to play tough teams," said wide receiver Kevin Richardi.

Offensively the team is taking a different approach of attack compared to the last few seasons. This year the Eagles will not run over opposing defenses with a powerful running game. The Eagles offense will go to the air led by quarterback Scott Delbridge, who in two games is the MVAL's second-rated passer.

"This year's offense is a new one. The team is trying to open it up more by throwing the ball. The team is taking the new offense one step at a time," said Delbridge.

During the first two pre-season games the Eagle defense has been inconsistent. At the Monta Vista game the Eagle defense played very well and with high intensity. During the Independence game, however, the Eagle defense made many mental errors and lost the intensity they had at the Monta Vista game.

The Eagles lost their third straight game to Clayton Valley by a score of 10-9 on September 22. The Eagles next game will be against Irvington.

Hans and Franz

HANS: Franz, what do you think about these gilymen who use anabolic steroids to (clap) pump themselves up?

FRANZ: Hanz, I think they should listen to us now and believe us forever more. Anabolic steroids may pump you up now, but you will pay later. Just look at Ben Johnson over there crying his little anabolic tears because he lost his medal.

HANS: Ja, that's right. And

you know that even high school "athletes" are taking the wimpy way to success in sports. It makes me so tense that I don't even have to pump up when I hear about it.

FRANZ: Ja, but we are not here to give sympathy to the little girlyjocks who cheat themselves and their teammates out of an honest victory. No, we are here to pump into your drugged out brain muscles that steroids are for the wimps who cannot stay in a real man's gym and (clap) pump themselves up like us.

HANS: Ja, that's right. Franz we have to teach these muscleless wimps that steroids are very bad.

FRANZ: Ja, and steroids have many down-pumping side effects like high cholesterol levels, liver and kidney tumors and blood-filled cysts in their sissy pancreas. So steroids are like a big tube of toothpaste slowly squeezing in on them, and when it is all over three out of four dentists will not recommend them for anything.

BOTH: Well, this is Hans and Franz saying "Don't use steroids to (clap) pump yourselves up."

Cross Country Crew Ready To Race

Wendy Vonhof

The American cross-country team has been training very hard to ensure that their season is a rewarding one. They have many hopes as a team and also as individuals. Coach John Uhren, a 1987 graduate and former runner for American, is still getting used to his job as head coach, as this is his first year.

The Varsity boys' team consists of the top 7 boys. For the first meet on Sep. 21, the Varsity team was: Bobby Simmons, Greg Hoffman, Keith Chisholm, Joel Cory, Alfred Jocson, Kamau Mweru, and Gino Vecellio, all Seniors. Some boys who look like Varsity hopefuls are: David Hsia, Chris Benavidez, David D'Onofrio, Joseph King, Mark McDonald, and Garrett Sato.

The Varsity girls' team has only 3 girls at the time, but within a few weeks hopes to

move up some of the JV girls to Varsity. The top three girls now are: Amy Pooliot, Christine Parker, and Wendy Vonhof.

The JV and Frosh-Soph boys look strong, although they are a young and inexperienced team. Returning runners include: Tim Angeli, Art Chan, Chad Hughes, Tim Narita, and Eddie Velez. Many of the new runners will improve after they get a few meets under their Nikes.

All of the runners are hoping to go to NCS this year, although it will take hard work and many miles. A goal for the Varsity boys team is to beat Mission again, as they did last year for the first time in school history. The girls want to get a team of 7 Varsity runners. Last year they had only 3 girls, which does not qualify as a team.

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY TEAM ROSTER: Greg Hoffman, Keith Chisholm, Mark McDonald, Shawn Welch,

Joel Cory, Bobby Simmons, Alfred Jocson, Kamau Mweru, Gino Vecellio, David Hsia, Chris Benavidez, David D'Onofrio, Wendy Vonhof, Christina Parker, Amy Pooliot, Nicole Pierce, Signa Ditlow, Miclelle Rehan.



On September 28 at Coyote Hills, the Frosh-Soph boys' cross-country team won when Chris Benavidez clinched first place in the 2.0 mile race. Unfortunately, both Varsity teams and JV girls lost. Freshman Mark McDonald came in third place behind Greg Hoffman during the Varsity boys' 3.1 mile race.

Crane's Clan Begins Clash With The MVAL

Mike Noche

Last year's girls' Varsity and Junior Varsity tennis teams finished the year with 9-5 records and 3rd place finishes in the MVAL Finals. This year, the team has 16 returning players, an important factor considering that only 6 are returning Varsity players and only 3 are Seniors. The returning players may give the team the depth and experience

they need for another successful season.

Coach Linda Crane Havlik has been coaching girls' tennis for an amazing 25 years, 8 of which have been at American. Coach Crane Havlik feels that, "the years go fast when you're having fun." So fun plays a big part in the practices, as does intensity. "We practice with intensity, thus play with intensity," Coach Crane Havlik added. Although the

team is young, Coach Crane Havlik sees competitiveness and experience, and feels that this team has the same type of caliber as last year's team.

The team's #1 Varsity Singles Player, Marika Low, missed the first 3 matches of the season due to a back injury. "Mentally, I'm ready, but physically I'm restricted," she said. Marika was given Honorable Mention at last year's MVAL tournament and

will most likely be a force to be reckoned with this year. Co-captain Julie Wu encourages the team by saying, "The sky is the limit to your abilities." The modest Anna Morris thinks the team will, "do better if we're confident and put our minds to it." The Prep Writer's Poll has nominated Anna for "Player of the Week" for this year's accomplishments. These are only a few of the many standouts on

this year's team.

The team's goals are to "keep consistent and to improve." With some determination, hard work, and a touch of "lady luck," the team should reach their goals, and, as Coach Crane Havlik confidently declares, "build their character."

Last Thursday, September 28, American defeated Moreau in a match that was shortened due to the rain.

Girls' Volleyball Spikes Lancers

Bernie Corniel

On Thursday, September 14, the American High School girls' volleyball team had their first home pre-season game with Tennyson high school.

During the first set the Eagles managed to pull off a 15-13 victory. Senior Cindy Sato easily scored five points with her serving abilities. Senior Ami Schelein slammed five perfect spikes,

contributing to the Eagles win.

When the Eagles lost their concentration in the second set, the Lancers came back and beat the Eagles 16-14.

In the third and forth games, the Eagles regained their concentration and intensity to defeat the Lancers three games to one.

"We have a good chance of placing in the top of the MVAL schools," said Tonya Stilwell. "Our coach knows what she is doing and always listens to us, whether it is on the court or off the court," explained Tonya Stilwell.

TEAM ROSTER: Paula Jorge, Sheri Moriguchi, Andrea Ross, Michele Razura, Cindy Sato, Ami Schelin, Tonya Stilwell, Jennifer Guerin, Melanie Ness, Erica Quick, Trish Pippitt, Tho Vo.

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