

# SWITCHING

## things up

NEW COACH JOINS THE  
WATER POLO PROGRAM

STORY BY | ALEXIS VIGIL

**FOR THE GOAL OF THE GAME** In an effort to win the game, senior Jared Fairchilds aims for the goal. Fairchilds has played polo for seven years and plays every position except goalie. "My ultimate goal during a match is to become better as a team and have a stronger team dynamic. With each game, the team created a stronger bond by having each others back. In the game against Downey we had the best communication," Fairchilds said. PHOTO BY JUSTICE CHAMBERS

## YEAH IT'S LIKE THAT

"It's like a game, sometimes success, sometimes failure."

JOSE CARRANZA, 9

"It's like working as hard as I can with no type of satisfaction,"

JORGE CARRERA, 11

"It's like the Kardashians, crazy."

ADRIANA CARRILLO, 10

"It's like a roller coaster, ups, downs and turns that make you sick but still an amazing experience."

ANNABELLE CASTANEDA, 11

"It's like a game of tag, constantly pursuing your true self."

ANDRIK ACUNA-CASTILLO, 11

"It's like being stuck in a loophole, no escape from the lies of humanity."

ARMANDO CASTILLO, 11

"It's like Sebas Castro, a YouTube channel you need to subscribe to."

SEBASTIAN CASTRO, 11

"It's like a boxing match, when I'm knocked down, I'm gonna do whatever it takes to get back up."

JOHNATHAN CATANESI, 12

"It's like a video game, if you encounter resistance, you're usually going the right way."

DAKOTA CATON, 10

"It's like donating a kidney, you can only do it once so chase your dreams."

SIMONE CAVIN, 10

"It's like ice skating, you fall over and over, but get back up and try again."

LESLEY CEBALLOS, 12

"It's like Minecraft, progressing slowly and full of random surprises along the way."

VIHAR CHAGANTI, 9

"It's like being on the dance floor, be yourself and don't be afraid to get crazy."

JULIA CHAMBERS, 10

"It's like a long journey where one has to travel uphill, downhill and through storms and sunshine to reach the final destination."

AYESHA CHAND, 10

**"THE GOAL WAS TO WIN LEAGUE. IT DIDN'T HAPPEN, BUT IT WAS STILL FUN TO CHEER FOR OUR TEAM AND MAKE THE EFFORT TOGETHER."**

LUKE LECAIN, 12

With change comes growth. Both the JV and Varsity polo teams adapted to that change with new coach Brian Sharar as they faced a variety of challenges along the way.

"We were an aggressive team and having a new coach taught us how to use that aggression in a positive way to win games," senior Jared Fairchilds said. "The difference I noticed from last year was the way he trained us. The biggest challenge for the team was not having enough people motivated to become better and our overall lack of communication in the pool."

Through tough and focused practices, the team rose to the challenge in competition.

"Coach was there to explain what was going on and why things happened the way they did. We would practice and condition for hours with adults to practice being aggressive. The adults allowed us to play the game at the pace it's supposed to be played," Fairchilds said.

"We did fine, but we could have improved our shots towards the goal and communication could have been better," senior Keanu Velasco said. "We improved by just practicing more and playing scrimmages and doing rotating, and passing drills. At first we didn't see the results translate in the game, but eventually we saw improvement as a team."

Although the team trained hard to reach their goals, it was not without struggle.

"We expected to improve quickly and as a result see the outcome in winning more games," senior Justin Bailey said. "We tried to go out as hard as possible in practice to make ourselves better than the other teams, but we underestimated the competition and did not get the outcome we wanted."

But the boys remained optimistic through it all.

"We tried to build team morale playing games like 'sharks and minnows' to help with motivation. We also played spicy songs at tournaments and games on the pool speakers. Through games and jokes we stayed motivated, allowing us to believe we could win the next game," junior Anthony Presto said.

The boys season wasn't as successful as they hoped it to be. However, the team camaraderie made it an unforgettable season.

"I'll never forget that smile on Cotrell's face when he scored seven goals in one game," senior Aidan Bishop said. "We always horsed around at practice but the most memorable moment has to be when we all went swimming at Sundance and fought on kayaks. We had great chemistry because we all treated each other like brothers and we had no shame."



**1. IN THE ZONE** Ready to score, junior Izzak Cardenas takes aim. Cardenas played polo for three years and typically played the wings. "My ultimate goal in every game is to work as hard as I can with my team. Water polo is a team sport, so working together is key," Cardenas said. PHOTO BY JUSTICE CHAMBERS



**2. BATTLE ON** In the middle of the game, senior Cameron Coates fights for possession of the ball to compete against Turlock. Coates began playing his freshman year and is the left wing of the team. "During a game I'm constantly thinking about where the ball is and predicting where it will go so I can get it and score," Coates said. PHOTO BY JUSTICE CHAMBERS



**3. ARM AND DANGEROUS** In an effort to score for the win, senior Connor Bukhari, aims for the goal. Bukhari started polo as a freshman. "During a match I try to support my team so we can win. I help by working with them and listening," Bukhari said. PHOTO BY JUSTICE CHAMBERS **4. STEADY HAND** Head in the game, freshman Donovan Holmes practices his shot in pregame warm-ups. Holmes joined the team this year for fun. "I really enjoyed it. We didn't win a lot, but the guys on the team were like brothers to me. Win or lose, we still had a great time, kept our heads up and just looked forward to the next game," Holmes said. PHOTO BY BRENNIA STEELE

## it's about LEADERSHIP

### VETERAN PLAYERS BUILD A CULTURE OF MENTORSHIP

"We look up to the older polo players because we respect their level of skill and how much harder they practice. But personally, I see some of them as older brothers. We hang together outside of practice and sometimes they join us during practice to show us certain moves and positions and their benefit to help improve our game. The upperclassmen are also friendly and offer great advice about school in general if we ask."

JOAQUIN MIGUEL GAWCHUA, 10