

By Thomas Puzio

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1989 is the year that the boys' volleyball team got off the ground at Eagle Rock. While the season was a disappointment in terms of wins and losses, the young talent of 1989 returned the next year to begin the modern era of THE ROCK!

Bill Whiting, an alumnus of Eagle Rock High, basketball coach, and avid volleyball fan, picked up the head coaching job to work with his basketball players during the off-season. The 1990 squad was not short on athletic talent, but did lack a familiarity with volleyball. What they lacked in volleyball experience, they made up for in effort and determination. They improved from 1-13 the previous season to an impressive 7-7 overall and 6-4 in league. With the whole team returning for the 1991 season, the future looked bright.

Coach Whiting seeing the team as a work in progress took his returning players and kept hacking away. While they came up short of their League Champion goal, they did improve their previous record of 7-7 to a remarkable 11-5. In a two-year span, Whiting took a 1-13 squad to a team that needed one more victory for a League Title. The 1991 team had great senior leadership from Co-captains Johnny "High Flying" Lam (all-city '90 & '91), and Tim "Hit Through the Block" Park. Probably the tallest team in Eagle Rock history with three players over 6'3", they were able to dominate the net with tremendous blocking and offensive trickery (the dreaded "double ones" and the infamous "ox").

1992 looked to be the year Eagle Rock would take its first League Championship. Larry Corbi (the first phenomenal volleyball star at Eagle Rock) and I led a good group of players to achieve this feat. Our squad was not to be denied, finishing the season 11-3 and taking the school's first League Championship! Eagle Rock received the 4th seed in the playoffs and was beaming with confidence. Unfortunately it all came crashing down in the first round match as we lost to Grant in front of a shocked home crowd. This would be the first of many playoff losses Eagle Rock would suffer. Larry would graduate and play for the Division I Men's Volleyball Program of Cal State Northridge, the first Eagle Rock player to accomplish such a feat.

With the team rallying around me in 1993, we improved throughout the season running full-blast toward playoff time, winning a second consecutive League Title in the process. Sylmar was our first victim in the post season that year, as we quickly moved into the next round. In the quarterfinals Eagle Rock traveled to Van Nuys. As we walked in and started warming up, we could overhear Van Nuys discussing who their next opponent would be. We won the 5 game marathon match and I finished with a career high 28 kills. Having spent everything we had against Van Nuys, we simply could not make it to the finals. Fairfax would go to the finals and take two games from Marshall; the only two games Marshall lost that entire season.

1994 was a struggle in every sense of the word. It was the first time in four years Eagle Rock had no put-away-hitter. Most of the varsity had graduated; no one could fill in the spot that had been occupied by Johnny Lam, Larry Corbi, and myself. Without a true put-away-hitter, the Eagles sputtered to an overall record of 7-7. Despite this record, the '94 team was only one match short of a 3-peat League Championship. While the playoff debacle of 1992 was shocking, the 1994 team's first round home loss to LACES was a disgrace. Everyone wanted to go into a hole and die. The future would prove to be their salvation, as Eagle Rock would suffer even greater losses than this.

The debate rages on, did Coach Whiting "retire" or did Tim Park threaten to take him out? Whatever the case may be Whiting handed the torch to his protégé, Tim Park. Coach Park, a graduate of the 1991 squad, a fiery competitor and an intelligent player, brought an aggressive attitude to renew the 1995 squad. The team's inexperience and the lack of a put-away-hitter made it almost impossible for Coach Park to see much success in his first season as head coach. The season wasn't a total loss however, finishing 7-7 and 6-4 in league, the Eagles did make the playoffs for the 6th year in a row. As Coach Whiting had done, Coach Park was setting himself up for the biggest one-year turn around in school history.

Eagle Rock's reign of terror began in 1996. Andy Rivera steps into the light and a power shift in the Northern League is seen. 1996 was the first year the Eagles defeated the Marshall Barristers since the 1991 season. The '96 squad won the League and Conference Titles with a perfect 10-0 record, from 7-7 the year before to 15-1, what a turnaround. Co-captains Robert Corbi and Andy Rivera crushed the ball all year long, dominating every team that they faced. For the first time we had not one, but two put-away-hitters, and that was unstoppable.

Having beaten Marshall in League play, they were poised for revenge when we met in the semifinals. Eagle Rock won the first and second games with little effort. The Eagles had match point in the third game; with one more point the Eagles would go to their first ever city finals. This is how the play transpired:

The serve goes to the Marshall passer; the pass comes to the net; the ball is on it's way over; the Marshall setter gives a token effort to punch to ball that is out of reach; Andy Rivera rises and destroys the overpass, crushing it to the floor! The gym erupts! WE WIN! WE WIN! No... Wait... the ref blew her whistle. Yes, she did. She called over! She claimed Andy attacked the ball on the other side of the net! "OH DEAR LORD! THAT'S HORRIBLE!" I screamed.

The call the official made was a close one. Whether it was on our side or not, it was coming over. The setter had no play on it, and had Andy waited 1/2 a second more with the ball totally on our side, he STILL would have hit it down! We would lose the third game 14-16, lose the fourth game 13-15, and finally lose the fifth game 12-15. There is no pain like losing at home to Marshall in the semifinals when you had match point in the third game! Everyone was in disbelief; Coach Park and I will never recover. (The eerie

aspect of Eagle Rock's playoff upsets is that they have occurred every two years on the even year, '92, '94, and now '96, what would that mean for the '98 team?)

With the great breakdown of 1996 fresh on our minds, Coach Park and I decided that 1997 would not be the same. At the outset I claimed, "We will be 17-0 and not lose a single game to anyone!" A bold prediction you might think, but I was confident that with the greatest player in Eagle Rock history returning with a surrounding cast of well-trained seniors, there would be no challenge. Mark Caguioa was the key added ingredient to round out our already stacked team. When four of the six starters hit over .300 for the season, and you only allow an average of 5.4 points per game, you know you've got a great team. The 1997 team held their opponents to two or fewer points in 31% of the games played, and their opponents scored in the double digits a mere 15% of the time. Eagle Rock won the back-to-back League Championship as well as the 3A City Championship, finishing with a perfect record of 17-0. We finished 51-1 in games played, losing the third game in our first match of the year.

While winning the City Title was a great honor. I believe our greatest victory came in the Tournament of Champions. Well known for the statewide talent the tournament attracts; it is a huge honor to be one of the top 8 teams in that tournament. We competed with 50 teams from California and finished in the top 8 despite missing our Co-Captain Gabriel Michel, and Andy Rivera hampered by injury. Had we been full strength, I am confident we would have made it to the finals. What a great season! It will never be duplicated. In 2002 Andy Rivera finished his collegiate career at UCSB being named 2nd Team All-MPSF and 1st Team All-American!

Returning only two players from the varsity squad in 1998 you might think our run of good luck would end. With an outstanding coaching staff and a dominant Junior Varsity, the '98 team was well rounded and battle-ready. The 1998 team (14-3 overall) did win Conference and League for the 5th time in school history, and the 3rd year in a row; however, the "every-other-even-year-playoff-blowup-bug" would bite us again. The 1998 City finals would see the worst playoff performance from an Eagle Rock team ever. Our hitting percentage in all three games was negative and consequently we couldn't get anything going offensively losing in three straight games to Monroe.

Huy Quach showed the greatest passing skills Eagle Rock had ever seen and was voted All-City for the second consecutive year joining the ranks of Johnny Lam, Vinh Trinh, Andy Rivera, and Albert Coba, and myself (the only players to do so).

The League Championship streak finally ends in 1999. In my first year coaching on my own I was forced with trying to rebuild a team from scratch. Graduating all but one varsity player, junior outside hitter Tim Bergeron, 1999 was a frustrating year for everyone as we finished 8-7 overall, 2nd place in league. Two players returned for their senior year from a two-year hiatus, but the absence was too much to overcome and the Eagles were left with no clear leadership.

1999 saw a change in the playoff format as well; the old 3A/4A became the new City/Divisional. The top 32 teams were seeded in order of strength from 1 to 32. Then the top 16 played for a City Title and the bottom 16 played for a consolation Divisional Title. Hence the 16th overall seed would most likely be able to defeat Divisional Champ. This system was seen as unfair for the teams on the bubble because you either get sent to the slaughterhouse against the best team in the city or you go to the finals against a bunch of chump teams. In 1999 we were seeded in the Divisional Playoffs and lost in the quarterfinals to University High School.

I went back to school, as it were, to rededicate myself to my winning ways of the past. Having let go of the pressures of winning and losing, our team was able to focus more closely on their own performance and the results were positive. The 2000 volleyball team reclaimed the League Title with an almost perfect record of 9-1. Tim Bergeron had his struggles over the years, but as a senior he lived up to much of the promise we had seen in him as a freshman, recording the most digs in school history in the process. In the playoffs Eagle Rock was seeded into the top 16 and lost in the first round to Poly High.

The year 2000 brought about much change. The old Northern Conference was realigned to the Northern League with Marshall, Franklin, Belmont, Wilson, Lincoln, and Eagle Rock competing for the same title. The playoff format of City/Divisional was once again changed for the 2000 season to City/Invitational in an attempt to downplay the lower playoff. The City champion felt it unfair that the Divisional Champion received the same awards as the City Champion, when in actuality they are the 17th best team in the City. More over the loser of the City Finals was upset because all they received was a small second place trophy while the Divisional Champion received a huge trophy and press attention.

The dawn of a new millennium brought with it great hope for the Eagles. Returning five starters, the Varsity squad looked to have season as successful as 1997 and 1998. Unfortunately Alex Cabanot, a player that had the potential to be the best player in the city, decided to focus on his future city college basketball career by quitting the team. This loss affected the team in two ways. First we lost our most athletic player and our put-away-hitter. Second it meant that certain role players needed to step up to the spotlight and carry more of the load.

Undaunted by this early distraction, the team held together and went on a nine-match winning streak. The team, lacking real leadership, faltered however, losing to Franklin at home and Wilson for the first time in school history. Bouncing back from back-to-back losses the Eagles finished the regular season with two convincing three set victories over Marshall and Belmont, bringing their overall record to 11-2 (8-2 in league play).

Having split with Franklin (9-4; 8-2), we were forced to go to a tie breaker to determine the Northern League team to be placed first going into the playoff seeding meeting. Having won four games each, the final tiebreaker was determined by a point differential. Franklin ended up winning the tiebreaker because

they had scored four points more than we did in head to head play. The outcome of this tiebreaker was Eagle Rock being seeded 12th in the city and Franklin being seeded 11th. Eagle Rock deserved at least an 8th seed, but because we were technically 2nd in league we could not be seeded higher than Franklin. What with Franklin's 9-4 record, no other league representatives would place them any higher than 11th, thus our seed.

Traveling all the way to Venice High School, the Eagles would face the 5th seed with a 12-1 record. This was the first time Eagle Rock had faced Venice since the 1991 season, also in the playoffs at Venice. The playoff match went to five games and was closely contested. Incidentally, all five games were won on the "home" side of the court. The windows directly above the court were a major distraction due to the glare from the sun. On the home side there was no glare or direct view of any windows, but on the visitor side it was very difficult to see. Going to the fifth and deciding game, Eagle Rock lost the coin toss and Venice chose the home side. Eagle Rock lost the fifth game 15-3. I believe Eagle Rock was the better team, but the home court advantage proved too much for us.

In 2001 we graduate six seniors. In doing so we lose 4 of the all-time kill leaders, 2 of the all-time kill % leaders, 2 of the all-time ace leaders, 1 of the all-time ace % leaders, the 3rd all-time blocks leader, the 2nd all-time roofs leader, the 2nd all-time assist leader, and 3 of the all-time digs leaders. Suffice it to say, we lose a lot with this group of seniors. 2002 returns two varsity players that have great potential. Whether the returning JV players can step into the departing seniors' shoes remains to be seen, but it will be fun trying.

2002 was a year that will never be forgotten. With only two returning varsity players, the outlook was bleak. In addition, several key JV players decided not to play leaving a void on the varsity squad. Tryouts equated to keeping anyone willing and able! Reaching out to Coach Kato for young talent, 12 new athletes were formed into the JV squad. The varsity relied upon returning JV captain and team MVP, Martin Au-Yeung to deliver as the starting setter, a position he hadn't played in previously. Jonel Delos Reyes, the sophomore prodigy was the other key component to the varsity make-up. Relying on two first year seniors to take up the slack, and long lost volleyball alumnus Austin Wong completing our passing core, the team was determined not to fail.

Our high hopes quickly dwindled as major problems arose for both teams. A bus driver strike would mean the varsity would lose two matches and postpone two others, for the JV it would mean the end of their season. There is no telling how good the JV could have become, but they did need some time to grow as only two of the twelve team members had ever played volleyball before. The varsity struggled to find their rhythm the whole season and ended up third place in league. The final match of the year, an invitational playoff match against #8 Reseda, proved to be an accurate dipstick performance for the crew as unforced errors prevented them from advancing. We say goodbye to Billy Puls, the school's blocking leader, and hope he finds success at CSUN.

With the onset of the 2003 boys' volleyball season came the ever-present feeling that this year would be a good year. The eagles would be led by three-year varsity starting player, Captain Tim Moises. He and his hard-hitting counterpart Jonel DeLosReyes would set out to break old records with their one-two punch. "If it wasn't Tim hitting the ball, then it must have been Jonel," would be a good guess for a recap of any given play. The two power hitters ended up setting five of the top ten records for kills in a single match. Tim and Jonel amassed 259 and 254 kills respectively and proved to be a difficult duo to stop. Unfortunately volleyball requires more than just hitting prowess and Marshall's unyielding defense and effort was enough to win them the 2003 Northern League title.

The Junior Varsity team, led by new comer Edward Maniquis, quickly learned that volleyball is a difficult game to play and requires a lot of experience to fully master. While their record was not great, their mindset always remained positive and their focus never swayed. What matters most is that all of the JV team members improved and were able to gain some of that precious experience so desperately needed for next year. Indeed that experience will be greatly appreciated since Eagle Rock will be losing a very big part of its team, and I mean a very BIG part! (That would be an inside joke) While you cannot replace a player like Tim Moises, the addition of several returning Varsity starters and this new and young JV team will surely bolster our effort in our quest for Eagle Rock's eight league title! Of course we can always set the ball to Jonel!

2004 was a year of upsets and disappointments. An entirely new starting lineup meant the varsity squad would need to circle the wagons around its fearless leader, Jonel DeLosReyes. Chasing statistical records set by the great Andy Rivera, Jonel was on a mission to prove he belonged in the Hall of Fame. With a five team league and a three round-robin league title up for grabs, the varsity set out to achieve greatness. When all was said and done, the varsity had lost five league matches and ended up in third place behind Belmont who beat ER two out of three times. The only saving grace on the season was that the varsity was able to beat the league champion twice (the only team in the city to complete such a task). Jonel had his records, but the bitter taste of defeat would taint them forever. Every "Hall of Fame" player that came before him had managed to win a league title, and Jonel was not able to. Does this diminish his individual accomplishments? I leave that question to you.

In 2005, boys' volleyball team was in a rebuilding phase. With only one starter returning to the varsity it was an uphill battle from the start. Lack of interest kept the team to the smallest number of players ever (7 varsity, 7 JV). While the team fought hard, they never found their rhythm and wound up in 4th place. Senior leader and Varsity Captain John Ta improved dramatically over the course of his three seasons playing on the Varsity team, but did not have enough of a supporting cast to vault his team to success. Sadly, 2005 marked the first time since 1990 that Eagle Rock did not make the playoffs. A true battle is ahead for the 2006 squad as many of the key players from this year will be gone and a new crop will need to be

discovered. Hopefully in 2006 more young talent will truly rebuild Eagle Rock Volleyball back to its former glory.

Fresh off the worst season in Eagle Rock since 1989, the varsity squad was determined to not meet the same fate. Struggling early with only two returning varsity players, the eagles faced six straight defeats (although one was reversed due to forfeiture). With the goal of the post season in mind, Coach Puzio laid it out to the team that it was time to either put up or shut up. The varsity team led by captain Nicholas Scrubb and fellow outside hitter Nathan Ragsdale, behind the intimidating blocking prowess of first year player Arthur Smith and the “freshman phenom” Steven Phillips, the team managed to win four of their last six matches and only losing by an average of 13 points in the two matches. While finishing a disappointing 3rd place in league, the momentum gained hurled the varsity into the playoffs with a passion to win. Fighting hard against a tremendous team with an all-city caliber player, the eagles came up short losing at home to Roosevelt in the quarterfinals of the invitational championship. Although this loss was disheartening, the program has clearly shown new vigor and with the returning young talented players such as Steven Phillips, Kurt Hoverson, Nikolai Rivera, and John Bernabe (among others) the future is bright for Eagle Rock Volleyball.

On a personal note, this is my last year at Eagle Rock. Having coached as either an assistant or head coach since 1994, I have spent 12 years of my life dedicated to furthering the sport I love dearly. I have had the honor to coach great players, the topmost being Andrew Rivera who went on to international greatness, as well as players that may not have had much talent but brought an amazing work ethic. To all my former players I say thank you, these have been the best years of my life and I will never forget all the great memories, even the bad ones.

Appended by Coach Tim Bergeron (2007 – Current)

After year and half as assistant coach, former “Hall of Fame” (by Puzio’s definition) player, Tim Bergeron, stepped to the plate as the new head volleyball coach at Eagle Rock. For the first time in awhile 2007 began with a glimpse of hope. The varsity team returned both experienced and talented players. However, the team carried only 2 seniors, one of which was a first year player. With no clear leadership, the team struggled to find any consistency. Kurt Hoverson struggled the entire year figuring out how to be both an effective attacker and passer. Wilson Chan, while leading the team in service receptions, battled to find his own offensive attack. Sophomore middle Steven Phillips provided our only consistent offense (and it was more than consistent) and the team’s setter, Nikolai Rivera never developed the consistency required to run a true offense. The team struggled with hitting errors, nets, and missed serves the entire year. None of the players on the team were volleyball players; they were basketball players playing volleyball. The

fundamentals of passing and defensive reflex and anticipation did not exist on this team. In the end, 2007 was more of a transition year than a competitive year. When all was done, the team finished 4th in league earning a #26 seed. In the first round Venice demolished any offense we had with their strong defense, ball control, and consistency. In the following invitational match the team played lost an unenthusiastic game to Monroe High School due in part mainly to our inability to stop their middle attacks. The year did provide one positive; the **potential** of all the returning players and athletes and their commitments to play club at San Gabriel.

As the transition process continued 2008 would officially be the year that put Eagle Rock back onto the map. Every year a team struggles a set back; this year it was senior Kurt Hoverson tearing his ACL a month after the 2008 volleyball season and the loss of blocking from 3 year player John Bernabe (quit). Kurt's 8 month hiatus from activity and injury recovery proved to be a limiting reagent to the overall success the 2008 team would achieve. Volleyball is a game of ball control and defense; the 2008 team proved to be average at best in this category. The team carried only one good defender in Wilson Chan. However, with senior 3 year setter (the first ever 3 year setter at ERHS) Nikolai Rivera running a team whose hitters averaged over 6 feet, offense proved to be our ticket to success. With the development of Wilson "Line Shot" Chan and Steven "Bionic" Phillips at opposite; we could run a complete offense with Kurt (who never quite recovered from injury) and Paul Kramer and Hector Cardenas in the middle (both hit above .350 on the year). You know you have a good year when you beat Marshall at Marshall and this is a feat we achieved to win our first league title since 2001. By season end Nikolai had earned himself the right to be mentioned in the same sentence as former great ERHS setter Albert Coba. Come playoff seeding, a preseason lose to Bravo without two starters Steven Phillips and Paul Kramer (retuning from varsity basketball invitational championship game) forced our seed to an unimpressive 17 (behind Bravo) for being Northern League champions. The team lost it's first round matchup against Birmingham in a super tight 5 set match for which whom the winner would go on to play #1 Chatsworth (Birmingham achieved the biggest upset in city section volleyball history beating Chatsworth in 5). Eagle Rock then moved on as the #1 seed in the invitational bracket only to be upset at home in 5 to San Pedro whose 6'5 middle blocker intimidated our hitters the entire match. The team finished 11-4; with Wilson Chan (League MVP) and Steven Phillips positioned to return next year for their senior year.

In 2009 Eagle Rock Volleyball became a program. Open gyms became common practice during the entire offseason; and with this came the development of true ball control and defense. Former players Nikolai Rivera and Kurt Hoverson joined the coaching staff. The team goal for this year was to be top 10 in the city; a status an ERHS team has never achieved in the new playoff format. The primary focus going into 2009 was the replacement of setter Nikolai Rivera from the previous year. While the selection came late; the selection turned out to be better than anyone ever expected in Herson Canta (legacy of former girls MVP

Hershey Canta). But as with the previous year the season started out with the loss of Steven Phillips to a broken elbow during basketball season and Hector Cardenas to a heart murmur (the teams tallest players at 6'2 and 6'3). The combination of the loss of two power hitters and a first year sophomore setter with no setting experience instilled doubt into many of the varsity players minds. The loss of the two starters and another potential starter (grades) forced 9th grader Cameron Friedman (no volleyball experience; but a player who will be mentioned for years to come) into the starting lineup as middle. The first half of the season the team rode Wilson Chan (2008/2009 League MVP and 2009 All-City) to victory. This was the first time in a long time the teams' defense can be attributed to victory. Both Wilson Chan and Daniel Cruz led a two man receive and provided scrappy defense in the backrow. This would also be the first year ERHS had a true libero in Reynald Salazar. By season's end the team's offense would rival that of 2008 with the development of Herson Canta, the return of Steven Phillips, and the development of middles Anthony Barahona and Serge Hosena. Combining the offense from the previous year and our new commitment to defense and error prevention the team would handily defeat Marshall in the last league game of the season to seal back to back league champions as the first place in league (9-1 in league). In addition, the JV team won it's first league championship since 1997 and finished top 8 in the city; a true sign the program had come to fruition. Heading into the playoffs the team forced splits with Taft, Verdugo Hills, and Fairfax (all top 12 teams) to secure a seed of #11 in the city (the highest seed ever for an ERHS team since the change from 3A/4A to City/Invitational playoff format in 1999). The season came to an end (11-4 overall) with a 3 set loss to a very well balanced #6 Venice team in the 1st round of the city playoffs. The team says goodbye to an all-time great in Wilson Chan who finishes his career at #7 Kills, #10 Kill Percentage, #2 Ace Percentage, #2 Aces, #1 Digs, #1 Service Receptions (Career ERHS totals). The prospect for next year looks as bright as ever.

In every respect 2010 proved to be the year it should have been. One could argue that this team was the best defensive team EVER in the history of Eagle Rock Boys' Volleyball and perhaps the second most successful. The members of the 2010 team set a new standard for work ethic and dedication. Throughout the entire offseason a high percentage of players attended a very high percentage of open gyms. Eagle Rock hosted the first annual city section summer league and participated in a fall and winter league. With the team playing together at least once the entire off-season, they were able to form the chemistry required to compete for the city championship. This team established a tradition at Eagle Rock that every year will follow from now on; being in position to compete for the city championship. The team competed in 4 official tournaments. At the LA Watts Summer Games the boys went undefeated in pool play and finished the tournament losing to Taft in the finals. At the Venice tournament the team finished undefeated in pool play losing to El Camino Real in the tournament finals. The team again went undefeated in pool play on its way to the Sylmar tournament semi-finals where they again lost to Taft (The eventual Division I 2010 Champion). The goal heading into the season was to be top 10 in the city; Eagle Rock would be seeded 7 this year behind

El Camino Real. 2010 also marked a change in playoff formats. After 10+ years of the City/Invitation playoff format, this year the city teams were divided into two divisions. Having only 2500 students, ERHS was placed into Division II. While Division II did not have the complete competition of Division I, Division II hosted strong 2010 teams in Westchester, Bravo, and Verdugo Hills. In April, the team traveled to Las Vegas to compete in the Vegas Easter Invitational. This would be only the 2nd time ever an ERHS boys team has traveled out of state for a tournament, but it appears this will set a new tradition for the volleyball program. The team finished with an overall record of 30-8 (including tournaments) and an official match record of 14-2. The teams' only losses came to long time rival Van Nuys (Division I Semi-Finalist) and Westchester in the Division II City Finals. While losing in the city finals, the team **brought back** the mid 1990's ERHS tradition of being a top volleyball program in the city. In 2010 the program wishes farewell to 5 seniors. Michael Aqui, Kevin Lecara, and Andrew Aquino are three seniors that played a crucial part in our championship run. Daniel Cruz and Anthony Barahona are the first Eagle Rock players to be selected first team all city since 1998; and are without a doubt two of the best outside hitters EVER at Eagle Rock High School. Many might argue that Anthony Barahona is the best all-around player to graduate from ERHS since the legendary Andy Rivera. While the season ended with a loss, the program ended with a victory. The future of ERHS volleyball will forever be judged, not on what was established in 1997, but what was established in 2010. Replacing seniors is always difficult, but 2011 holds the potential of being even more successful than 2010. Next years' team returns two all-city players in Heherson Canta and Naphat Suvaroporn; both which have the potential to be the best at their respective positions (setter and libero) in the entire city. In addition, the team returns 2 others starters in Bryan Mendoza and Cameron Friedman. Having had one of the best JV teams in ERHS history in 2010, the varsity team is positioned to be the best complete all-around TEAM ever. Will the Eagles recapture that city championship that has alluded them since 1997? Only time will tell.