

The Holy Optimist

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What I Did On My Summer Vacation

Some of Poly's teachers spent their time off relaxing, while Sara Chialtas ran a marathon.

By Michelle Gonzalez and Meri Sarkisyan
Optimist Staff Writers

Sara Chialtas has been an ESL teacher at Poly for 32 years. But don't think that means she isn't willing to try new things. This summer, Chialtas ran a 26.2-mile marathon race to raise money for AIDS Project Los Angeles. It was her first marathon ever.

"I wanted to see if I could finish it," Chialtas explained, "and because it was a challenge."

Chialtas began training in February. She ran for 45 minutes twice a week with the other members of AIDS Project Los Angeles. In the hot weather, the group went to Griffith Park twice a week and ran mini-marathons ranging from 2 to 26 miles.

In the beginning, the AIDS Project Los Angeles had about 200 to 250 participants, but they started leaving one by one. On the day of the marathon, only about 100 runners were left.

For her own benefit, Chialtas went to the gym to lift weights and do aerobics. She also trained alone and ran for 45 minutes four times a week.

Although she was doing her training regularly and efficiently, Chialtas began to have second thoughts about her ability to complete the marathon after she ran an 18-mile mini-marathon and had a hard time finishing. But Chialtas refused to quit.

"My goal was to finish the marathon," she said.

On Sunday, July 30th, AIDS Project Los Angeles members were put in groups called waves and assigned a number. Chialtas was placed in wave #7, along with eleven other people she had trained with. They began to run a little after 6 a.m., while the weather was nice and cool.

The group was trained to do a "run-walk" pace, running for four minutes and walking for two. Chialtas kept this pace throughout the marathon.

The route began at the Embarcadero, went along the coast, and then over the Golden Gate Bridge. During miles 13 to 17 the runners passed through a park with many hills.

"This was the hardest part of the route," Chialtas said.

They then ran back over the Golden Gate Bridge, through some streets and back to the Embarcadero to finish the marathon.

The marathon took Chialtas six hours and thirty minutes to complete. Towards the end, her left leg began to feel strained, but she kept going.

"It was just keep going, keep going, keep going," Chialtas said.

[See *Marathon Page 3*]



Photo by Fernando Marquez

PRODUCTION LINE: Student puts finishing touches on clubhouse locker.

This Baseball Story is a Win-Win

Lamos/Schwal partnership and students helping students create baseball clubhouse.

By Ana Loera
Optimist Staff Writer

For about five years, baseball coach Chuck Schwal wished for a clubhouse for his award-winning baseball team.

"I wanted more than just a place to get dressed and fool around," said Schwal.

He wanted a place where the players could learn and do their homework as well, since they spend so much time on the field.

Schwal told Woodshop teacher Glen Lamos his idea about the clubhouse a year and a half ago. Lamos agreed to work with him on the clubhouse and make it a project for his advanced woodshop class.

"Students helping students was the key idea," emphasized Lamos.

Lamos began to look at baseball lockers from schools such as El Camino High, Cal State Northridge and Occidental College to get design ideas and develop his own locker prototype.

Meanwhile, Schwal and his assistant came up with a configuration for the clubhouse.

The principal approved their ideas in mid-June. Immediately Lamos and his team of students got to work.

Lamos and his students built individual lockers for 18 players and 5 coaches. Each locker has a seat with a chest-like storage bin underneath. The locker also includes a cubby at the top and a bar to hang clothing on. The project was a challenge for the woodshop students because it incorporated everything they had learned.

A combination of last year's and this year's advanced woodshop classes, about 30 students, put in approximately 80 hours of work each.

The project benefited HABIT, one of Poly's small learning communities. Students involved in this project could apply what they've learned to anything outside of school.

"I'm very proud...they should be proud," said Lamos.

The lockers still need a cherry stain finish and a coat of teak oil before in-

[See *Clubhouse Page 3*]

Blue Bin Men Want Poly's Plastic

Environment friendly Casas and Lee introduce recycling to the Parrot campus.

By Ana Loera
Optimist Staff Writer

In the absence of a recycling program at Poly, science teachers Anselmo Casas and Jin Lee began one on their own. New recycling receptacles were introduced to Poly at the beginning of the 2006 school year.

Casas and Lee obtained the blue bins for free. One set of receptacles came from the city of L.A. and the other from Generation Earth, an environmental education program of the L.A. County Department of Public Works.

Both teachers noticed how much the landfills are getting filled with plastic bottles and knew Poly was a great place to begin a change. Casas and Lee took into consideration their students' desire to maintain natural resources



Photo by Ana Loera

GOING GREEN: Lee (left) and Casas brains behind the blue bins.

and have a cleaner environment.

The two men submitted their recycling proposal to the principal three months ago. Since then, Poly's administration has supported their efforts.

Collected bottles are kept in storage at Poly. As soon as enough bottles are collected, Waste Management will pick them up for recycling. Eventually, Lee and Casas plan on turning the money from the recycling program into scholarships for Poly students.

[See *Blue Bin Men Page 3*]

Schar Accepts Principal Post at Olive Vista Middle School

Midwestern roots and boundless optimism mark AP Schar's seven-year record of success at Poly.

By Jennifer Rivera
Optimist Staff Writer

After 7 years of working at Poly, Assistant Principal Dan Schar is leaving to accept the position of principal at Olive Vista Middle School in Sylmar.

While at Poly, Schar's responsibilities included doing professional development for all teachers, having orientations for all new teachers and working with the new Small Learning Communities (SLCs) for grades 11 and 12.

His favorite activities, however, were working with students for Homecoming, graduation, various awards programs and sporting events.



Dan Schar

"Anything that allowed me to celebrate with them the successes of students and their teachers and families," Schar said.

Schar believes that among his accomplishments, the most rewarding have been helping teachers, staff and students find solutions to problems.

"I love to see others being successful at whatever they are doing," said Schar. "If I can help them in any way, it brings enjoyment to my life."

One of the most difficult jobs he had at Poly was remodeling the school. 50 classrooms were "modernized" and the campus was painted inside and out. Classrooms had to be moved to temporary bungalows overnight and on weekends so that interruptions to instruction were minimal.

"It stretched us all to the limits... maybe a little over the line," Schar remembered.

He has seen many improvements over the last few years and he hopes that trend will continue. The campus is cleaner and safer, Schar said, and there is more positive support for teachers, such as teacher-to-teacher professional development and academic coaches.

In the future, Schar would like to see students maintain their growth and learning in the classrooms. Student attendance needs to keep improving as well, he said.

"Learning cannot take place if the teachers and students are not in place," Schar noted.

[See *Schar Page 3*]

What We Should Remember About 9/11

“Dust smoke and shaky camera footage.”

September 11, 2001 was *our* day of infamy. Just those two numbers alone, 9/11, evoke images of dust, smoke, and shaky camera footage of the fall of the World Trade Center. Most people will prefer to remember the heroism of the New York firefighters, policemen, and regular citizens who risked their lives to help save lives. However, that's not what 9/11 was at all. If it is remembered as anything it should be as a wake up call. It shook the most powerful nation in the world not because of all the deaths but because of what it stood for.

The U.S. was successfully attacked on its own soil, in a city that represents everything the country is known for (the Statue of Liberty, wealth in Manhattan, a melting pot) and had its tallest building crash down in a mess of dust, smoke, fire, and bodies. 9/11 showed the “ever powerful” U.S. the mortality of its power. That nothing is sacred, nothing is forever.

Prior to 9/11 we seemed to live in our own little bubble of our pop culture, our politics, and our neighbors'

lives. On September 12, 2001, we were suddenly aware of these little countries called Afghanistan and Iraq. Then, further on we looked through the door to the outside world that had been blown open by those towers crashing down and we found that a lot of the world did not like us. We saw burning U.S. flags and cheering Middle Easterners celebrating the attacks.

Maybe we're not as great as we think. Maybe we're not invincible. Maybe nobody wants us to be invincible. As paranoid as those thoughts made the U.S., we shouldn't fight against the idea that we won't be on top forever. It should humble us, not make us find an enemy to bomb and throw a tantrum. This is where we can find enlightenment in the horrible experience of 9/11. Yes, many innocent people died for no good reason, but that's over. We have to move on and be smarter and more mature in the way we handle those we have power over.

By Diana Argueta
Optimist Staff Writer

“We are as strong as our people are united.”

It has been five years since the terrorist attack that hit our country at the core. A day completely unexpected and yet one that will always lie in memory.

The morning began like any other, but what happened next was completely unforeseen. Two hijacked airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center, two buildings that shaped New York city. Thousands died in minutes and as the buildings crashed down, hope was lost for others. Two more planes were hijacked, but they would have very different fates. One, soon after the two towers had fallen, crashed into the pentagon. Brave passengers stopped the other, destined for the White House, after they learned what was happening.

After 9/11, pride showed everywhere from the front yards of houses to the back of cars. People realized that

this country is not immune to terrorism. The public would also join together to mourn the loss of family members present at the world trade center.

Everyone was touched by at least one event on 9/11. Many lost relatives and others the arrogance that they could not be touched.

The only positive outcome was that we found a new identity in the U.S. Sadly somewhere in the last five years our pride has fallen. No one remembers that to be a great country, the people need to stay together. The common person only thinks to blame rather than cling to each other. The most important thing to remember about Sep. 11 is that we are not incapable of being hurt, but we are as strong as our people are united.

By Leah Tanner
Optimist Staff Writer

“A day to respect and honor our heroes.”

Devastation and chaos, a living nightmare, was what every American felt the day the twin towers collapsed on 9/11, a day of tears, when the lives of many were about to fade away. People running with fear and terror and our heroes fighting the unstoppable to save the lives of many.

It is truly a valuable treasure to have heroes in our country, our firefighters. 9/11 was the day society beyond doubt saw the selfless and loyal side of these men and women who gave their lives, their souls, as evidence of their passion and dedication to their jobs. Thousands died with greatness and still today are

remembered because their actions reveal pure human virtue. They are symbols of compassion that see men and women as equals not caring about the color of the skin, but life itself.

9/11 shouldn't be thought as any other particular day but a day to respect and honor our heroes. We shouldn't focus on the tragedy, for bad moments are not worthy of remembering. We should remember the great things these people did to serve their country.

By Christian Faundez
Optimist Staff Writer

Earning By Learning

Krispy Kremes and cash for better grades

By Katiana Rivas
Optimist Staff Writer

What prize - if any- is appropriate to offer students for good grades?

From the early school years, kids are being rewarded for good grades. Children get awarded with small things such as trips to the movies, lunch or ice cream. They might get to stay up later, take a day off from chores, or get extra hours to watch TV or play video games.

As years go by, the stakes can get pretty high, with prizes like a new iPod, cell phone or maybe even a new car.

Parents aren't the only ones rewarding students for good grades. Krispy Kreme offers a free doughnut for each “A.” Crown Theaters gives out two free movie tickets for a straight “A” report card, and a free medium popcorn for all “B's.”

But should students really be bribed for good grades? Why shouldn't they just be expected to do their best?

“It (offering money or other incentives for good grades) can take away from the value of learning,” says middle school teacher Jessyca Tucker, “learning to become a more cultured person, someone who adds value to the world.”

Attorney Scott Feldmann disagrees. “How many of us would put forth our best if we never got a tangible reward?” he writes.

Feldmann and his law firm tried a modest experiment in 2004. They chose Santa Ana Sierra Intermediate school, with “the very poorest students in one of the richest counties in the nation.” The law firm offered cash prizes to eighth- graders studying algebra.

Students received first-class study guides. Then they took a special test at the end of the course. The top 15 students received cash prizes. First place earned \$250; second, \$225; third \$200, and so on, with 15th place earning \$25.

Scores on the state's standardized algebra exam for 2004 also improved for the Santa Ana Sierra students, with that year's eighth graders doing better than the previous year's. The number who scored “advanced” or “proficient” went up from 13 to 31.

These results are perfect examples of the many advantages of rewarding students for good grades, according to Feldmann. He believes students should be rewarded today rather than wait years for the payoff of a good education.

“Cash awards reinforce the link between learning now and earning more later,” says Feldmann.

Some schools even pay students to attend class. Under a new plan, any student at Chelsea High School in Boston with perfect attendance will receive \$25 in an account that is redeemable upon graduation.

But this plan too has its critics. They point out that not all kids can control their attendance, or their achievement, and rewarding only a select few could further undermine the efforts of the rest. Some, like University of Rochester psychology professor Richard Ryan, think incentives are unnecessary.

“Kids have been going to school for centuries without needing to be paid for it,” he says.

Take Responsibility for Stopping Vandalism

Protect Poly from harm just like you would with your home.

By Heriberto Jauregui
Optimist Staff Writer

Would you let a stranger get into your house, break your stuff, tag over your furniture and steal your property? Of course not. But, unfortunately these things happen every day at Poly.

Vandalism has become part of our daily lives on campus. A teacher once said “School is your second home.” So why do we treat our school so poorly?

The main acts of vandalism at Poly go from graffiti on school property and damage of school materials to theft.

Thousands of dollars are spent every year to fix school property, replace stolen materials and erase graffiti off

the walls. Instead, this money could be used to buy new school materials that would help students do better in school.

Vandalism makes Poly look nasty and unpleasant to be in. It also makes students and our culture look the same way because we attend Poly.

Stopping vandalism from happening at Poly is our responsibility. The key is in our hands. We must report any act of vandalism to the authorities on our campus. If we don't stop vandalism, it will keep occurring and people will keep judging us as wild primitives.

THE OPTIMIST

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Restaurant Review



Gauchos Village Offers a Taste Of Old World Brazil

Restaurant's popularity rests on mom's meaty recipes.

By Adam Aguirre
Optimist Staff Writer

Los Angelenos in search of Brazilian "churrasqueira," meat prepared on a charcoal grill, won't need a visa to satisfy their hunger. Gauchos Village in Glendale is a carnival of South American flavor.

I came in one Sunday afternoon with family and friends hoping for something different from the usual. I wasn't disappointed.

Lunch started with a salad buffet, but I was more interested in the meat entrees, the dish Gauchos is known for.

Our server was dressed in a silk shirt, red neckerchief and black pantaloons. His pants were held in place by a hefty, brass-studded belt with a sword in a jewel-covered scabbard. He came around the table with a meat skewer called an *espeto* that had all types of meat. I ordered top sirloin. He cut the piece of steak and I pulled it off the skewer with tongs and placed it on my plate. It was delicious.

As the meal proceeded, the food kept getting better and better. The meats were seasoned with Brazilian rock salt, but just enough to complement the meats' own flavor. Top sirloin, Brazilian sausage and chicken wrapped in bacon were just of a few of the meat entrees.

Gauchos also serves many types of salads. The salad bar had Hearts of Palm, with cucumber and tomatoes, pasta salad and a salad with arugula.

The hot dishes included Brazilian rice, red potatoes, black beans or *feijoada* and yucca flour or *farofa*.

All the desserts were flavorful and included homemade caramel flan or *Pudin De Leite*, chocolate mousse and homemade passion fruit mousse or *Mousse De Maracuja*.

Brazilian drinks are a Gauchos specialty. Brazilian soda or *Guarana* and juices made from passion fruit or *maracuja* are popular.

Gauchos Village has an outdoor patio bar with a nice view of the city.

The restaurant is located at 411 North Brand Boulevard in Glendale and is open from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day. Prices range from \$9.95 for the salad bar to \$21.95 for dinner. Reservations are optional.

Schar Says Poly's Parrots Share What They Have

[Schar continued from Page 1]

Refining the SLCs' structures with more of a focus on "learning" in real "communities" was also high on Schar's to-do list for Poly.

The ex-AP had very positive comments about Poly's Parrots.

"Students respect and encourage one another and their teachers. They demonstrate creativity in art and writing and sports and all over the community. And they share what they have, as seen in the toy drives and blood drives," Schar noted.

As he embarks on a new challenge, Schar said he will take with him the privilege he had of sharing in the victories of so many individuals – "teachers, students, parents, coaches, maintenance workers, office staff, cafeteria workers, police officers, visitors, neighbors, and many more."

One memorable gift Schar said he will take from Poly is all the encouragement he received.

"The support that I have felt from so many people, teachers, students, staff and parents, has been tremendous," Schar said.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Schar grew up Bloomville and graduated in a class of 14. While in high school he held jobs such as milking cows and then selling the milk and cream. He also worked in a printing shop, melting lead for the ancient linotype machines and proofreading articles on the side.

He graduated cum laude from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana with

a degree in Chemistry and Biology. Schar obtained his MS in Education Counseling from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois and his administrative credential from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks.

"The support that I have felt from so many people, teachers, students, staff and parents, has been tremendous."

He met his wife Sharon while they were working together in a church youth group. She works in the medical field as a consultant and office manager. The Schar's have 5 children.

The eldest son lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, working for Apple Computers. Their only daughter lives in Zimbabwe, Africa, with her family, running a youth camp. One bachelor son lives in Colorado Springs, where he is an athletic director for a private school. Another is an international business consultant living in Southern California. And one son is a teacher, living with his wife in Modesto, Ca.

Schar has 25 years of teaching experience, working in everything from preschool to college. Most of his classroom time was spent in middle and high schools.

The first administrative job Schar held was at Reed Middle School in

North Hollywood, where he was the Head Counselor.

As for Poly, Schar still thinks his AP position here is "one of the best 3 jobs in the district."

One thing will definitely be different in his new assignment at Olive Vista Middle School, Schar says

"I will not be able to refer anything up to the principal. But the job will still be full of surprises."

Schar says working with middle school students is distinct from other students.

"Their attention span is somewhat shorter and most of them do not realize that they 'love to learn new things,'" he said.

Schar wants to emphasize a better learning environment at Olive Vista and wants students to look forward to school.

Like Poly, Olive Vista has seen many changes recently, such as temporary bungalows, elevators and new buildings.

"Déjà vu all over again," Schar said.

But Schar says he is ready to go to work and interact with students and faculty, learning the strengths of the various teachers and staff members so he can mold together the best possible educational team for the community.

"We want to see Olive Vista become a model school where students and parents know that they are getting the best possible education," Schar said.

Players Will Use Clubhouse To Study

[Baseball continued from Page 1]

stallation. Once the lockers are completed, they will be placed in room 317, the classroom nearest to the Baseball Field, Poly's baseball team and baseball coaches will enjoy the various advantages of the clubhouse.

"Uniforms and gear will be safer, there will be a place to come and study and the team will be safer and more united," said Schwal.

Fact, computers, sofas, an office and a teaching area.

Poly's new clubhouse facilities will

offer more amenities than some other top high school baseball teams in L.A.

"El Camino High has a storage bin and Cleveland High has a trailer. Ours is a nice standing building. This puts us ahead of them," said Schwal.

Although the baseball players will have to earn the right to use the clubhouse by maintaining good grades, they can look forward to a new season and a new clubhouse thanks to the combined efforts of Coach Schwal, woodshop teacher Lamos and his students.



Photo By Fernando Marquez

BUZZING ALONG: Trim work gets cut to size by woodshop student.

Blue Bin Men

[Blue Bin continued from Page 1]

As sponsors, Casas and Lee are responsible for meeting with business leaders and the community. They also have to set goals and see that the program succeeds.

The program began with a bumpy start. People threw trash instead of bottles into the receptacles. Bottles were stolen from the bins that did get filled up.

"We had a whole can full but someone took them," said Casas. The two men remain optimistic, however, about students using the bins properly.

Casas and Lee want to educate people on the importance of recycling. Then they will know they have "accomplished something."

Chialtas Runs for AIDS Project

[Marathon continued from Page 1]

With contributions from 42 Poly staff members and people from her gym, Chialtas raised \$2300 for AIDS Project Los Angeles. In all, the marathon raised \$225,000 for AIDS research.

Now that she's back behind her teacher's desk, Chialtas can speak from experience about marathons and whether she would do it all again.

"I would do a half-marathon, but not a whole marathon," Chialtas said, "because it is really hard on your body and not really the best thing for you."

Chialtas has no plans yet for next summer's vacation.



Photo By Michelle Gonzalez

MEDAL HOLDER: Sara Chialtas with her marathon medal.

Salazar Outscores Huntington Park Team in Parrot Road Win

Guard gets 26 of Poly's 52 on short jumpers.

By Michelle Gonzalez and Meri Sarkisyan
Optimist Staff Writers

Sophomore Game

Guard Omar Salazar outscored Huntington Park's sophomore team single-handedly in a lop-sided 52-22 Poly road win.

Salazar, who spent most of his time near the basket tossing in short jumpers, led all scorers with 26 points.

Guards Joseph Ortiz added 9 points and Poly led 36-8 at halftime.

Huntington Park finally found their game in the fourth quarter, outscoring Poly 10-6. But the comeback was too late.

Salazar strained his hand early in the third quarter and was replaced by Hugo Ortega. But when Abarca fouled out late in the third, Salazar had to come back because Poly had only 6 players.

Ortiz finished with 11 points and Ortega had 6.

Freshmen Game

Poly's freshmen got nine points from guard Victor Solano and four more from center Joe Martinez in an 18-point second quarter to take a 21-10 lead into the locker room at half time.

The Parrots got off to a sluggish start, scoring three points in the first quarter. Those came when Martinez made a jump shot, and Emmanuel "Manny" Herrera followed later with a free throw after he was fouled. Otherwise Poly's freshmen would have been 0-6 in the first quarter.

Huntington Park played aggressively in the third quarter, making 11 points while Poly only made 6.

Down the stretch, however, Poly played even with the Huntington Park team and held on to the lead to win 35-29. Solano finished with 11 points, Martinez had 8 points and Herrera added 7. Guards Daniel Palencia and Michael Covarrubias chipped in with 9 points.



Photo By Erick Robles

#1. DOUBLES: Karen Aguilar plays with partner Berenice Rodriguez.



Photo By Erick Robles

#1. SINGLES: Vanessa Linares has played Poly tennis for three years.

Lee Remains Optimistic About Tennis Season

More practice, faster medical clearance should improve program.

By Heriberto Jauregui
Optimist Staff Writer

Poly's girls' tennis team started their pre-season with a loss against a powerful Chatsworth team.

The match took place on Poly's court under cold and cloudy weather.

The Parrot team, led by coach Jerry Lee, couldn't win any of the seven matches that afternoon.

After the loss, coach Lee remained positive about their upcoming matches.

"It seemed that the loss did not really affect them," said Lee. "I talked to them about our expectations and where we are. We have to be realistic."

"I was expecting it," said Lee, referring to the loss. "Chatsworth is a great team."

"We will always look up to next match. We always leave negative things behind," said Lee.

Lee and his team have a long way to go in a season where their expectations are low. But they know they can improve and do a good job representing Poly.

"We have to improve our seriousness. They have to take the game seriously, spend more time practicing to improve," said Lee.

Coach Lee recognizes that practicing can be difficult when he has to teach most of the players how to play tennis.

"I try to even things up as much I can when practicing. Singles have to practice separately from the doubles group," said Lee.

Two Poly teachers, Hannah Gabriel and Miriam Hatam, have volunteered to help Lee teach the girls. They are both experienced tennis players and both played high school tennis.

Officially, Lee has ten players with medical clearances to play. About half of those have played two or more years of high school tennis at Poly. But the rookies are all beginners and had to be taught how to play tennis.

Lee knows that practice can be the key to a winning season.

"Absolutely, having more time to practice would be better," Lee said. "But players not turning in the paper work takes a lot of practice time."

"I cannot practice with them during the off-season. It is against the district rules," Lee noted. "But players can still practice on their own."



Photo By Christian Faundez

PARROT PRINCIPAL: Harlequin parrot Keli Koli with Dr. Fries-Martinez.

Feathers Fly As Tigers Maul Parrots

Porous Poly defense pummeled as San Fernando scampers for seven TDs before Parrots manage to put together a drive.

By Julio Aquino and Christian Faundez
Optimist Staff Writers

Dr. Jan Fries-Martinez, Poly's principal, did her part to help win the pigskin contest with San Fernando High School last Friday night. She took the field with the team mascot, an 11-month old harlequin parrot, on her arm as Poly fans applauded.

"I brought the mascot to cheer up our players and hopefully defeat San Fernando High School," Fries-Martinez explained.

But it wasn't enough. San Fernando's wider and taller offensive line shredded the Poly defense, scoring 21 unanswered points in the opening quarter, and coasted to a 56-14 win over the Parrots.

Tiger Quarterback Rashaan Reynolds scrambled 22 yards for the first score and later threw a 23-yard pass to wide receiver Rian Williams for another as San Fernando jumped out to a 14-0 lead.

A 9-yard pass from Reynolds to Williams capped second quarter scoring and gave the Tigers a 28-point halftime advantage. The Poly offense stalled repeatedly in the first half as they failed to put any points on the scoreboard.

Missed tackles plagued the Parrots for most of the contest, but the Tigers had trouble holding on to the ball, mak-

ing two fumbles in the second quarter. Poly's offense could not take advantage of either, however, and wouldn't see the end zone until the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, Tigers running backs found plenty of open space against the smaller Parrot defenders, adding two more touchdowns in the third and an eighth in the fourth.

Poly quarterback Wally Sanchez had two passes intercepted in the fourth quarter. Both came after big Poly drives and the second led to a Tiger touchdown.

All of Poly's points came in the fourth. Sanchez helped his own cause with a 13-yard run and his pass to wide receiver Daniel Lopez brought the Parrots their second TD.

But San Fernando had long ago put the game out of reach for Poly, who evened their record at 1 and 1.

"We may have lost," said receiver Edgar Barron, "but we have to worry about the future and leave this game behind us."

Last week, in its season opener, Poly defeated Santee High School 17-6 at Santee. In that contest, Terell Cable scored two touchdowns and rushed for 162 yards.

The Parrots play Marshall on September 22, their third and last non-league game.

Lady Parrots Varsity Loses to Spartans 3-0

Junior Varsity wins 2-1

By Jennifer Rivera and Julio Aquino
Optimist Staff Writers

Poly's girls' volleyball team lost their season opener at Huntington Park 3-0 last Thursday, while the J.V. came away with a 2-1 win.

Poly's varsity held their own against the Spartans during the early going. The first game was tied many times until H/P broke away at 8-8 and scored a string of points on kill shots. The Parrots were forced to play from behind and only managed five more points before losing the first game 25-13.

Poly team captain Jenny Castellanos remained upbeat about Poly's season.



Photo By Jennifer Rivera

SERVE IT UP: Rosemary Cuevas in action against the Spartans.

"We have been working really hard and I have a lot of faith that our team will do good," she said.

The Parrot's JV's narrowly won the first game 25-20 and then breezed to a 25-6 win in the second.