## Water Polo

## from page 5



Csaba Nagy ties it up 5-5 with a goal in 3rd quarter. Nagy led the scoring with 4 goals to help eliminate Palm Springs in CIF Play-offs. El Segundo took down Palm Springs 9-8. Photo by Shelley Kemp. www.kemp.photoreflect.com

The second round of the playoffs pitted the Eagles against Palm Springs High School. The Eagles were fortunate to win a coin flip that made them the home team, thereby avoiding the nearly three-hour drive that would have resulted had they lost the toss. After a solid practice and video session on Thursday, the Eagles' coaching staff felt they had the boys prepared to put it to the Palm Springs Indians. In every championship run, a team usually finds itself in a game where it must prove it can win despite not having things go its way. The Eagles were dominating the tempo of the game in the first half, but could not put the ball away. It seemed as though the Eagle shooters were married to the bar. The end of the first half found the Eagles up by a score of 4-2.

The offense was a little out of sync, and defensively things frequently broke down. However, behind a capacity crowd at Mira Costa High School, the Eagles fought hard on every possession and found themselves in a put up or shut up fourth quarter. At the end of the third quarter, the Eagles were 6-5, but fell behind by a goal early in the fourth after two quick goals by the Indian shooters. As they have done all season, the Eagles stayed calm and cool and battled right back. The first goal came at the 5:07 mark when Nagy fired an outside shot past the Indians' goalie to tie the game. Then Beau Blacksten scored his only two goals of the game when it mattered most, putting the Eagles ahead for good at a score of 9-8.

Every team has to come into its own identity and this year's squad has proven to be special. The Eagles have battled injuries and illnesses to rise to the top of the Ocean League. Hard work and a quiet confidence seem to be the recipe that makes up this team's identity.

The Eagles' success has been a total group effort that goes beyond the players and coaches. It includes unbelievable support from the parents, who often put together team dinners and help with everything from fundraising to transportation. The Eagles are also blessed with a great deal of support from their fans.

On Wednesday, November 18, the Eagles took on the fifth-ranked Troy Warriors. A win in this game would put the Eagles in the CIF Division 5 finals set to take place at William Woollett Aquatic Center in Irvine, California. Stay tuned.

## **City Council**

to climb back to where it was two or three years ago (30-32 percent) and then stabilize from there. Notably, such a move won't provide additional revenues to the City that could help offset future budget deficits. It can only curb further losses down the line.

While willing to test the waters by talking to businesses about a sales tax credit decrease, Mayor Kelly McDowell worried the move could backfire, pointing out that the program has proven to be an "attention-getter" for new and prospective tenants. "It's an attraction for businesses to move to the city," he said.

Councilmember Bill Fisher echoed the Mayor's concerns. "I'd like to get a sense of who we're talking about," he said, inquiring about which specific businesses will bear the brunt of the increase. However, it won't be a simple matter to find out since state law only allows one to access such information on a categorical basis rather than by individual company. As a rule, retailers won't have to worry since they generate enough sales tax to offset their BLT even with a tax credit reduction to 25 percent. Larger companies with a relatively small amount of sales tax appear to be on the hook for most of the tab. As an example, if a local corporation happened to operate a large oil refinery similar from front page

in scope to one that exists right now in El Segundo, it could see its BLT increase by over 340 percent by 2019.

Arguing for the sales tax credit reduction, Mayor Pro Tem Eric Busch felt that "at 25 percent, businesses still derive benefit from having sales tax recorded." He also didn't believe businesses would move out of town if they had to pay a little more tax. "I don't know any businesspeople who expect their costs to be flat," he said.

In order to get the measure on the April ballot, the Council must act quickly. The item will appear on the Council's December 1 agenda and must be approved by the aforementioned four-fifths majority no later than December 15 in order to meet the necessary time lines. Meanwhile over the next couple of weeks, the Council members will look for input from businesses and the El Segundo Chamber Commerce. As to how to justify tax indexing tied to public safety, Fisher said it will come down to whether or not businesses want to continue operating in a safe community. "We're a safe city and have been so historically," he said. "Now we're in a position where we have to cut. Businesses have benefited by what we've done in the past. They're the only ones lagging behind."

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