



## Ohlone baseball may be on move

*Baseball looks to build 5-8 million Dollar Stadium!*

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**FREMONT, CA** —Ohlone baseball just might get what they have been working so hard for the last 10 years, a new field.

The Golden Baseball League is a Dublin-based minor league, which has long sought a temple for a Bay Area ball club is looking to merge with Ohlone baseball. Right now the closest team is nearly 200 miles away in Chico, home of the Outlaws. There has been talk of a Vacaville club.

By June, the league likely will know whether it can finance a stadium on Ohlone College's Newark campus, where the Ohlone Renegades also would play home games.

*"Balancing community wants and business needs is one challenge in starting a local franchise", said Dave Kaval -CEO and League founder. "We share facilities, and between Ohlone, and Minor league club we also have the community in mind for other events".* Other challenges include partnering to get development approvals, creating shared-use agreements and funding and maintaining a stadium and infrastructure.

*"We have tried to put a team in the Bay Area for five years," said Kaval, whose wife, Maria, is a Newark native. "It's the same challenges as the 49ers and the A's have."*

He gauged the cost of the 1,500-seat ballpark at \$5 million, plus expenses for utilities, parking, environmental studies and more.

Although times are fiscally tough, Ron Travenick, Ohlone's vice president of student development, said the college would have to commit money as well as land to the overall project, whose ballpark cost is estimated at \$8 million.

"If we were able to partner, we'd get a much greater facility," he said.

Newark Mayor David Smith, who also is executive director of the Ohlone College Foundation, was involved early in the process of trying to entice the league to town before ceding the venture to Travenick.

He said Ohlone would have to get the city's blessing for a ballpark that had a private use — and related traffic and other impacts — as well as an educational function. Travenick said the stadium would be southwest of the current Newark Center building, along the Union Pacific railroad tracks, and that the Renegades' calendar would take priority over league scheduling.

Kaval said he and a business partner conceived of the league during an entrepreneurship class at Stanford University that also spawned eBay. Opening day came in May 2005 in Arizona.

The first season saw former A's hitter Rickey Henderson play for the league's San Diego team in the hope of resurrecting his major league career. Alumni include current A's relief pitcher Adam Johnson of San Jose. Kaval said the earliest a Newark stadium could open would be 2009-2010. He said the 45 or so home games would not compete with a possible Fremont A's because of simple math: "Our tickets are \$5, not \$35."

"A lot of our people don't know the score when they leave," he said. "They like getting tri-tip sandwiches. They like the 'kids' zone.' They like getting ice cream, seeing the mascot. It's a family, community kind of thing ... that doesn't break the bank. In this economic climate, that's a positive thing."