The Ohlone Women’s Basketball Team begins the second half of their conference games on Wednesday, January 4th against College of San Mateo. Leading to this point the Renegades have overcome and battled through injuries, tough opponents and the rebuilding of a new program. The team is currently 5-16, but don’t let the record fool you. Let’s recap some successful points that the team has accomplished up to this day.

On November 7th the team opened up with their first preseason tournament game at the Delta College tournament. The team’s first game, against host Delta, established a successful platform to begin growth. Up against defending Big Eight Conference Champions who finished in the Final Four last season, Delta College would test the new Ohlone squad who were seven players deep. Even though the Renegades fell short 70-87, they had four of the seven players in double digits including Crystal De Los Reyes with 13, Nicole Machado-Potestio with 19, Jessica King 16, and Mickie Ferrer with 13. Everyone on the team scored that game with the help of center Tarryn Clark who pulled down 13 rebounds and had 3 blocks.

The next weekend the Renegades traveled to Merced where they would open up the Merced Tournament in Stockton once again against the host team. The seven-women squad battled out the day with an overtime defeat falling short 51-58. That was the first over-time game seen in 15 years at that gym against the women’s team, according to a Merced staff member. Another tough, but proud, battle. The team continued on the next day to win against Lassen with only six players which brought them into the consolation championship game.

December brought the Renegades with two more tournaments. However, this time the team was nine players strong with the return of starting point guard, Candy De Los Reyes, who made her season debut with 27 points and 9 steals and the addition of dual-sport athlete at Ohlone, Nikki Costello. Starting out in Santa Rosa the Renegades defeated Mendocino 34-86. 27 points remains the highest personal score for a team individual so far this season. Joining De Los Reyes in double digits were four other teammates including her twin sister Crystal De Los Reyes with 14 points, King with 14, Mikaela Sablan with 11, and Machado-Potestio with 11. This win advanced the team into the championship bracket where they rejoined the Delta Mustangs on the court for the second time. After another tough battle against the highly ranked team, the Renegades only fell short one point. Leading stats included Candy with 26 points, and King with 16 rebounds.
During the final tournament at De Anza College the team won their first trophy under head coach Liz Rizza as they won the consolation bracket. Renegades defeated Merced College and Porterville by at least 15 points each. Lock-down defense held both teams to 40 points. This tournament now included a 10 team roster for the Renegades with the addition of Vanessa Villanueva another dual-sport athlete at Ohlone. These wins would set the team up to enter their first conference league game in January.

Conference play started out with a loss to San Mateo but would not stop the team from reaching their goals which is to improve everyday. The team’s first home conference game included an outstanding double digit come back win against Skyline College. Where blood, sweat, and teamwork prevailed as Coach Rizza and the team fought back with resilience. Since then the team is yet to get another win but is eager and ready to reface each conference team in the second round of regular season games.

The Renegades play College of San Mateo at 7pm on Wednesday, Feb 4th. Friday the 13th will represent Ohlone College’s Coaches vs Cancer Pink Day. Also, look forward to Sophomore Night Feb 20th, as the team salutes farewell to their four sophomore teammates.

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