

2004 brought us champions and steroids

This is my favorite time of year. The holidays have once again come and gone, leaving behind an empty feeling, if only in your checkbook. And, seeing as it is our first paper of 2005, I'm going to try to package 2004 into 1,000 words or less.

Last year was one of ups and downs in the sports world.

You had a team with an 86-year drought win the World Series, but you had a handful of players tarnish the season with steroid use.

You had a team win its second Super Bowl in three years, but you had an average of 3.5 wins from our Bay Area sports franchises, along with what I'm sure will prove to be a wasted 1st round draft pick in this April's draft (Matt Leinert stayed in college so he wouldn't be drafted by the 49ers; that's not the story he told, but the sources that speak to me in my head told me otherwise).

You had a team from the east raise up to dethrone the mighty west, but then you had three Indiana players suspended for fighting fans in Detroit.

You had the Tampa Bay Lightning win their first NHL Stanley Cup Championship, but they won't get to defend their title until at least next year, at the earliest, because the league and the player's union have apparently decided that it would be better to fight over crossed t's and dotted i's than to play hockey.



The final score
By **STEVEN CHAVEZ**
Sports editor

Baseball fans are now wondering how the revamped substance abuse policy will affect home runs and other records. Will seasonal home run kings begin hitting numbers only their early-1900s predecessors hit? Will Barry Bonds lead the majors in home runs this year with 27 home runs?

Personally, I believe that the steroid, or rather human-growth hormone, problem facing baseball is only part of the problem.

People say all the time, players nowadays are bigger and in better shape because of the pharmaceutical companies that produce the drugs. They say that players in the 1920s, 30s and so on did not have these advantages and that if they had, Babe Ruth would have hit 1,700 home runs instead of 714.

I'm sure that's part of it.

But don't be so blind to the fact that athletes nowadays are, as a rule, better athletes than those that came before them. Players, even as late as the 1970s, were smokers, drinkers, partiers and drug abusers.

I'm not saying all of them, or half of them, or even trying to say a certain number or them. But it was going on, and I don't think anyone in his or her right mind would try to deny that.

Athletes have access to the best trainers and doctors, as well as equipment that has aged tremendously with the technology.

There is more scientific data about how to train, when to train, where to train, how long to train for and other such variables that have only been tuned over the past 20 years that athletics have become a major money maker.

I can, and perhaps will at a later date, go on and on with this topic. Let's get back to the topic at hand, 2004.

The Boston Red Sox won the World Series for the first time in 86 years. So much has already been said about this that I'll spare you any further exposure. Moving on.

The New England Patriots have officially got themselves a legacy, at least a legacy by today's standards.

In the NFL, the way it is now, it is very common for a team to be good for a year or two and then fall back into the pack of mediocre teams.

The Patriots have managed to remain a very good team for the past seven years. Did you all forget that they also made it to the Super

Bowl in 1999, where they were defeated by the Packers (who were a phenomenal team that season)?

If they can overcome the injuries to their secondary and somehow get past Indianapolis and (probably) Pittsburgh to get to the Super Bowl, where it seems that any of these AFC teams will be crowned champs, they will have to be considered up there with the 70s Steelers, the 80s 49ers and the 90s Cowboys as a team for this decade.

Patriots, team of the 00s.

I would talk about the Tampa Bay Lightning here, but seeing as how the NHL doesn't care enough about its fans to put aside their differences about the millions of dollars they make to play a friggin game, they will not get any further ink in this forum. Starting now.

The Detroit Pistons put the team first before any of their players, and it paid off when they defeated the Shaq/Kobe connection for the NBA title. Rasheed Wallace proved that he could, despite the criticism, play as part of a team and not be a cancer.

They played great defense and fundamentals, which ultimately proved to be the difference in why they won.

Just a little side note: How silly does Kobe look now while Shaq just sits by and keeps winning?

In 2004 Lance Armstrong became the first person in a race 100

years old to win it for the sixth time. More impressive than the quantity was the way he did it. He played the field perfectly and won the race by over six minutes (for those of you unfamiliar with cycling, that's a lot... a lot).

Armstrong hasn't yet decided or announced if he will race in the 2005 tour or if he will concentrate on other races, but this is one vote for him to go for seven.

We had the Olympics in 2004, but because of shady NBC coverage, the most watched sport was beach volleyball (hey, I'm not complaining).

Michael Phelps won a bunch of medals and celebrated by drinking a bunch of liquor and getting behind the wheel of a vehicle. Smart.

Marion Jones was being watched closely by the drug testers at the Olympics this year, so she didn't win anything.

The world got to see a version of the NBA's all-star this year, but the boys didn't even manage to medal, the first time the United States has failed to medal at the Olympics since the inception of the original Dream Team at the 1992 Olympics.

Overall, it was a good year for the sports pages of America, and with characters like Randy Moss (whose fine and criticism are wholly undeserved), 2005 should have plenty of fodder for fire.

Board make peace in the 'owl war'

By **JESSICA LOSSE**
Staff writer

Ohlone's war of the owls appears to be finally over.

Wednesday night, the Ohlone College Board of Trustees ratified a contract with the Haera Wildlife Conservation Bank and will move forward in the relocation of a species of burrowing owls from the site of the new Newark campus on Cherry Street, finally enabling the school to begin construction on the new site.

Seven burrowing owls, considered a "species of special concern" by the California Department of Fish and Game, will be relocated by a conservation company, Wildlife Inc., which aids businesses in finding suitable locations for threatened animals.

The Ohlone board agreed to all of the requirements in the contract, including banding the birds before releasing them into their new location.

The move will cost approximately \$390,000 and will release the school from being responsible for the birds, even if they decide to return to the site. The money will come from a contingency fund that was part of the original \$150 million bond measure passed by voters in Newark and Fremont three years ago to build the new Newark campus and refurbish the Fremont campus.

The threat of the bird's mating season, to start Feb. 1, might have kept the school from breaking ground in April.

During the Wednesday meeting, the board also appointed the positions of representatives for the California Community College Trustees (CCCT), American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC), Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), Alameda County School Boards Association (ACSBA), and the Ohlone College Foundation.

Concert to aid tsunami victims

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looking. Most of all he wants the audience to find out what their mission is about, and why they are trying to raise the money.

There are approximately 400 seats in the Jackson Theater and Cargill hopes to fill every one at \$10 apiece, to raise \$4,000. Other donations will also be accepted.

If anyone is interested in performing at the benefit concert, please contact Chris Cargill at (510) 299-2130.

Art that questions, but doesn't give answers

By **WENDY LAO**
Staff writer

Don't ask Kurt Viegelmann to explain his photographs... because he won't.

Instead, he said, ask yourself what the artwork is about.

Unlike most photographers, most of Viegelmann's art pieces are "joiners." Joiners, which are a combination of photographs of the same scene broken up into multiple sections, are generally used to give photographs a more 3D view, or to show different perspectives of the same scene.

Viegelmann's photographs, described as mixed-media landscape and architectural, have a plumb line running right down the middle. Plumb lines are usually used to determine verticality or depth when a weight is suspended from a string, but in Viegelmann's case, they are used to line up the subject of the multiple photographs.

Hence, his exhibit at the Louie Art Gallery in the Gary Soren Smith Center for Fine and Performing Arts is entitled "Plumbness."

"The idea is, in three or four pictures, it [makes up] a panoramic," Viegelmann said, walking through the gallery. "From a distance, you can step... far far away from a building, and say, 'oh yeah, I recognize that, that's a tall building.' But when you're up closer to the tall building, it's no longer a tall building - it's segments. As you look all the way up, things change with respect to how you see the building. That's more close to what this [series] is about."

Viegelmann's photographs follow artist Rene



Photo by Shari Wargo

Artist and retired Ohlone instructor Kurt Viegelmann talks about his exhibit with reporter Wendy Lao.

Magritte's theme, The Treason of Images. "They don't explain things, they actually ask people to question what it's about," Viegelmann explained.

"Twenty or 30 years ago, you go in a museum and look at some pretty pictures. You'd come out and say, 'oh, those were really lovely,' or 'my favorite was a sunset.' Well, that's not what photographs are about anymore," Viegelmann said. "We're in a different generation... Art doesn't give answers today."

Instead, Viegelmann encourages the viewer to ask the photographs questions. Professor Viegelmann's artwork will be displayed at the gallery until Feb. 9. His reception will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and a lecture will be given at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free.