

Softball forces American River to cry for mercy



Photo by Taylor Dunn

Kristine Beristianos delivers during Ohlone's blowout Thursday. She pitched 4 shutout innings.

By **STEVEN CHAVEZ**
Sports editor

The Ohlone softball team cruised to victory last Thursday over the American River College Beavers, scoring in every inning, eventually forcing the game to be called on account of the "mercy rule" winning the game after the top of the fifth inning was recorded 11-0.

The Lady Renegades jumped ahead to stay in the first inning when leadoff hitter Lauren Pensa walked, stole second, advanced to third on a groundout and scored on a passed ball by American River.

The day didn't get any better for the Beavers, as the Lady Renegades proceeded to assault the scoreboard, sending eight batters to the plate in the second, third and fourth innings, scoring three, three and four runs respectively.

Team captains Kristine Beristianos and Keri Macinsky both had big days

for Ohlone on their way to the win.

Beristianos pitched the first four innings, allowing just two hits to go with her two strikeouts, one walk and one hit-batsman. She also added a 3 for 3 day at the plate, completing three out of the four legs of the cycle- missing only a homer- while scoring three runs and collecting three RBIs.

Macinsky was 2 for 2 with two singles, two stolen bases and three runs scored.

The Lady Renegades were playing an American River team that was playing their first game of the season and they took advantage of overthrows and missed communications with aggressive baserunning.

"That's sour philosophy," said Head Coach Donna Runyon. "We always practice taking the extra base."

That they did, as Ohlone tallied seven stolen bases and advanced base six times on passed balls.

Monica Carrasco scored three runs while going 1 for 2 with an

RBI at the plate. Debi Prince was 1 for 3 with two RBIs.

Ohlone is looking to defend the league title that they won last year, going 14-2 in league play.

"(This is) one of the largest squads I've had, 16," said Runyon. "We have depth in every position."

The Lady Renegades have five sophomore starters: Macinsky, Pensa, Carrasco, Beristianos and transfer student Mallory Lantz from West Valley.

Ohlone has a busy week ahead of them with a game Thursday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m., as well as a doubleheader on Sunday, Feb. 13 with the first game starting at 10 a.m.

Ohlone is then set to take on rival Chabot College next Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 3 p.m.

"It's like when the Raiders play the 49ers," said Runyon. "(Players) can't help it, they just get a little more excited."

All games are being played here at Ohlone College on the softball field.

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Thursday	02/10/05	vs. Modesto Junior College	3:00 p.m.
Sunday	02/13/05	vs. College of Redwoods/ Fresno City	10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday	02/15/05	vs. Chabot College	3:00 p.m.

Two losses in one game for Men's Basketball

By **NICK ZAMBRANO**
Staff writer

How does one celebrate coming off a big victory on a rival's home court? The traditional way would be to keep the team momentum going with another victory over the next opponent. However, that is not always the case. For the boys in the green and gold, it was a night that was completely opposite.

It was a night of losses for the Renegades, the obvious loss came in the form of the 64-49 pounding handed to them by the Owls of Foothill College, last Wednesday night.

But before the game really got into motion, a hush came over the crowd. On the floor of Epler Gym was Ohlone star, Jason Bull.

Bull who had just come off an extraordinary game against Chabot, went down within the first two minutes of the game. The injury occurred while Bull was running down the court and stepped on a Foothill player's foot causing the ankle to buckle. After spending some time

lying on the court, Bull was carried off by the trainers to the sidelines. He then spent the rest of the game on the trainer's bench with his ankle elevated. He will be out for at least one week, if the ankle permits him to come back at all.

Needless to say this affected the outcome of the game.

After Bull was carried off the court, the Renegades were visibly not the same team. The team that had defeated Chabot on their home court the previous week, was nowhere to be found. Foothill dominated the inside game on both sides of the ball, offensively and defensively. Offensively, Foothill dictated the tempo of the game with constant pushes to the basket, leaving the Renegades searching for a defensive prayer.

On offense, Ohlone had no clear cut "go to" man. The Renegade attack, or lack there of, also consisted of constant inside pressure.

Easy lay-up attempts seemed like

unbearable chores for Ohlone, but for Foothill they were genuine opportunities for rebounds.

"We're in trouble, we have to do better on rebounding," expressed Ohlone Head Coach John Peterson on his team's inability to grab more boards.

Although the game was a downer, Ohlone had a few bright spots. Trying to pick up the slack in Bull's absence was Ryan Cooper. Cooper had 12 points and was 5 of 6 from the free throw line.

Also adding to the team effort was sophomore guard Steve Cotton, who had 11 points.

As if things were not going down hill already, Ohlone lost freshmen guard Sam Kim for the rest of the season to a broken wrist.

Peterson admitted that two of the practices prior to the Foothill game weren't of the quality he expects from his players. In regards to practices Peterson said, "we will work on everything." He continued, saying "from one-on-one defending, to rebounding."



Photo by Steven Chavez

Steve Cotton tries to wrestle the ball from a Foothill player while Coach Peterson looks on.

Showing the composure that needs to come with his occupation, Peterson kept his cool and looked on to the future. As far as this game went, Peterson said it best, stating, "there's

no use crying over spilled milk."

The Renegades will be on the road this week, but will have their home finale against rival Chabot on February 19.

Emmitt Smith was the model of class and heart

Thank you for 15 seasons worth of excitement. Thank you for being the most prolific running back to ever play in the NFL in both rushing yards and touchdowns. Thank you for 11 seasons of 1,000 rushing yards and 8 seasons with at least 10 touchdowns, twice going over 20. Thank you for going over 200 carries in all but one of those years.

When I was a young lad, growing up the product of a peninsula-raised father, I was a hardcore 49ers fan.

Seeing as I spent many-a-formative year watching Smith blaze through 49er defenses en route to another Cowboy championship, I greatly resented the guy. I was too young to enjoy the 49er championships before the 90s, so I enjoyed exactly zero at that point. I heard all the

stories, but never really witnessed it in a fashion that could truly be embraced.

In the early 90s, however, I hit maybe the peak of my fanaticism. In both 1992 and 1993 I was forced to watch as my team lost consecutive NFC Championship games to the Smith-led Cowboys, only to watch them win what was supposed to be my championship. *Our* championship (hey, all us niner fans thought they were just supposed to be ours at that point. Boy were we wrong).

It wasn't until the next year that I got to see them win one, I fear the only one I'll ever remember.

Suffice to say, I hated the guy. I cheered when he went down with an injury and sneered when he came



The final score

By **STEVEN CHAVEZ**

back the next series. I called him a wussy for "faking" an injury to call attention to himself when he returned.

I now realize my mistake. He wasn't a wussy.

He was a warrior.

A man that would stand up in the face of adversity, pain and all challenges; a man that would do anything to put his team in a position to win. This is the

guy that arose from a separated shoulder to carry his team to a win on their way to the second title of the Aikman-Smith-Irvin era.

He was a quiet guy who never really stood out, even on the field. Despite all the great things that he accomplished in his career, Smith only garnered two major individual awards in his 15-year career; he won the NFL MVP and the Super Bowl MVP during that 1993 campaign.

Gracious and willing to pass off the accolades to others till the very end, Smith doled out a laundry-list of people to thank during his retirement speech.

The NFL is going to miss Smith, not for his two seasons in Arizona, or even for his 13 in Dallas. No, the

NFL is going to miss the attitude, passion and fire of a man that never gave up, and never did wrong, away from the field or on it.

Pepper Johnson was a 6'3" 250 lb. linebacker on the New York Giants, a bitter rival of the Cowboys, and he had this to say about the 5'10" 250 lb. Smith: "I saw a guy with the eye of a demon, a guy that ran the ball with a passion, a guy that had great vision and a small guy that didn't play small. I remember him picking me up on a blitz and when he hit me, he was like, 'Oh Pepper, I shocked you on that, didn't I?'"

Thank you Mr. Smith, you have truly made an impression on at least two of us.