

Softball team ranked 10th in California

By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

The Lady Renegades softball team earned another victory on Tuesday with a "mercy rule" win over De Anza that kept them undefeated in conference play.

The game was much tighter than the 9-1 finish would imply, as De Anza kept the game close well into the five-inning game.

De Anza actually drew first blood in the top of the first inning when Krista Gambrel singled and came around to score two batters later on another single.

That second hit, however, was the final hit De Anza would collect until the fifth inning, as Kristine Beristianos collected her composure and shut down the Dons for the rest of the game.

Beristianos had six strikeouts and no walks, while giving up just those three hits, as she threw the complete game.

Ohlone answered back in the bottom of the first inning, scoring the first three hitters that came to the plate.

Lauren Pensa led off the game with a single. Keri Macinsky quickly followed with an RBI double. Missy Cross came up next and promptly singled in Macinsky.

Cross later scored when De Anza's pitcher Crystal Fisher, who was called twice for illegal pitches, lost her control and threw three consecutive wild pitches.

The game stayed at 3-1, with neither Ohlone nor De Anza getting even one runner on base in the second or

the third inning.

The top of the fourth was more of the same, but the Lady Renegades broke the monotony in the bottom of the fourth when Mallory Lantz came up with a one-out single. Jackie Pappalardo followed Lantz's single with one of her own.

With two runners on, one out and the game getting older by the second, Ohlone was looking for a big hit to break the game open.

Up next was freshman catcher Kelly Taylor.

After fouling off a number of pitches, Taylor nailed one to deep left-center that was over everyone's head. When the play was over, Taylor was standing on third with a triple and Ohlone had a 5-1 lead.

The Lady Renegades finished off the job in the fifth. After the first two batters were retired, Ohlone started a two-run rally. Alicia Gil-Abrego started the inning with a walk. That was followed by consecutive singles by Monica Carrasco, Kirsten Hiatt and Pappalardo. Taylor again came up big, putting the game at the mercy rule's limit of eight runs after five innings with a double, sending home her third RBI of the game.

Ohlone is now ranked 10th in the state by jcaltransfer.com, ranked behind powerhouses such as West Valley and Butte College (who up till now is the only team to beat Ohlone this season, 5-3 in the Sierra College Tournament two weeks ago).

Ohlone will be playing host to the 13th annual March Madness Tournament this weekend at the Central Park Sports Complex (see gray box below for details), where they will be competing with 15 other teams.

Their next home game is March 15 versus City College of San Francisco.



Photo by Taylor Dunn

Kristine Beristianos delivers a pitch during the Lady Renegades' 9-1 victory over De Anza.

March Madness tournament in Fremont this weekend

The Ohlone softball team will be hosting the 13th annual March Madness tournament this Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13.

The tournament will be held at the Central Park Sports Complex on Stevenson Boulevard.

Sixteen teams from throughout California will compete in the two-day tournament, with each team competing in three games on Saturday.

The teams are divided into four groups of four teams, so each team will play every team in its pool.

The pool play from Saturday will determine how the teams are ranked for Sunday's Gold and Silver Brackets. Those teams will play until

there is one winner of the Silver Bracket and one winner of the Gold Bracket.

Participating teams are as follows: Chabot, Cosumnes River, De Anza, Feather River, Lassen, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Ohlone, Porterville, San Jose City, San Mateo, Siskiyou, Solano, Taft and Yuba College.

Making significant sponsorship contributions: Clif Bar, David Sunflower Seeds, Diamond, Easton Sports, the Fremont Marriott Hotel and Ringor Shoes.

Ohlone will be going into the tournament on a 5-game winning streak and a record of 14-1-1.

Saturday

Ohlone vs. Yuba @ 9 a.m.

Ohlone vs. Lassen @ 1 p.m.

Ohlone vs. Merced @ 5 p.m.

Sunday

1ST ROUND @ 11 a.m.

2ND ROUND @ 1 p.m.

FINALS @ 3 p.m.

Crybaby former players remind teams why they let 'em go



The final score

By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

Now, let's just get this out in the open right off the bat: I was a huge Dustin Hermanson fan the past two seasons.

Back in 2003, Hermanson was

thrown on the scrap heap of the major leagues. He was a pitcher that no one wanted. He had to sign a minor league contact with the Giants just to have a chance at getting back to "the bigs."

Hermanson was converted from a starting pitcher to a closer near the end of last season because the Giants had lost faith in their closer Matt Herges.

He did very well filling into a role that he had not previously tried out, converting 17 out of 20 save opportunities.

Then something happened. That

something was simple: Hermanson believed he was bigger than the team.

I'll make this as simple as possible for you non-sports junkies: players are sometimes given performance incentives in their contracts, giving them more money for achieving certain goals.

Hermanson had it in his contract that he could earn \$200,000 by getting certain numbers.

He didn't get those numbers, according to him, because he was converted to a closer rather than remaining a starter, like he was when he signed.

He actually said that the Giants "screwed" him out of those incentives by turning him into a closer, saying they should have paid him anyway and that if they had paid him he would have signed with them at a discounted rate this season.

Now, I haven't played organized sports in about 6 years, but from what I remember, you sometimes have to make a sacrifice or two in order to do what is best for the team.

Obviously, Hermanson believed he was bigger than the team, and since I have limited space, I'll let

Giants General Manager Brian Sabian explain my feelings.

"We didn't owe him a dime under any circumstances. It sounds like he must not be happy where he's at if he's slamming us, as well as it's pretty ironic we took him off the scrapheap. We can get into revisionist history, too. He was a released player that we turned back into something to get him a contract."

Funny how people forget so quickly what an organization did for them when it's time for the organization to do for him.

Women's swimming victorious over Foothill



Photo by Taylor Dunn

Casey Cardone makes a push for Ohlone during the men's team's loss on Friday. The women won their meet; both teams competed against Foothill.

By BRENDEN BLAKE
Staff writer

The Lady Renegades swim team continued its strong start by beating Foothill College 140-62 in a dual meet last Friday. The victory kept the team's record perfect in dual competition and continued a promising start to the season that coach Gene Kendall hopes will end with a conference title.

Amanda Jackson led the way, as she placed first in three events. Along with being a member of winning free-style relay team, Jackson also won the 1000-meter

free-style and 500-meter free-style. Lauren Ashley also had a strong showing as she won two events, the 50- and 100-meter freestyle. Erin Morgan was the Renegades' third multiple event winner, taking the 100-meter fly along with the 200-meter Individual Medley.

"The one event that I was disappointed in was the 200-meter medley relay loss," said coach Kendall. "Foothill really handed it to us in that event."

Aside from that event, the team was very strong throughout the competition.

A shorthanded men's team suffered its first loss of the year in dual meet competition. "We were missing four key guys," said Kendall. "I feel confident that if we had our full team, we would have come away with the victory."

"I am not too concerned about the loss, because dual competitions don't have anything to do with the conference finals. If we do well there, we can still finish high in conference," Kendall said.

For their next event, both teams will travel to San Luis Obispo for the Questa Invitational on March 18 and 19.