

Softball team wins tournament, now 6th in state

By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

The Lady Renegades added another couple of notches to their collective belts over the weekend, winning the March Madness Tournament by winning 5 out of the 6 games that they played, including a 8-0 "mercy rule" win over Siskiyou College.

Krisitine Beristianos, Keri Macinsky and Kelly Taylor were named to the all-tournament team for their strong performances.

Taylor is starting to show off her hitting ability after starting the season slowly. This success has led coach Donna Runyon to bump her up in the batting order from eighth to fourth.

Beristianos collected four of the

wins over the weekend, with Angelica Franceschini getting the other win over Lassen College.

Franceschini carried her success over this week, throwing a no-hitter against City College of San Francisco on Tuesday.

Ohlone beat Yuba 14-1 and Lassen 17-5 before they were beaten by Merced 3-0, all of those games were played Saturday in pool play.

On Sunday, when they entered bracket play, Ohlone was placed in the gold bracket, rather than the silver bracket, because they were one of the top two teams in their pool.

The Lady Renegades first played Solano College, who they beat 7-4. Next up was Taft College, who are ranked fifth in the state, one spot ahead of Ohlone.

Ohlone took it right to Taft, beating them 8-1 in the semifinals.

The wins on Sunday wrapped up a week that saw Ohlone lose its first league game, a 5-4 heartbreaker to San Mateo College.

San Mateo was also at this weekend's tournament. They, however, did not qualify for the Gold Bracket and weren't in Ohlone's pool, so there was no rematch.

Ohlone will have to wait patiently as they won't play them again until April 19 at home.

Ohlone will be playing in the San Joaquin Delta College Tournament in Stockton this weekend.

Their next league game is against Monterey Peninsula College on Tuesday, March 22 at 3 p.m.

Ohlone softball players hold up the March Madness Tournament Championship trophy that they won by going 5-1 over this past weekend (top).

Lauren Pensa slides safely into the base during one of the games held on Sunday (below).



Photo by Inez Black



Photo by Shari Wargo

Renegade baseball beats Gavilan College 6-3



Photo by Taylor Dunn

Patrick McLaughlin takes a swing during Ohlone's win over Gavilan College last Thursday. Ohlone's next game is today against Cañada College.

By BRENDEN BLAKE
Staff writer

The Ohlone Renegades baseball team powered its way to a 6-3 win over Gavilan College behind power hitting and an impressive complete game thrown by pitcher Matt Bush.

Ohlone took an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Aldo Difede blasted a home run down the right field line. Ohlone went on to score two more in the bottom of the second when Jimmy Davenport hit an impressive solo blast that went over the 390 sign in center field. The later run came when a runner from third scrambled home after a passed ball rolled all the way to the backstop.

Gavilan was able to fight back in the top of the third inning when their right fielder hit a ball into

center field with a runner on third that turned into an RBI single.

After Adam Reeves' Titanic shot to center field gave the Renegades a 4-1 lead, Gavilan fought back again in the top of the fourth when a high throw to first base by an Ohlone defender went out of play, allowing 2 runners to score from second and third.

Fortunately for the Renegades, those would be the last runs Gavilan would score, as Matt Bush put in a truly excellent pitching performance. Bush at points was down right unhittable, as he dazzled hitters with intimidating fastballs and perfectly placed off-speed pitches that left Gavilan hitters guessing at pitches all day. Bush finished the complete game with 1 earned run and 8 strikeouts in a performance that many would

call outstanding.

"That was a typical Matt Bush performance," said Renegades outfielder Brent Bowers. "Every single day he goes out and competes. He is our workhorse."

The Renegades were able to tack on two more insurance runs, one in the bottom of the 5th inning when Reeves continued his big day by coming through with runners in scoring position, hitting a clutch RBI double into center field. The other came in the bottom of the 7th when Difede got his second RBI of the day on a single that trickled into the outfield.

In a game that showcased impressive power hitting and quality starting pitching, the Renegades looked like the team that last year made it all the way to the final four in the state.

Bay Bridge Series II this season. No, seriously



The final score
By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

A new spring season signifies a new beginning for professional baseball and its pharmaceutically enhanced employees. Yes, I am well aware that not all of baseball's players are juiced, but that isn't any reason for us to lose our sense of humor. In fact, in the era of cartoon size heads, pecs and biceps, it wouldn't be a stretch to call some of these guys comic book heroes.

So let's get down to business, namely, Bay Area baseball.

A lot has changed since we last saw the A's or the Giants on the field.

We've seen some players come, some players go. We've watched the old team get older and the young team get younger. Through it all, we'll see the one thing that has been constant the past five years stay constant; the A's and the Giants are both going to be competitive in their division.

In fact, let me be the first sports-writer to be called a lunatic this season: the A's and the Giants are ready for a rematch 16 years in the making.

That's right folks, you heard it here first; Bay Bridge Series II is coming this October to your local Fox affiliate.

Why, you ask, do I think that a team where the youngest star is 34 and another team where the oldest star is 26 will beat out the other 28 teams?

Simple, the Giants are too experienced and good enough not to beat themselves and the A's are "too stupid" to care about where they're "supposed" to finish.

Now, of course, I'm not calling the A's stupid. Nobody that has watched them bring up stud after stud from their minor league system these past six years or so could rationalize calling them stupid.

I'm just saying that teams that are young enough to not truly grasp the magnitude of what they are accomplishing can sometimes do awesome things.

Watching Zito, Mark Mulder, Tim Hudson, Jason Giambi, Miguel Tejada, Bobby Crosby and Eric Chavez (with a name like that I should have listed him first), among

others, mature and grow as players has been phenomenal.

Of course, Only Zito, Crosby and Chavez are still with the club. Why, then, am I so high on this club?

Two words: Rich Harden.

Harden is a guy that is only 23 years young and has already established himself as a pitcher. He isn't flashy, but his stuff is. He is the next Roger Clemens, based on the assumption that this fireballer stays healthy, his stuff is that nasty.

With the additions of Kiko Calero, Danny Haren, Juan Cruz and Dan Meyer through trades made this off-season, the A's pitching staff is going to be among the very best in baseball.

Add to that the fact that they have at least six hitters in their everyday lineup that could hit 15-20 homers, and you have a pretty complete club.

The Giants have built their team in a different way.

You have to look hard for players that they drafted and brought up through their minor league system, opting rather to draft tons of young pitching prospects and trade them to teams that hurt for pitching; go back and check out some deals they made for guys like Jeff Kent and

Jason Schmidt if you don't believe that (Keith Foulke was one of those guys).

They've built their team through trades and free agent signings. Some of those players on the team picked up through free agency are: Ray Durham, Edgardo Alfonzo, Mike Matheny, JT Snow, Omar Vizquel, Marquis Grissom and Moises Alou. Oh yeah, and that guy that wears number 25 and roams left field, he was a free agent too. That is their entire starting lineup this season.

With the exception of Alfonzo, they all deserve to be starters. Quick side-note, how in the world can Filipe Alou justify playing Alfonzo ahead of Pedro Feliz? I mean, weren't the 22 homers and 77 RBI's in a utility role enough to earn Feliz a starting position on a team where the third baseman, which just happens to be Feliz' position, is a guy that can't hit or play defense? Oh well, that's a topic for another column.

Add a rotation that features Schmidt, who will finally win a Cy Young Award this season and young phenom Noah Lowry, along with strong performers Brett Tomko, Jerome Williams and hopefully-benefiting-from-a-catcher-that-will-make-him-throw-inside-so-hitters-don't-just-sit-on-the-out-

side-corner Kurt Reuter and the Giants have a top tier pitching staff as well.

The bullpens on both teams are a question mark, but both teams believe, and I do too, that they will be just fine. The Giants added Armando Benitez to ensure that all of the relievers had a true spot in that bullpen, which always helps guys out. The A's have Octavio Dotel who, according to himself, has a much improved breaking ball that could be the question to the answer that American League hitters had over him most of last season.

I guess what I'm trying to say is this: the A's and Giants will be playing warm-up games against one another this year when inter-league play kicks off.

Brian Sabean and Billy Beane, the two General Managers for the Giants and A's, respectively, have done magnificent work this off-season.

Moises Alou's ability to drive in runners behind Bonds and Harden's ability to fill the role of staff ace are the key factors.

If everything falls into place healthwise, these two teams will play in October, sans earthquake this time I hope.