



Softball shut out 4th ranked team in California

By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

The Ohlone softball team added a huge notch to their belts on Wednesday, defeating the team that was previously ranked fourth in California, the West Valley College Vikings, by a final of 2-0.

According to jucaltransfer.com, the Lady Renegades actually had moved ahead of West Valley in the rankings before Wednesday's game even happened, but that didn't deter from the mission at hand: defeat the powerhouse that is West Valley College.

Ohlone did just that, with a steady dose of pitching star Kristine Beristianos.

"We needed Kristine to be on," said sophomore shortstop Kerri Macinsky.

Beristianos was on, dominating the Vikings for a complete game shutout. She finished giving up only five hits while recording five strikeouts.

The game was everything that one might expect from two of the top ranked teams in California.

The pitcher's duel was on from the very beginning, but that does not mean that both teams didn't have their chances to score.

In the bottom of the second inning, Monica Carrasco led off the inning with a single. Beristianos followed with a sacrifice attempt that was bunted toward the first baseman but was dropped.

With runners on first and sec-



Photo by Taylor Dunn

Jackie Pappalardo slides in safely at third in Tuesday's winning game against Hartnell College.

ond and no one out, Mallory Lantz came up and laid down a sacrifice that she almost turned into a hit when the ball sailed over the first baseman's head.

Ashley Marra came up next and hit a linedrive to the third baseman who stepped on third after she caught the drive to finish the double play.

The game would continue on in this fashion for most of the afternoon. The exception to this was the bottom of the third, the only inning in the game where there was a number other than zero on the scoreboard.

In that inning, Lauren Pensa led off the inning with a walk and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Jackie Pappalardo.

Missy Cross was then intentionally walked to put runners on first and second. Macinsky was then hit by a pitch, loading the bases with only one out.

Kelly Taylor then came up and flied to center. Carrasco came up next and drew a bases loaded walk to drive in the first run of the

game. Beristianos then got a little help from the West Valley club, as she hit a grounder to the second baseman, who promptly booted it allowing the second and final run of the game to score.

There were some tense moments after that third inning, like the very next inning when the Vikings' first two hitters of the fourth reached base via singles.

Beristianos, however, main-

tained her edge and got the next three hitters out without allowing the runners to even advance base.

Ohlone plays Mission College today at 3 p.m. here on campus.

Looking ahead, they only have five games, including the game against Mission College, before the start of the postseason, which begins May 7.

Ohlone is now 25-3-1 on the season.

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