

Hey, moron; losing the best can't make you better

Hi kids. It has been four weeks since I've been able to rant about anything, due to lack of space, time and/or the occasional police shut-down of the campus.

I am, however, planning on making it up to those of you who missed me in these last five issues with non-stop blathering about whatever I deem necessary (and if you didn't miss me, you get all summer to enjoy a life without *the Final Score*).

Now, on to this week's topic, and it's a new one: Barry Bonds.

I've heard many people in the media talking about how the San Francisco Giants are going to be a better team *without* Bonds.

Nothing could be further from the truth than saying a team could be better without its best player.

The New York Yankees would not be any better if Derek Jeter got hurt.

The Oakland A's wouldn't be better if Eric Chavez got hurt.

The fact of the matter is that no team gets better without their best player. Teams sometimes survive without them, but they won't get better.

They can't get better. It hurts my brain to even think that there are people in the profession that I so desperately want to break into, sports writing, that think so idiotically about



The Final Score

By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

sports. How did these people catch their big break to get them on ESPN or in the San Francisco Chronicle when they clearly don't have all of their neurons firing about the topics they're discussing?

Shouldn't the people that cover these topics know a little bit about the sport and the way it's played?

I just have to wonder about some sports writers and think: there is no way these people ever played beyond little league. There is no way they ever progressed beyond everyone telling them that "it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game," and then collecting their free hot dog and soda for participating.

There is no way they ever played at a competitive level where they could actually drive to the game.

They need to wake up, because the sports they cover and the culture of its players have progressed beyond the box that the writers

think in.

Barry Bonds *is* the best player in baseball.

Barry Bonds makes everyone around him better.

One point may be true. The Giants will be a better *team* if they have any hopes of staying in the hunt long enough for the part of the season where Bonds does come back.

Without Bonds they are reduced to a bunch of old guys that are, hopefully, wiley and gritty enough to pick up the slack for the missing left fielder.

Bonds will come back and he will have an awesome year. He said it and when Bonds speaks, you should heed his warning (I'm talking to the pitchers of the National League with that comment).

Until he does, the Giants will be a .500 team.

Being a .500 team is not at all up to the standards that the Giants have established for themselves over the last five years.

I hope there will someday soon be an open door for a writer that actually knows the game, its players (on a real level being that I was once one of them, kinda) and the realities of star athletes and huge contracts.

If there are any editors reading, I'm talking about me.

Softball team is 4th in California

By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

The Ohlone softball team has moved into fourth in the latest *jucalsports.com* poll this week. Climbing up the poll for the fourth consecutive week, it begs the question: how far can they actually go?

Based on another fine week, which saw Ohlone turn back Mission College 14-1 on Wednesday and closest rival Chabot 4-1 on Tuesday, all this on the heels of their impressive 2-0 over fellow top 10 team West Valley, one could argue that this team is all set to make a potentially winning run at the state title this season.

The win on Tuesday over Chabot completed the sweep for Ohlone this season, who outscored Chabot a combined 20-4 this year.

The game on Tuesday was highlighted by another stellar performance by pitching ace Kristine Beristianos and freshman catcher Kelly Taylor's dominating performance at the plate.

Beristianos allowed only one run, while giving up five hits and striking out five.

Taylor went 2 for 3 with the bat, including a sixth inning triple that hit off the left field fence, just feet shy of going for a home run.

The triple led off the inning and led to Ohlone scoring their third and



Photo by Taylor Dunn

Mallory Lantz takes a swing for the softball team.

fourth runs of the game, giving a little insurance to Beristianos and robbing Chabot of the momentum they built in the top of the sixth.

In the top of the inning, Chabot scored their only run when their fourth and fifth hitters hit a single and a double, consecutively. The runner on second, the tying run at the time, was then caught stealing for the second out, a move that was questioned by more than a few.

With the momentum they have built already, and only three games left until the postseason, the softball team is in good shape for a strong playoff push.

Baseball team drops a close game to rival Chabot

By BRENDEN BLAKE
Staff writer

The Ohlone Renegades men's baseball team lost 6-2 to Chabot on Saturday afternoon. In a game that showed the Renegades fall behind early, and unable to mount a solid offensive attack, they played from behind all day.

Chabot's center fielder led off the game by roping a double down the first base line on the game's very first pitch. He scored when another Chabot hitter poked an RBI double into the gap in left field. After pitcher Vinny Clement managed to induce a groundout and a strikeout, Chabot's second baseman slapped the Gladiators third double of the inning, scoring a runner from second, giving

Chabot a 2-0 lead going into the bottom of the first.

Chabot pitcher Nick Buchta was absolutely lights out through the first three innings as he retired eight of the first nine batters he faced. More bad news came for the Renegades in the top of the third when Chabot extended its lead to 4-0 on a two-run blast over the left field fence. Chabot was able to score again in the top of the fourth when a throwing error led to runners on first and third, and a perfectly placed bunt down the third base line made Chabot's lead 5-0.

Ohlone pulled to within 5-2 in the bottom of the fourth when a Chabot throwing error left two Ohlone runners in scoring position. That's when Brent Bowers

came to the plate and hit a solid single that scored two runs. Unfortunately for the Renegades, those were the only two runs they would score all game, as they stranded runners on base and missed several key opportunities to score runs. Included was a huge opportunity in the bottom of the sixth that showed Buchta walk the first two Ohlone hitters. After a strikeout and a pop out, Chabot was able to escape the inning without any damage when an Ohlone hitter fouled out to the catcher.

"We had our share of opportunities to get back in the game, we just didn't get it done," said Ohlone's Brent Bowers. "We can't let falling behind early get us down, it's a nine inning game."



Photo by Taylor Dunn

Jeremy Hill tosses a pitch for the Renegades during Saturday's 6-2 loss to Chabot College.

2nd annual fun run goes off without a hitch

By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

The 2nd Annual Vikings/Renegades 5K Fun Run went off without a hitch on April 3, with runners taking in a beautiful run while helping to raise money for the athletic department here on campus.

The run was started last year by an Irvington High School senior as part of his Quest Project to bring something to his local community.

On a cold, overcast morning, 35 runners took off from the Palm Bosque, down Olive Alley to Mission Boulevard. From there, runners turned north and turned right when they got to Anza Road, up the hill to Anza-Pine Road back

to the Palm Bosque. They ran past the Bosque, through the bus turn-around and up Aquatic Way, the road that only buses are allowed to the "top of the Ohlone world." This road leads all the way around, back to Anza Road, and runners went all the way down the hill, back out to Mission Boulevard for the final stretch run. They took Mission all the way to Pine Street, made a lap out of Parking Lot K, and finished by going back up Pine Street to the bus turn-around, finishing back in the Palm Bosque.

"(It was a) good event," said Ohlone's Head Athletic Trainer and Race Director Chris Warden. "Everything went well. The sponsors were happy."

The runners, thankfully,

missed the rain that didn't make its way to Fremont until later on in the afternoon.

Three men and three women were given medals for finishing in the top 3 in their gender.

Matthew Stemm was the first person to cross the finish line, with a time of 17:58. He was followed by Brian Collott and Doug Croft, 16 and 33 seconds after Stemm, respectively.

In the women's class, Michelle Bekamper finished first, with a time of 21:11. Amanda Kahn and Laurei Davis finished 30 and 56 seconds after Bekamper, respectively.

The race netted Ohlone's athletic department over \$800. The 35 participants were a strong increase over last year's 15.



Hartmut Foken times Delores Loera (left) while Chris Warden and Lisa Morano register racers last Sunday.



Photos by Shari Wargo