

## New coach hopes to bring success from CSUEB

By NICK ZAMBRANO  
Staff writer

A team is nothing without its players, and when the number of players is minimal, the life support is close to being pulled.

Ohlone, we have a problem. The women's volleyball team is inching closer to the plug for the upcoming season. First year Head Coach Jamie Cortez is desperately trying to field a team for this upcoming season and is seeking anyone interested in playing.

Cortez comes to us from Cal State East Bay, where she was an assistant coach under legendary coach Jim Spagle for the last two seasons. Prior to those two seasons at CSUEB, Cortez was also involved with the volleyball programs at Castro Valley and Deer Valley High Schools.

This year's squad does have a few returning players, among them, Donnalyne Sanchez. Sanchez is joined by women's basketball stars Angelica Benjamin and Melanie Inouye. Adding even more to this year's squad is two-sport star Jessica Soderholm.

Soderholm comes to us from James Logan High where she also played softball and was a teammate of Benjamin's on the school's volleyball team.

Yes, these girls are highly talented and skilled but the team still needs more girls to fill the squad. For those unfamiliar with the game of volleyball, it takes six people on the court to play a match.

Have a fear being laughed off the team? No worries.

Cortez welcomes any girl wanting to try out, no experience necessary.

All that Cortez asks is that players come ready to have a positive learning experience.

So to any girls interested in trying out for the squad this season, please take the following into consideration.

Tryouts have been under way since Aug. 15 and are held Monday through Friday, from 12:20 to 3 p.m., in Epler Gymnasium. Tryouts end Sept. 2.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Coach Cortez at (510) 659-6051.

**New Ohlone Volleyball Coach Jamie Cortez hopes to build on the potential shown last season. The volleyball team finished the 2004 season at an even 8-8. Last season, Cortez was an assistant coach for the Cal State University East Bay team that finished last season ranked 7th in the country, Division 3.**

Photo by Devina Deo



## Softball coach reaches rare last season milestone

By SARA KWAN  
Staff writer

Students from a beginning softball class gathered around the dug-out before their second day of class and among all the chattering came a firm voice, "Are you wearing jeans?" A student replies, "I always wear jeans when playing softball." Donna Runyon said, "Not in this class." There was not another rebuttal.

Other students laughed, but beyond the humor was the demanding and firm yet gentle voice of Coach Runyon, or as she prefers to be called, "Coach." She would loudly yell out instructions to her students and players but would go back to a

calmer tone when speaking with someone standing next to her. The upbeat and fit Coach achieved a milestone last season that only a few elite softball coaches in California have reached.

Runyon didn't know it was coming. It wasn't until her players showed up to a game in San Mateo with flowers and cards that she realized she was sitting on 599 career wins. Her team tried too hard that night and Runyon had to wait until the next game, where the team promptly came back to help Runyon reach her privileged achievement, getting 600 wins.

The modest Coach thought nothing of it and stated that the only

important goals for the team are the three goals they set in the beginning of the season. Every season, team members set three goals for themselves, last season they met all three. The three goals were to win their tournament, to win more than 30 games and to get a 3.0 GPA.

Runyon demands respect not only as a teacher and coach, but also as a friend. The former catcher of softball Pro League teams said it's important that players rally around each other and motivate each other to be good. Team chemistry is significant and Runyon said she encourages her players to share personal experiences as a way of

teaching life lessons on and off the field.

Runyon created an attitude for her team that is modeled by her idolization of professional baseball players Will Clark and Pete Rose, who brought hustle and the desire to win to every game.

Runyon's team plays dirty and plays hard. She encourages them to never give up and they never did, getting her three consecutive

championship trophies from 2003-2005. Along the way, they helped her reach 600 wins.

Runyon will receive her award for reaching 600 wins at the National Fast Pitch Coach Convention, attended by softball coaches from high schools, other two year colleges and four year universities. Awards will be presented to coaches who achieve wins by the hundreds (100 wins, 200 wins, etc.).

### Soccer season to open

The Renegade soccer team kicks off the 2005 campaign this weekend in the Allan Hancock Tournament in Santa Maria. The Lady Renegade soccer season opens here on campus Thursday, Sept. 1 at 4 p.m. on the soccer field.

## Tragedy in the Bay Area, folly in Baltimore

Welcome back to the Final Score. This has been a fun summer in the world of sports and I plan on filling you in the way only I can. So if you haven't kept up with the sporting world as a whole or you just tuned in to hear some comedic banter, you should be in for quite a treat.

We begin our fun-filled look at sports with a serious story, the late Thomas Herrion. Herrion fell dead following a preseason game that saw his 49ers lose to the Broncos. Herrion was on the field for the game's final drive, helping lead the way for the 49ers to march down the field to score what ultimately was a meaningless touchdown in the game. The drive was not meaningless to Herrion, however, as he came off the field with a typical jovial Herrion smile, asking former Pro Bowl offensive lineman Guy McIntyre how he did and what he might be able to improve upon.

The tragedy of Herrion has been felt throughout the fraternity that is the NFL but its most obvious effects were felt right here in the Bay Area. Now, keep in mind that grown men are often ridiculed and/or looked upon as weak to show fear or soft emotions. It is not "manly" or "courageous" to show anything on the football field but sheer aggression. Herrion's death transformed 75 men into humble, sorrowful beings, un-

afraid to show their emotions on their sleeves.

Pro Bowl center Jeremy Newberry, perhaps, best summed up why he was having trouble holding back the tears as he spoke to the media on Monday.

"His whole goal in life was to be in this football team and take care of his family," Newberry said. "I mean we're pretty fortunate to be able to do that and to have our health, for the most part. It makes me feel small whining about, you know, a sore knee or an ankle and this and that, when a guy was fighting for his life and lost that battle."

Herrion was not a star, or a standout on the field. At 23, he had yet to even make his first NFL regular season roster. He spent the past two preseasons with the Cowboys and the 49ers with a stint in NFL Europe in between.

Herrion was a star off the field. Affectionately known as "Ruben Studdard" to his teammates for his robust size and breathtaking singing voice, Herrion could be counted on to pick up the team with a song or a few jokes. His mother, interviewed following her son's death on ESPN, said that she was once told by a teacher that if this football thing didn't work out, he could always look into a career as a comedian.



**The Final Score**  
By STEVEN CHAVEZ  
Sports editor

The 49ers will wear a sticker with the number 72 on it for the entire season, honoring their fallen teammate. It's sad that we'll never know how good this man could have been on the football field, but in the game of life, Herrion was Pro Bowl caliber.

The summer wasn't only full of undeserved personal tragedy, some of it was self-inflicted. Rafael Palmeiro, for one, has had a crazy summer.

He went from a certain trip to the Hall of Fame, joining an elite group of four players to collect both 500 home runs and 3,000 hits in their career (his company in the 3,000/500 club: Willie Mays, Eddie Murray and home run king Henry Aaron, all Hall of Fame inductees), to shame and humiliation only the likes of Marion Jones has seen before him. At least that's what *should* have happened.

The same way that Sammy Sosa squirmed off the hook after the corked bat incident, baseball's me-

dia giants have allowed fellow Latino Palmeiro to slide away from any guilt, embarrassment or shame by letting the story die.

This, my friends, is your example of media bias (and I'm only slightly talking about myself). Allow me to play devil's advocate for a moment. If this *exact* same situation came up, and the name on the positive result list was Barry Bonds instead of Rafael Palmeiro, we would still be hearing Bonds's name, every single day, and how much of a cheater/drug abuser he was.

The media excuse for why Bonds was singled out so much in the first days of BALCO was because of the historical implications that came along with what Bonds was accomplishing on the field.

He was putting up first-ballot Hall of Fame numbers and had put himself into a class that only two other men had occupied before him in the 700 home run club.

Palmeiro's, however, is every bit as huge and historical as a positive Bonds test. The difference? Bonds ruffles the collective media feathers while Palmeiro denies, denies, denies.

Quick note: How convenient is it that the french newspaper L'Equipe has all this damning evidence against *seven* time Tour de

France champion Lance Armstrong *seven* years after the original tests were taken in 1999 when Armstrong has no realistic recourse for defending himself?

All I really have to say is this: Armstrong has *never* tested positive in the past and there really isn't any reason to consider this allegation truth. This is the same paper that has tried to tarnish Armstrong's name in the past. Smells like these European journalists have the same bug up their collective asses about Armstrong that American journalists have for Bonds.

Quick note, part 2: Why would ESPN go to commercial with the lead, "If he knew then what they know now, Barry Bonds would not be a Giant," when Peter Magowen didn't say that?

He said he wouldn't have guaranteed the pick-up of his 2006 contract. He added, "I'd like to think if I had all the accomplishments he had, especially late in life like he's had them, and I asked my organization for an extension, I might feel pretty let down, if not insulted, that they didn't consider my request."

That is straight up irresponsible journalism and someone should call ESPN on their crap. I'll just address everyone...

Hey, press guys, you suck!