



Swing Away

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

Janikowski puts Raiders at 1-3

Raider fans rejoice you are finally in the win column! And guess what? Sebastian Janikowski helped put you there.

Janikowski nailed four field goals to put the Raiders on top of the Dallas Cowboys, 19-13 this past weekend in Oakland. This came as a shock to most, as Janikowski missed two field goals last week against the Eagles.

The Raiders lost the previous week to the Eagles 23-20, a game that was within hands reach if had not been for Jano. A victory over Donovan McNabb and company could have been sweet. How many other teams could say they have done that?

Back to Jano for a moment. His two missed field goals could have put the Raiders over the Eagles and leave the Silver and Black going into their bye week with a 2-2 record. And the last time I checked 2-2 is better than 1-3, a whole lot better.

Keeping with the theme of numbers, Sea Bass was 2 for 2 on field goal attempts from 40 yards out in the game against Dallas, but was 0 for 1 in the same range against Philly.

These kind of kicks should be chip shots for a guy like Janikowski, who was taken in the first round by the Raiders six years ago for his superior leg strength. There was no excuse for that missed kick.

In his six-year stint in the NFL, Janikowski is ironically only 40 for 59 on attempts from 40 yards out, a percentage of 66, while most kickers in the league are over 70 percent from 40 yards out. But if you look back a couple seasons, the Raiders have had their problems with kickers. Remember Cole Ford? Booned right out of town.

Now do you really want that to happen Jano? I mean the Raider Nation are already perhaps the toughest fans in football, but do you really want to give them more reason to go psycho?

And how often are games decided by less than a touchdown? Twenty-four games, 24 games in a season that is only four weeks old. And guess what?

The last three games the Raiders have played were decided by that margin. So much for the offense that was supposed to carry the Raiders back into the playoffs.

Wake up Sea Bass, don't expect your work to be minimal. A kicker has as much importance to a team as the quarterback does.

So next time when you're putting on that silver and black jersey, remember it comes with a commitment to excellence. So you make sure you bring that, and just win baby because you do not want to be the next Cole Ford.

Squared up



Photo by Daniel Kwan

Baseball is still in full swing this fall as the Ohlone Renegades prepare for their upcoming season in Spring 2006. The season starts up in February.



The final score
By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Correspondent

Smith finally takes the helm

Back to what's important, in a word: football. This week saw the Raiders defeat the Cowboys and the 49ers beat the Cardinals.

Wait, the new and improved "contenders for the division title" 49ers lost to the friggin' Cardinals? That quote was a paraphrase of what their coach, Mike Nolan, has been-and still is- spewing out of his athlete's foot-riddled mouth.

Finally, though, the 49ers can begin the long rebuilding process this week when rookie Alex Smith takes the helm and tries to get the once-proud organization back on its feet.

Smith was drafted first in this year's draft, given a contract worth \$24 million in guaranteed money and touted as the future and savior of the 49ers. He gets his first chance to prove his worth on Sunday against the undefeated Colts.

If you haven't followed the NFL yet this year, the Colts are still good, but it's their DEFENSE that is putting them in a position to win each week.

Smith won't be able to just go out and pick apart a weak defense in his first week. Expect for Smith to have a bad start. He isn't going to go out and turn this team around this week, or this season, for that matter.

If you're counting, only one person in NFL history that was drafted first overall, since the AFL-NFL merger in the early '60s has been able to lead his team to a winning record his first season. He was pretty good though, and I'm not sure that Smith could even carry John Elway's jockstrap.

The Raiders got their first win this week, defeating the Cowboys in an ugly but "we'll take it" game. Going into their bye week, 1-3 isn't impressive, but it's worlds better than 0-2005.

Looking at their schedule, though, it may be getting easier, aside from San Diego following the bye week and then once more in December. The only other game they play against an opponent to speak of is in the season's final week against the Giants.

It wouldn't be out of the question for this team to pull themselves together to even out at 8-8, and in today's NFL, that might be enough for the playoffs. More likely, however, they'll suffer the same fate as the 49ers, no football in January.

Women's soccer blanks San Francisco City College

By SARA KWAN
Staff writer

The Lady Renegades continued their hot streak on Friday against San Francisco City College. The roads were against them when they were informed last minute of San Francisco's double header, which pushed their game to 2 p.m. instead of the originally planned 4 p.m.

However, Coach Larry Heslin fit 12 players into a van and drove to San Francisco to play the game at its scheduled time.

Reinforcements joined them later on, but Ohlone had enough players to get things started, and the girls did not let Coach Heslin

down. The game was scoreless throughout the first half, but in the middle of the second half the Lady Renegades scored two goals, one by forward Sarah Fernandez and the other by midfielder Kristina Eng.

That proved to be enough, as the Ohlone defense shut out San Francisco. Amanda Lopez protected the goal safely for Ohlone as they held on to win another game.

Unfortunately, they could not muster any offense for their game on Tuesday against Cabrillo.

The Lady Renegades allowed Cabrillo to jump on the scoreboard early with two quick goals in the first five minutes of the game. Ohlone had many opportunities to

score themselves in the first half, but wasn't able to capitalize.

In the second half, Cabrillo blew the game wide open with three more goals and shut down the Ohlone offense for the rest of the game as the Lady Renegades dropped it, 5-0.

"We're going to try to not start off too slowly anymore," said Coach Heslin.

The Lady Renegades have a game this Friday against De Anza College. If they win that game, the worst position they will be in is a tie for first going into the second half.

"It's a matter of the girls coming out to play and believing in themselves," Coach Heslin said. "If we do that, we should be alright."

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Men's Soccer:
Wednesday 10/05/05 - versus Evergreen Valley at 4 p.m.

Friday 10/07/05 - versus Shasta at 2 p.m.

Friday 10/11/05 - versus Mission at 4 p.m.

Wednesday 10/19/05 - versus Chabot at 4 p.m.

Friday 10/28/05 - versus Cabrillo at 4 p.m.

Women's Soccer:
Tuesday 10/11/05 - versus Mission at 2 p.m.

Men's Water Polo:
Friday 10/14/05 - versus Modesto Jr. at 3:30 p.m.

Women's WaterPolo:
Wednesday 10/12/05 - versus American River at 3 p.m.

Women's Volleyball:
Friday 10/07/05 - versus West Valley at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 10/19/05 - versus Foothill at 6:30 p.m.