



Swing Away

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

Indy is cruising

Going undefeated for the season is a rare feat. Teams have come close, but none have repeated what the Dolphins did in 1972. However, for many reasons, the Indianapolis Colts got people thinking that the act can and will be duplicated.

I agree.

The boys from Indy just came off an impressive Monday night victory that put them at 11-0. A lot of teams were picked to break the streak, but none have even come close to succeeding. Let's go down the list of victims: St. Louis, Cincinnati, New England and as of this past Monday night, Pittsburgh (26-7, ouch). All teams with powerful offenses capable of blowing any team out the water.

So that must mean that they're doing it on the defensive side of the ball, right? Right.

Led by defensive linemen Dwight Freeney (7 sacks), Montae Reagor (4.5 sacks) and Robert Mathis (10 sacks) the Colts defense is ranked eighth in the NFL in total defense. This past Monday night, the Colts did not allow the Steelers a first down until their fourth drive of the game.

Another factor in the Colts' success would have to be playing inside the RCA Dome.

The noise factor has placed a burden on all visiting teams. Playing in the dome has caused numerous false starts for the opposition and just makes it easier for Freeney and the defense to clear way for the offense.

Even Al Michaels and John Madden say it's like having that twelfth man on the field.

The Colts are also well disciplined.

Unlike our hometown team, the Raiders, who have committed the most penalties in the league, the Colts have committed the least. In the 12 weeks of play, the Colts have only 120 penalties (53 on offense, 67 on defense) to their rap sheet.

We all wondered how Peyton Manning was going to follow up his record-breaking touchdown performance last season, but none of us thought that this was going to happen but honestly, with the weapons Manning has on offense I'm surprise we didn't see this sooner.

Edgerrin James has provided that great rushing attack to balance Manning's passing game, averaging 111.6 yards per game. James also adds to the arsenal of targets that Manning deploys. "Oh my, James, Harrison, Wayne, or Clark, who am I going to throw to now?"

Not bad for a team who didn't win a single game in the preseason.

Stanley's girls on six game win streak

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

On fire. That's it, that's how you could describe Ohlone's ladies of the hardwood. Honestly, how else could you describe a team that has won six out of their first seven games?

This current streak has been no easy task for the Lady Renegades, as they have taken on some of the tougher opponents in the state. Earlier this month, they took on Sierra College, who are one of the top five in the Northern California area, and won, 69-67. What was even more impressive is that they beat Sierra on their own court, in their own tournament. Sierra had not suffered a loss at home in more than two years before Ohlone came to visit.

Spearheading the Ohlone attack was Alcha Strane. The sharpshooting Strane had 25 points, and was three of four from the three-point line.

During the tournament sophomore Kaycie Zimmerman was named MVP of the tournament. She put up 11 points and six rebounds in the game against Sierra.

Sierra sought revenge as they



Photo by Nick Zambrano

From left: Angelica Benjamin, Liezel Dacuycuy, Aofie Sands, Tasha Gonzalez, Kaycie Zimmerman, Laura Elliot, Alcha Strane, Erika Mahler, Amanda Everett, Erin Stewart, LaKeshia Hokes-Vaught, Jenna Nicholson, Christine Vargas and Erica Scoles.

came down to face the Lady Renegades in Epler Gym Nov. 26.

And once again our ladies of the hardwood prevailed winning by the same score as in the first game.

"I'm extremely happy for our

team," said Head Coach Elizabeth Stanley of her team's success.

The dominance should be a clear sign of things to come. "Success will be anticipated," said Stanley.

Stanley certainly does have the

right team for the job.

All five starters are experienced sophomores and the bench is filled with freshmen with raw talent. "This is the most coachable group of team I've ever had," said Stanley.

Lady Renegades out, but not down

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

It is often said that in defeat, lessons can be learned. No one can tell you that better than first year Women's Head Volleyball Coach Jamie Cortez.

Cortez and the Lady Renegades went through the year constantly changing and rebuilding. This year's squad only had three returning players, forcing Cortez to recruit. And did she ever, in the short amount of time between the first day of school and the team's first match, she managed to suit up a team.

Getting a team together was just step one.

In her recruiting efforts, Cortez attracted all experience levels. Thus presenting the task of teaching all the rules and aspects of the game. "If the heart is there, you can teach them anything," said Cortez. Luck-

ily, Cortez also had some help.

Enter her three returning players, Donnalynn Sanchez, Angelica Benjamin and Melanie Inouye.

The trio helped Cortez by acting as the leaders on the court. "They did awesome. I couldn't ask for anything more from them," said Cortez.

However, Sanchez and Benjamin are among the players that are departing from the Ohlone volleyball court. Sanchez will pursue nursing at Western Career College, while Benjamin is waiting until the end of the women's basketball season to decide where she will be going.

Also parting ways with Ohlone are Heather Flynn and Kaycie Zimmerman.

Flynn will be heading to San Francisco to attend the Academy of Arts University. Zimmerman is following in Benjamin's footsteps and

is also waiting until the end of the basketball season to see what the future holds for her.

Although, the likes of Sanchez, Benjamin, and Zimmerman are gone, Cortez will have more returning faces than she did when took over the team this year.

Returning to wear the green and gold again will be Inouye, along with Jessica Sodderholm, Taylor Stevenson and Nahal Nassabeh.

This will prove beneficial to Cortez as she will not have to bring in as many players as last year.

"Recruiting was something I wasn't able to do well this year," said Cortez.

With Inouye, Sodderholm, Stevenson, and Nassabeh returning, Cortez will once again have what she had with Sanchez, Benjamin and Zimmerman this year. Leaders

on the floor, and the right ingredients for team chemistry.

Any coach will tell you that these are a necessity, but Cortez will be the one to tell you that it is a blessing. With all the obstacles in her way, chemistry was something Cortez needed to get out of the team themselves, and they did.

Even though their record read a dismal 4-12 (3-9 in conference play), the Lady Renegades kept their heads held high. After disappointing plays on the court, they were quick to pick each other up and get right back to it. One of the best tools to have as an athlete is a quick memory. Determination is also something that you cannot teach, and that was something Cortez did not have to do.

Look for a vast improvement out of Cortez and the Lady Renegades when the 2006 season comes rolling around.



Photo courtesy of women's volleyball team

Coach Cortez and the Lady Renegades are all smiles despite their win-loss record this season.

Interested in writing sports for the Monitor?

Ever sit down and read the sports page of your local news paper (hopefully the *Monitor*), and consider how much fun it can be to write about something that consumes most of your life?

Well today is your lucky day!

The *Monitor* is currently looking for people interested in writing about the happenings of the Ohlone Athletics department and the wide world of sports for next semester.

All are welcome to join in on this positive learning experience. Joining will also get you those credits you so direly need. You have your pick of a one, two or three unit class. You also receive practical experience on how to put an article and page together.

Anyone interested can contact Sports Editor Nick Zambrano or *Monitor* adviser Bill Parks at (510) 659-6074 or monitor@ohlone.edu.