

Ohlone loses two in Madness tourney

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This past weekend's horrid weather was not a factor for Ohlone's March Madness Softball Tournament as the games went on as scheduled despite the winds and the come-and-go rain.

The Lady Renegades looked to defend their 2005 tournament title as they took on Porterville College in the first round. Representing Ohlone in the war on the rubber was Isabel Ramos. In five innings pitched, Ramos had three strikeouts, two hits and two walks.

The Lady Renegades had numerous opportunities to put runs on the board, but let them slip by. In the first inning, Jessica Soderholm singled for Ohlone's first hit. After stealing second and advancing to third on a passed ball, all Soderholm needed to score was a base hit or a sacrifice fly. However, after a Missy Cross strikeout and Kristina DaSilva pop-up, Soderholm was stranded at third. In the third, Ashley Marra got on base because of a Porterville error, but was left stranded.

In the fourth, Ramos walked her



Ohlone catcher Meredith Ang, unable to hold on to pitcher Isabel Ramos' delivery, looks down to see the ball slip right underneath her. Photo by Ross Tsvetanov

pitching counterpart, Ashley Block, and on two wild pitches let her advance to third. Porterville's Ashley Vasquez then brought Block on a single to score the game's only run.

With pinch runner Liz Wagner on third in the fifth, the game was on catcher Meredith Ang's shoulders. Trying to keep to her team's hopes

alive, Ang slapped a shot to right center. However, a diving collision between Porterville's outfielders sealed their fate. In the midst of the collision, the ball was caught and the game was over, Porterville 1, Ohlone 0.

Normally, softball games have seven innings of play, however be-

cause of the tournament, a time limit of an hour and half was imposed. Because of the time limit, Ohlone did not have an extra two at-bats to build their comeback.

"In a 1-0 ball game, you need every inning and every out of every inning to try to manufacture a run if you're not going to hit the run in,"

said Ohlone Head Coach Donna Runyon. "I would like people to beat us knowing that we have 21 outs to figure out a way to beat them."

In their second game, the Lady Renegades fell to Feather River College 3-0. On the mound for Ohlone was Tiffany Chan. In her losing effort, Chan had one strike-out, three walks in six innings pitched and was also two for two at the plate and had one stolen base.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Coach Runyon pulled Liz Wagner in favor of pinch-hitter Ashley Gibbs. Gibbs battled with Feather River pitcher Nicholle Ellis in a 10-pitch at-bat but unfortunately struck out on a change-up.

After Gibbs, Valerie Briones connected with a bunt-slap single. Trying to make something happen, Briones was caught stealing second. Up next was Jessica Soderholm, who hit a bloop single. Then on a Missy Cross double, Soderholm advanced to third, bringing up clean-up hitter Kristina DaSilva. However, the game ended with DaSilva who grounded out, ending Ohlone's only opportunity to score, and the game. Up next for the Lady Renegades is College of San Mateo, today at 3 p.m.

Hartmut Fokken: Ohlone's running man

By RAHUL BATRA
Staff writer

Preparing for a marathon is very demanding, challenging and is tedious work. It takes full commitment, will power and the endurance to achieve the stamina needed to run. Running 26.2 miles is no walk in the park, so to speak. Only a handful of people have the endurance to do it. There is, however, one runner at Ohlone that has been doing this for a long, long time. His name is Hartmut Fokken.

Born and raised in the Frankfurt area of Germany, Fokken began running at a very early age. Around 13, he caught the running bug after competing in a 1000m race at the county level. Since then, running has been a passion for him. During his time in the military, Fokken would compete in 400m relay races. However, after leaving the military at the age of 24, the passion to run began to

fade. Fokken became disinterested, gained weight and even picked up smoking. Even after immigrating to the United States, the passion was nowhere to be found.

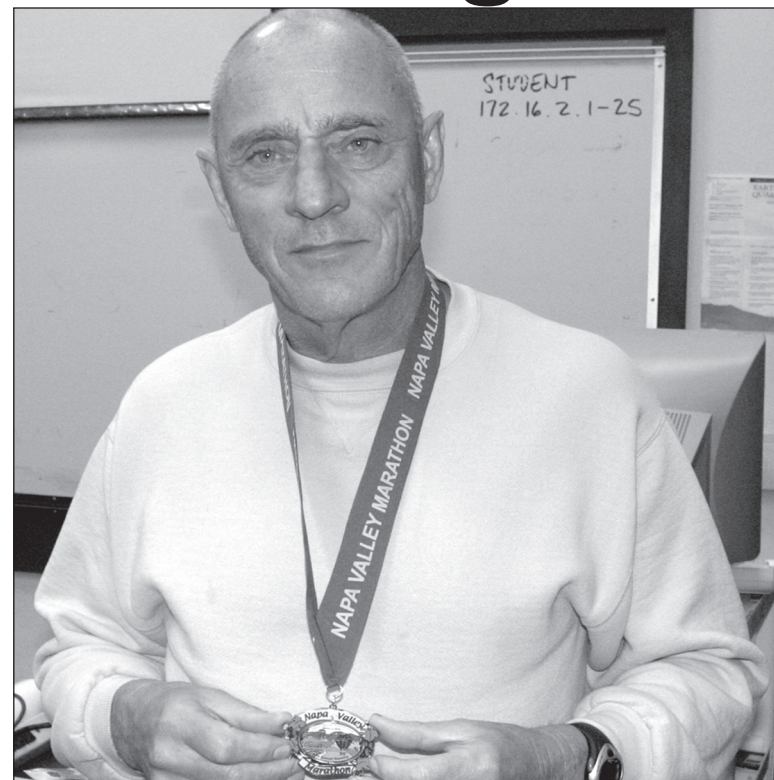
But it wasn't until at the age of 40, that Fokken would get the chance to run again and find his long last passion. His daughter had asked him to run a race with her. That race was a marathon taking place in Honolulu, Hawaii. It was a great moment for Fokken. Running side by side with his daughter, and finishing within one second from one another really made the race very special. From then on, Fokken began to feel the passion to run he once felt long ago as a kid growing up in German. Not even a seven-month injury to his tibia would slow him.

Fokken has been competing in many marathons throughout the country and even the world. He has competed in the Napa marathon three times, the San Francisco once, the

Boston marathon once, and even the Athens, Greece marathon one time. The Athens race was very memorable for Fokken. Competing in the city months after it had hosted the 2004 Summer Olympics, and running past the Acropolis and Olympic Stadium was overwhelming.

"It was an incredible feeling," Fokken said. "The culture of Greece and its history is something I'll never forget." Running is something that is always going to be in his blood. Currently at age 60, he is still running and competing.

"I want to go until I'm 80!" he said. "I enjoy running marathons. I can't just go for a little jog every morning." For the past four years, Fokken has been a part of the Mission Peak Striders and is currently a computer technician at Ohlone. He has been in this country for 27 years now, and loves what he does. He has also qualified to run in the Boston marathon in 2007.



Hartmut Fokken, with the medal he earned upon completing the Napa Valley Marathon. Photo by Ross Tsvetanov

Peterson turns team around from 2005 season

By RAHUL BATRA
Staff writer

The Ohlone men's basketball team showed great promise this season under Head Coach John Peterson and his staff. Each coach understood the college's philosophy of seeing players grow as students and people. The team was developed to give more high school athletes the opportunity to play the sport at the collegiate level while building a stronger program for the college.

The Renegades improved on both sides of the ball from last season. Their offense improved by making key three pointers, lay-ups, and sinking free throw opportunities.

Their defense was tremendously solid. Protecting underneath the hoop so that opponents couldn't get through to make a lay-up or draw a foul, focusing on man-to-man defense to allow opponents to shoot with the shot clock winding down, and making steals and forcing key turnovers is what was very impressive.

The Renegades also had a very tough practicing regiment. Their practices each week negated their social life, sacrificing their sleep and eating to focus on a season with a tough schedule. The Ohlone men's basketball team finished the season at 21-12. In the regional playoffs, tenth ranked Ohlone lost to seventh ranked Siskiyou in an intense,

exciting game. That however, did not mean the season was a disappointment.

Coach Peterson was very happy with his team.

"Terrific," Peterson said. "Every year you want to compete for a league title. We did that. They were great to coach and great to be around."

Sam Kim was Ohlone's only sophomore this year.

Kim was essentially the leader for Ohlone this year. He was one of the most dominant players every time he set foot on the court. Along with Kim being the only returning player from last season, he also provided the skill and determination the Renegades

needed to have a successful season along with a winning record. There will be many universities throughout the country that will be very lucky to have a baller like him.

This season saw some thrilling victories including a home win in overtime, which saw Ohlone shut out Canada in OT to put the game away. Other wins included an impressive home victory against rival Chabot and against powerhouses Contra Costa and Foothill.

This season for Ohlone was very promising, exciting and enthusiastic. Tremendous amount of support from family and friends allowed the Renegades finish strong this season. Even though the loss to

Siskiyou may be a disappointment to some, there was a moral victory to celebrate. Reaching to that level and playing a very tough team, with tremendous pressure, is something to be proud of. All their hard work they put in each day, through thick and thin, showed their promise and success this year and hopefully for many years to follow. If you followed the Renegades at all this year, you know it was a great season to watch.

Only losing two players this off-season, Ohlone will come in next year with the main ingredient ready to go to compete for next year's league title. Chemistry.

Look for another impressive season, come tip-off 2007.