

Softball makes final push to postseason

■Sun is shining through the clouds for Runyon and the Lady Renegades

By **NAOMI BALAGOT**
Staff writer

As the Ohlone Women's softball team approaches a nearing end to their season, Head Coach Donna Runyon's biggest obstacle is the unexpected rainy weather.

In all of her eighteen years of coaching at Ohlone, this year's softball schedule has been the most adjusted schedule ever, as Runyon's players adjust to the demanding school schedule of their once-a-week required Study Hall and homework to further accommodate to rescheduled games despite the inclement weather.

"Everything is routine and so far this has been the most un-routine season," said Runyon, who has won over 600 games in her coaching career.

Nine out of Runyon's thirteen players are freshmen, so playing games on the road and in tournaments are valuable experiences for the returning freshmen going into next year's season.

"Every freshman has contributed, whether it's a hit, a defensive play, or sitting the bench. All of them have been successful," said Runyon.

Pitching and Assistant Coach Dave Villegas has contributed to the success of Ohlone pitchers Tiffany Chan and Isabel Ramos. Along with catchers Meredith Ang and Liz Wagner, these freshmen continue to

dominate on the field.

"The pitchers and catchers have great competition among themselves...and they support each other, which contributes to becoming successful," said Runyon. "Both pitchers have done an excellent job and I'm excited to have them return next year. I believe that they will throw harder next year."

So far, sophomore stand-out Missy Cross has so far been accepted to Chico State University and Sacramento State University. CSU Northridge has contacted Cross for further recruitment as well. This weekend she will go to Eastern Kentucky University on a recruiting trip. Fellow sophomore Ashley Marra has recently been accepted to UC Berkeley.

Both Cross and Marra look to further pursue their softball careers at the NCAA level.

Sophomore team captains Cross and Marra truly lead by example showing strong compassion and loyalty towards the Renegade Softball program.

"I always look for sophomore leadership, but even the freshmen have led by example. Leadership comes from more than one person, and leading by example pushes yourself to be better," said Runyon.

With play-offs just around the corner, Runyon has high hopes of finishing the season strong, the Lady Renegades look to win their fourth league title.

"Once you make play-offs, it becomes a difficult season.

It's a season within a season and you hope your team is peaking at the right time, as you take one game at a time," said Runyon.

Runyon looks to make one more final push to the playoffs tomorrow as she and her team take De Anza College, weather permitting.

If and after the De Anza game takes place, the ladies will have their final home game against the City College of San Francisco.

Ohlone will then finish up the season, on the road against rival Chabot College and then the College of San Mateo.

Currently the Lady Renegades hold an overall record of 19-9-1 with conference of 12-2.

Rain pushes Renegades off the diamond

By **RAHUL BATRA**
Staff writer

No news is no news for the Ohlone baseball team. No one ever expected March - let alone April - to be a month full of cold, bitter weather, rain after rain after rain and nearly five consecutive nights with freezing temperatures.

Our Renegades have yet again had to endure another delay owing to rain that postponed their game against De Anza College. Tuesday's game was supposed to be played at 2:30 p.m. Then it got postponed to Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

Because of the bad condition of the baseball field, the game is now being played today at Skyline College at 2:30 p.m., on what should be a rain-free day.

No one expected all this rain to continue this far into 2006. Many people are frustrated and can't wait for the sun to show up for at least two days. The Renegades are also feeling a little

frustrated.

Practices have been moved from the baseball field to other locations including the gym and the tennis courts. These locations allow for only a limited type of practice. The team couldn't practice the simple fundamentals of the game like sliding, hitting and catching fly balls. However, they are dealing with it and do their best to work with what they've got.

"Things have been a little difficult," Ohlone Manager Paul Moore said. "Everybody is showing up for practices and getting through the bad weather each day at a time."

The season so far for the Renegades has not been a disappointment. Their current record is 17-12-2. Their league record is also promising. It's amazing that with this hectic month of bad weather, soggy fields and shifting schedules, the Renegades have been displaying solid pitching, tremendous defense and fist-punching offense to win key games.

With the bad weather continuing to put Fremont into a submission



The Ohlone baseball team has fallen victim to the virtually non-stop rainfall in the Bay Area. The field is covered with puddles, like this one near second base. Photo by Ross Tsvetanov

and with bad field conditions, look for more cancellations and postponed games in the near future. It takes a toll on players when they have to play "home" games in other ball parks, especially in rival territory.

However, it takes a mentally

tough team to not let all of this bad weather have a negative effect. The Renegades have shown this mental toughness all season long. From watching practices, speaking with coaches and players, it seems that they not only have the mental tough-

ness, but the energy and capability of sticking through the impromptu schedule changes, indoor practices and terrible weather conditions.

The results for the game against De Anza College were unknown as of press time.

Just like the Warriors, we can't win them all

The following is from a piece I wrote at the end of last semester entitled, *Hey Warriors, come out and play*: "The Warriors, our Golden State Warriors are the real deal this year."

Well, you can't win them all.

Normally, people blame the team for blowing their predictions, but I'm not most people. I am willing to own up to the fact that my prediction failed to be true. The Warriors aren't what I said they would be this season.

Plenty of things went wrong this year after the Warriors' hot start. The biggest problem Golden State faced this year was the health of superstar guard, Baron Davis. Davis started out the year strong, averaging 19.5 points and 9.4 assists per game.

Everything was looking good. He was named the player of the week for the week of Dec. 4 through 10. In that week he led the Warriors on a five-game win streak while averaging 21 points and 13 assists. Then the All-Star break came and with it the usual Davis routine. An injury. A sprained ankle that has kept him out of the lineup since March 11!

No offense, but a sprained ankle doesn't take more than a month to heal. Something there is a little too fishy. You have to suck it up man, other players are out there playing with sore knees, broken fingers and bruised ribs and you're crying over an ankle sprain. You're being paid to play a game that people all over



Swing away

By **NICK ZAMBRANO**
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the world.

But I digress Chris Mullin brought Davis in to help make the other players on the team better. I don't know if it was that Davis wasn't leading on the court or the kids not wanting to learn, but that idea failed miserably.

It wasn't until Davis went on the injured reserve that the kids started to

show life. Mike Dunleavy just started to show what he can really do. Dating back as far as the beginning of March, the Duke alum has averaged almost 14 points a game. Albeit the Warriors have lost the last nine games, but that's still an upgrade from Dunleavy's previous years.

The center position still remains a problem. Adonal Foyle had his little moments this season, but they were exactly that, little moments. In order for the Warriors to become a legitimate playoff contender they have to establish a strong inside game. We all know the Warriors love to shoot from the land of threes but when you miss as many as they do, they need a solid rebounder. When they finally realize

that Foyle isn't the way to go they might actually go somewhere.

Talks around the league have Minnesota departing with Kevin Garnett come the off-season. He would be a great pick-up for the Warriors, they can give up Foyle, Derek Fisher and a draft pick for the former MVP. There you go, two birds with one stone, you get rid of Foyle and the overrated Fisher for a 6'11" monster who has averaged a double-double in points and rebounds for his career.

Oh well, if that doesn't fall through the Warriors can always cross their fingers they'll win the lottery pick for the upcoming draft. Can anyone say "Joakim Noah?"