

## Football outlook: the good, bad, ugly

For one Bay Area team, it's a promising start. For the other, it's all too familiar. The San Francisco 49ers and the Oakland Raiders both lost their season openers last weekend, and although both teams struggled all of last season, they're predicted to improve this year. Week one in the NFL proved that theory for only one of the two teams.



### First and 10

By **JEFF WEISINGER**  
Sports writer

The 49ers began their 2006 campaign in Arizona against the Cardinals, who also celebrated the opening of the new Cardinal Stadium on Sunday. Although the 49ers lost to the Cardinals 34-27,

they showed signs of life that was not seen all last season. Quarterback Alex Smith looked like the number one draft pick he was considered to be last year as he almost led the 49ers to overtime. He threw for 288 yards highlighted by a 31-yard pass to rookie tight end Vernon Davis for his only passing touchdown of the day, and hit wide receiver Antonio Bryant on a 46-yard fade route in the fourth quarter.

Second-year running back Frank Gore started for the 49ers on Sunday and ran the ball 18 times for 87 yards with 2 rushing touchdowns.

The 49ers totaled just less than 400 yards on offense, a total which seemed next to impossible all of last season. The defense even looked better than last year as they forced 3 fumbles and recovered one.

In general, the 49ers looked like a completely different team than they were last year. They will have their season opener against the St. Louis Rams at Monster Park this Sunday at 1 p.m. With their improved play, it looks like 49er Faithful will finally have something to cheer about.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Bay, the Oakland Raiders had their season opener on Monday night against their division rival the San Diego Chargers. The scene at McAfee Coliseum in Oakland was all too familiar to the Raider Nation, with the Raiders losing their opener 27-0, the first time they were shut out at home in 25 years.

After their third straight losing season since reaching the Super Bowl back in the 2002 season, the Raiders decided to switch things up...again. They signed Hall of Fame player and former Raider Art Shell to take over the head coach spot for the 2006 season. His goal for the team this year was to get back to basics.

Most would say that his plan failed Monday night. Quarterback Aaron Brooks, whom the Raiders signed to replace the departed Kerry Collins in the off-season, made his debut in the silver and black, threw for only 68 yards with no touchdowns and no interceptions, and was sacked a total of seven times. Backup quarterback Andrew Walter, who is predicted to be the future quarterback of the Raiders, came into the game in the fourth quarter and did not do any better as he only threw for 28 yards and was sacked twice.

The Raiders offense looked completely horrible as they only racked up a total of 129 yards of total offense, with the offensive line allowing a grand total of 9 sacks. The Raiders defense looked no better than their offensive counterpart, as they allowed San Diego to 302 yards total offense, highlighted by running back LaDainian Tomlinson's 131 rushing yards.

The Raiders hope to rebound from their Monday night collapse as they travel to Baltimore to take on the Baltimore Ravens this Sunday at 1 p.m. Raider fans might be seeing and saying the same things they did last year if the team continues to struggle.

### Golf tournament Monday

Gary Plummer, former San Francisco 49er and member of Ohlone's football team in the 1970s, will be the guest of honor at Ohlone's 22nd Annual Golf Tournament Monday, Sept. 18, at Castlewood Country Club.

Plummer graduated from Mission San Jose High School and attended Ohlone starting in 1977. He transferred to U.C. Berkeley in 1980 and became a starter even though he was considered small at 6-foot-2.

Plummer was picked up by the Oakland Invaders U.S. Football League, and played with them until the league folded. Then he played nine seasons with the San Diego Chargers before joining the 49ers as a linebacker in 1994. Over 12 seasons Plummer played 180 games, including the Super Bowl against San Diego in 1994. He is currently a broadcaster on KNBR.

Plummer volunteered as a coach at Mission San Jose while he was with the Invaders. In San Diego, he contributed time and money to a foundation that he and a teammate established to help underprivileged youth.

For information on the golf tournament, call Donna Runyon at 659-6053. The tournament raises money for Ohlone athletics programs



Staff photo

**Big electric transmission towers loom over Ohlone's seldom-used tennis courts. If a tennis team is started, the whop-whop of tennis balls will replace the moos of cows as the courts come back to life.**

## Ohlone survey asks if tennis team wanted

By **NOAH LEVIN**  
Staff writer

On Friday of last week, a survey was sent out to Ohlone students inquiring about interest in the possibility of a competitive, intercollegiate tennis team. The survey, sent out by Ohlone Vice President of Instruction Jim Wright, queried students to gauge the current interest the student body might show for a tennis team.

The survey itself is fairly broad and short, with only six questions asking for gender, year in school, experience in the sport and how much time one is willing to put into a team.

Though there is already a recreational tennis class, Wright is aiming to start a competitive team. "We

are hoping to start a regular intercollegiate competitive team or teams," said Wright. With the survey still freshly circulating, support for the possible team is sporadic. "It is too early to tell right now. The survey went out to students last Friday. We should have a better idea one week from today."

The team, if formed, may not begin until Spring '08, said Wright, as tennis would be a lower priority in relation to other athletic programs and it is traditionally a "spring sport."

Currently, Wright and others are working with Maria Ramos to employ her as coach for the proposed team. Ramos is not only the current coach for Washington High School's tennis team but is also the local representative

of the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) for the Bay Area and coordinates USTA tournaments in Fremont.

Wright said the initial capital for the proposed team would come from Associated Students of Ohlone (ASOC) fundraising as with the other sports teams. However, Wright added that the tennis program would be funded "as part of our regular athletics budget" if and once tennis becomes a well-established part of Ohlone's overall sports program.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees discussed on Wednesday the resurfacing of the tennis courts.

To take Jim Wright's tennis survey if you did not receive the initial e-mail, contact him at [jwright@ohlone.edu](mailto:jwright@ohlone.edu).

### Fall baseball warm-up



Staff photo

**Students who hope to make the baseball team next spring are working out now, as part of a class. They will play a practice game here next Tuesday, starting at 2 p.m., against College of San Mateo.**