



First and 10

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

More to life than sports

The life of a professional athlete is usually based on the sport they play, and how good they are at it. But in all honesty, how important is it really?

Picture this. Game one of the League Championship Series, and when asked how important the game is, anyone would answer: Not very important at all.

Early Wednesday morning, a charter plane piloted by New York Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle crashed into a 50-story apartment building in Manhattan. Lidle sent a distress call moments before crashing into the thirtieth and thirty-first floors of the Manhattan highrise in Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Lidle was only 34, and leaves behind a wife, Melanie, and son Christopher.

Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi was Lidle's teammate in high school, and when they were with the Oakland A's in 2001. "Right now, I am really in a state of shock, as I am sure the entire MLB family is. My thoughts are with Cory's relatives and the loved ones of the others who were injured or killed in this plane crash. I have known Cory and his wife, Melanie, for over 18 years and watched his son grow up. We played high school ball together and have remained close throughout our careers. We were excited to be reunited in New York this year and I am just devastated to hear this news," said Giambi in an interview with ESPN on Wednesday.

Cory Lidle is the second Yankee, and sixth major league baseball player to die in a plane crash. The last major leaguer to die in a plane crash was Yankees catcher Thurman Munson in 1979. Munson was killed after his plane crashed in Canton, Ohio. Also in 1972, Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Roberto Clemente was killed in a plane crash near Puerto Rico.

Including Lidle, there are 47 known cases of athletes or teams being killed in plane crashes, the earliest being in 1925.

All of yesterday's events lead up to my next question: Do we separate the importance of sports and life?

Well, their job is, technically, to play a game, but in the end, it's still their job, and after their work "shift," they go home to their families and do things that us "normal" people do.

We still do not realize that these professional athletes have more going on in their life than their sport. It is sad that it takes a death of an athlete to begin to realize that in the end, the professional athletes we look up to are still people in the end.



Photo courtesy of men's basketball team

With 11 players returning from last year's team, the men's basketball team is a contender to win the division and go on to state competition.

Men's basketball begins countdown to tipoff

By **BRITTANY WILSON**
Sports writer
and **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

Ohlone basketball season doesn't start until the beginning of next month, but don't tell that to the Men's Basketball Team.

After going 21-12 in the 2005-2006 campaign, Head Coach John Peterson looks forward to the upcoming 2006-2007 season with 11 players returning from last year, eight of which were starters at one point during last year.

Last season showcased the Renegades defense. They were a tough defense that finished third in the state in points allowed, giving up an average of only 62 points per game, while forcing about 20 turnovers per game and averaged about 8.2 steals a game.

On offense last year, the Renegade were led by Sam Kim, who finished fourth in the Coast North Conference in 3-point field goal percentage at 36 percent, and led the conference in free throw percentage at 80 percent. Ohlone had three players last year in the top 10 in Field Goal percentage including Jermaine Smith, Mike Holmes and Renardo Bass. Overall, Ohlone finished second overall in the tough Coast North Conference.

Last year also marked the fifth time Coach Peterson had completed a season with more than 20 wins. That kind of record ranked the team 18th for state and eighth in Northern California.

Earning the tenth seed in the state playoffs last season, the Renegades made it to Northern California's

Rough start for women's soccer

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

It has been a tough season so far for the women's soccer team. They haven't won too many games this year, and a tough 3-1 loss to Cabrillo College on Tuesday does not make things look any better.

Cabrillo struck first, taking an early 1-0 lead, however consistent play in the net by goalie Danielle Anderson and good play by Katie

Marshall helped Ohlone tie up the game at 1-1 in an even first half.

However, the second half was a new story, as Cabrillo scored two quick goals, giving them a 3-1 lead early in the second half. Ohlone battled for the rest of the game, but was not able to catch eventually losing the game 3-1.

Head Coach Larry Heslin said that even though his team has had a rough start, a tough loss on Tuesday and the loss of a couple of

key players due to injury, they have been showing signs of improvement with each game.

This season has also been somewhat of a learning curve for the team, as they've been learning to come together as a team with only eight returning sophomores, and the remaining 10 being freshmen.

The women's soccer team hopes to show their improvement as they will take on West Valley College at Ohlone on Friday at 4 p.m.



Over time

By **RAHUL BATRA**
Sports writer

Tigers control ACLS over A's

Nobody gave the A's credit to go past the first round in the playoffs. Seeing how they have not advanced any further since 1990 and that they are 0-9 in game-clinching games in the postseason, anything other than elimination was not expected. Well, that all changed.

Game three of the divisional playoffs between the Minnesota Twins and the Oakland Athletics saw the A's turn disbelievers into believers. I went to the game and even caught a foul ball from Milton Bradley in the fourth inning, which ended up on ESPN HD for five or six seconds. Once I caught the ball, I got phone calls from friends and family members saying they saw me on television making a sweet catch – bare-handed!

I was also very fortunate to see some of the A's that same night up in Walnut Creek at a bar called Krogen's. What that showed me was that this young ball club really knows how to bond together off the field and play as a team rather than show individualism and selfishness.

Nonetheless, those traits seemed far away during game one of the ALCS against the Detroit Tigers Tuesday night in Oakland. Starting A's pitching ace Barry Zito lasted only 3 2/3 innings. The first three innings showed he is an offensive threat in the postseason. However, with two outs in the third inning, Brandon Inge, the Tiger's ninth batter, struck first with a homerun to left field. Later in the inning, a questionable pitch on a 3-2 count to Placido Polanco, which could have gone either way, shifted the momentum from the A's to the Tigers. Instead of a strikeout to end the third with just the one run deficit, Zito ended up allowing five runs on seven hits (including two homeruns and two doubles) before getting taken out in the middle of the fourth. He also walked three batters.

From that point on, nothing was working. Detroit had solid pitching from Nate Robertson, who threw five shutout innings and allowed only six hits. Strong outings from the bullpen by Fernando Rodney and Joel Zumaya, who both threw into triple digits on the radar gun, also helped seal the victory for Detroit. The A's could not get over that hump of sending their base runners to home plate. They were 0-13 with runners on base and grounded out into four double plays. Which is an ALCS record. The final score was 5-1 in favor of the Tigers.

Games three, four and five will all be played in Detroit from Friday through Sunday.