

Ohlone clinches first place over Chabot

By **TOMAS ORTEGA**
Staff writer

Not a whistle was needed to raise the anticipation level in the Epler Gymnasium last Saturday night.

Ten minutes until tip-off, the crowd was overwhelmed with excitement as the second ranked Ohlone Renegades (23-2, 7-1 conference), riding a five-game win streak, took on the No. 15 ranked Chabot Gladiators (19-9, 5-3 conference).

Chabot handed Ohlone their only conference loss this season back on Jan. 10, which also ended the Renegades' 16-game win streak.

The Renegades needed a victory to maintain first place in conference.

Sophomore guard Bert Whittington opened up the scoring for the Renegades with an easy bucket. He would go on to lead the Renegades in scoring with 18 points for the night, including three of four from the foul line.

Chabot would put up a good fight early in the first half, trading bucket for bucket with the Renegades. But 15 turnovers in the first half for Chabot wound up putting them down 35-20 at halftime.

"We had four to five-hour practices this week. There were a few things we needed to fix from

our last meeting and we did," commented Coach John Peterson after the game. "Last meeting we didn't play as many guys. This time around, however, we had both groups playing well and keeping the pressure on the [Gladiators]."

There was not a time in the second half where the Renegades did not lead by double digits, making nine of ten free throws, along with sophomore Patrick Collier's four three-pointers that made up most of his 17 points on the night.

Ohlone's strong play would help them overcome the team that handed them their only conference defeat as they went on to beat Chabot 76-61, improving their conference record to 8-1 on the season and their overall record to 24-2.

Following this win, the Renegades are now in great position for the playoffs, leading CCSF by one game in the standings.

With three games remaining in the season, including Las Positas this Saturday, Ohlone looks to be near unstoppable going into the playoffs.

"With more quality wins like tonight, we have the possibility of being the top seed comes home court advantage which judging by the size of the crowd Saturday night, may create quite an uproar on the Ohlone campus," said Coach Peterson.

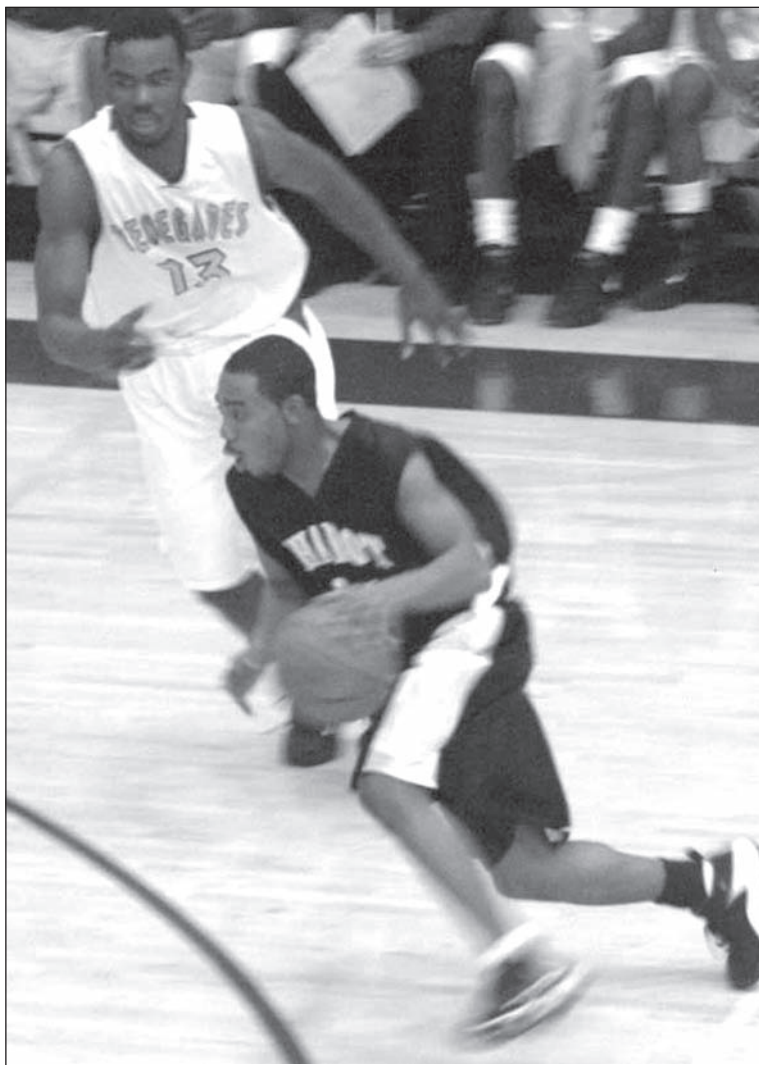


Photo by Destiny Harrison

Forward Jermaine Smith (No. 13) moves in to cut off the Chabot ball-handler's lane. Ohlone's next game will be Feb. 10 at Las Positas.



First and 10

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

Looking back: Super Bowl XLI

It's been nearly a week since Super Bowl XLI in Miami, in which the Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears 29-17 and Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning won the game's MVP award.

What many don't realize though, is that there is a lot more to the Colts victory and the Bears loss than we saw on CBS last Sunday.

Super Bowl XLI marked the first time in the history of the NFL that an African-American head coach coached in the game (in this case, for both teams), and the first time in the history of the league that an African-American head coach won the Super Bowl. What is weird, at least for today's world, is that it took this long for it to happen, but I am certainly glad that it did.

Now, as for the Chicago Bears, it's back to the drawing board. Head Coach Lovie Smith's big challenge going into the 2007 season is to make sure that his team does not fall into that losing record hole that most teams that have lost the Super Bowl the previous year fall into. His second goal is to work on his quarterback, Rex Grossman.

He'll have to improve on Rex's consistency and get him to stop creating turnovers. The benefit in this is that Grossman is still a young quarterback.

So, don't judge the kid just yet. Remember that a few Hall of Fame quarterbacks were pretty bad their first few years. Just look at the career beginnings of John Elway, Troy Aikman and Peyton Manning.

Speaking of Peyton and his Indianapolis Colts, "How 'bout them...Colts?" They are in a good spot to actually repeat next year. Peyton's coming back, Marvin Harrison should be back and defensively, the Colts finally stepped up, to where they can pick up where they left off this year heading into the beginning of next year. The one question following Indy will be; Can they beat New England again?

But let's not think too much on the past, but instead take a sneak peek at Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Arizona on Feb. 3, 2008. Considering what I saw this past season, I can't help but feel like the Cincinnati Bengals are going to surprise everyone, but look out for the defending champion Colts to take the AFC. As for the NFC, Chicago should be able to make another run for the Super Bowl, and since Brett Favre is returning to Green Bay, look out for the Packers in 2007 in the NFC.

Ladies continue their winning ways

By **NICK ZAMBRANO**
Sports editor

Coming into last week's match up against San Jose City College, the Lady Renegades were, for lack of a better word, hot.

Since the DeAnza College Tournament in late December, Head Coach Elizabeth Stanley's team has been riding an 11-game win streak and looked to add number 12 while facing off against a tough San Jose squad.

Within the first five minutes in the first half, both teams combined for a meek total of nine points.

However, the game did pick up and with 2:30 left in the half, it was all knotted up at 21-21. Despite the close score, Ohlone had opportunities to widen the margin, but could not capitalize, primarily inside the paint.

Defensively, however, it was the constant fouls that troubled the Lady Renegades. Center LaKreeya Hairston got into early foul trouble while trying to defend against San Jose's inside game. Ohlone's fouls put San Jose in the bonus early on.

On the other side of the ball, the Lady Renegades were not able find the basket while in the paint. San Jose's strong inside presence forced Ohlone to take more outside shots than they wanted.

"We were trying to get the ball inside, but they were really packing it in," said Coach Stanley. "We really wanted to establish an inside-outside game, go inside first and we don't do well if we just start shooting



Photo by Jeff Weisinger

Point guard Daneesha Wright led the Ohlone attack over San Jose last week. The sophomore had 26 points in the impressive 59-54 victory.

from the outside."

At the end of the first half, Ohlone managed to build a wider margin and led 28-23.

As the second half got under way, it was almost as if a new group of ladies suited up for Ohlone.

"If we left it to the refs and let it be close, it was not going

to be a favorable outcome." said Stanley. "We needed to establish our presence out there, get going, so that it was in our hands, not the referees'."

And the Lady Renegades did exactly that as they established their presence. Ohlone opened up the game with more passion and

at one point held an 11-point lead, their biggest of the game. There was no looking back for Ohlone as they finished the game out and claimed win number 12 in the streak, 59-54.

Leading the Ohlone charge was none other than point guard Daneesha Wright. Wright, the sophomore from Berkeley High, led all scorers with 26 points while also adding two steals. Number three was relentless driving down the court and hitting tough shots from all over and reassembled another number three we all know, Allen Iverson.

"She's our leader. She just puts the team on her back when it's time," said Stanley about her starting point guard. "That's what a point guard does; she's doing her job, we depended on that but we also depended on everyone getting out there and doing their job."

Wright's opportunities for points were provided by forward Kelly Fisher and center Ceciley Johnson. Both Fisher and Johnson were in solid form as they forced turnovers and collected a combined 17 rebounds on the night.

Also adding her own dosage to the victory was Taylor Lyons, who threw in 15 points.

Ohlone's ladies of the hardwood then took their impressive streak to Foothill last Friday. The Lady Renegades put notch number 13 in their belts as they held off Foothill 76-71. The streak could very well reach 14 as Ohlone faced off against Mission last night. Results were unknown as of press time.