



First and 10

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

Racism in the NFL

Arthur Ashe, Jackie Robinson, Jack Johnson.

Those names sound familiar? Well, let's recap for a second.

Arthur Ashe was the first black tennis player to win Wimbledon in 1975, one of his three Grand Slam titles. Jackie Robinson, as we all know, became the first black player to play Major League Baseball when he made his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in April of 1947. And Jack Johnson was the first African-American boxer to win the heavyweight title in 1908.

It wasn't until about two weeks ago until the NFL finally saw two African-American head coaches coaching in a Super Bowl.

ESPN recently released a book entitled, "Third and a Mile: The Trials and Triumphs of the Black Quarterback" in honor of Black History Month. The book goes over the ups and downs of the careers of the first five black quarterbacks of the NFL: Marlin Briscoe, James Harris, Vince Evans, Warren Moon and Doug Williams.

For those who don't know, Marlin Briscoe was the first-ever black starting quarterback, starting for the Denver Broncos in 1968.

Warren Moon played quarterback in the CFL with the Edmonton Eskimos before entering the NFL where he played quarterback for Houston, Minnesota, Seattle and Kansas City. He also became the first African-American quarterback ever elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame when he was inducted last year.

And, last but not least, there's Doug Williams, who led the Washington Redskins to Super Bowl XXII where he became the first African-American quarterback to not just lead his team to a Super Bowl, but the first to win one.

It was these guys who led the way for quarterbacks like Donovan McNabb, Steve McNair, Michael Vick and Byron Leftwich.

However, what really gets to me is that it took up to now for the "race" issue to begin to leave the NFL, let alone the fact that we, as journalists, still have to write about it.

As journalists, anytime we write about a racial issue we are always asked "Why do you keep writing about race?"

My answer: because it still exists, especially in the NFL.

However, with the achievements of Colts Head Coach Tony Dungy and Bears Head Coach Lovie Smith, we can finally begin to stop talking about racial matters in sports, especially football.



Photos by Jack Husting

Freshman guard Willis Gardner barrels down a Skyline defender. Below, sophomore Bert Whittington looks to drive toward the basket.

Ohlone shows no love for Skyline

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

On a night when we should be with the ones we love, the Men's Basketball Team had other plans.

Those plans were to win the league championship and set the school record for number of wins with 26, and honor the outgoing sophomores as it was their final game at home.

The top-ranked Ohlone Renegades took on the Skyline Trojans last night in the Epler Gymnasium and the game was nothing short of spectacular.

Led by sophomores Bert Whittington, Patrick Collier, Allen Hester and freshmen Korey Hutchinson and Hamidou Coulibaly, the Renegades played as a team on a mission. However, the mission was easier said than done. The Renegades would have to win this one without their star sophomore Renardo Bass.

Although Ohlone started the scoring as Hamidou Coulibaly scored the game's first points on an easy layup, the Renegades looked sloppy for a long part of the first half.

Ohlone missed a lot of easy shots from both inside and outside the three-point line throughout most of the first half and defensively left someone from the Trojans with an open shot. Skyline would take an early 6-2 lead, however, a steal by guard Allen Hester and a layup by Willis Gardner would put Ohlone within one and his free throw that followed would tie the game.

Ohlone was playing "catch-up" for a majority of the first half as they had to answer back to everything Skyline did against them, and regardless of going 2-20 from the three-point line toward the end of the half, the Renegades would eventually take control.

A blocked layup against Skyline by Allen Hester gave Ohlone the spark they needed as they would take control of the half and take the lead at half 28-25.

The second half, for the most part was very similar to the first half of

the game. Both teams played well defensively with the lead going back and forth between the Renegades and the Trojans.

At one point, Skyline would take over for a small part of the game, as they went on an 11-0 run with 15 minutes left in the half.

What the Trojans didn't know was that the Renegades have been dominant in the second half of games all season, and that would once again come into play tonight.

Although down by 11 midway through the second half, the Renegades began to take charge once

Allen Hester had a "highlight-reel" dunk with about nine minutes left in the half, which began Ohlone's final blows to the Skyline Trojans, as the Renegades would take the lead and never look back. They took a commanding 10-point lead and won the game 76-64.

"We seem to find ways to win in the last three minutes of the game," said Renegades Head Coach John Peterson.

The Renegades will play CCSF in San Francisco on Friday at 7 p.m. to finish off the regular season before beginning the first round of the playoffs next week.



Tennis, anyone?

By **DESTINY HARRISON**
Staff writer

Ohlone has now opened a new addition to the Athletics Department; a tennis team for men and women. This will be a spring sport. For all you fall sports players, this is a great way to keep in shape for the spring season.

Even if you don't play a spring or fall season sport, this will be a good way to earn units and stay in shape while having fun. The head coach this year is Maria Ramos for the guys' team as well as the girls' team.

However, there is not much

information on what Ohlone plans to do with the new tennis teams.

In addition, Ohlone also opened six new tennis classes. They range from beginning tennis to intermediate tennis.

Also, if you are not comfortable in participating in a co-ed environment, there are girls' and mens' classes. All classes are still open, so drop by anytime and check them out to see if tennis is the sport for you.

For more information, you can contact our local Athletics Department or Ramos. Check the Ohlone website for contact numbers.



Swing away

By **NICK ZAMBRANO**
Sports editor

Coming out of the locker

As men we've been pigeon-holed as a bunch of sex-driven, beer-drinking Neanderthals who know anything and everything about automobiles and sports. So when one of our famous brothers does something out of the norm – like announcing his true sexual preference – the world stops in its tracks.

Late last week, former NBA player John Amaechi announced in an interview with ESPN's "Outside the Lines," that he was gay. This is where the world stops and says, "Wait a minute, a man who plays sports is gay?" As awkward as it is to hear it, this is true.

Only a small number of this generation's jocks have made this announcement before but Amaechi is the first from the NBA. Three have made their public announcement in the NFL, while only two made the declaration in the MLB. But all have come out after the fact – when their professional careers were over.

If an athlete were to come out during the prime of his career, instead of after his retirement, the ramifications could be catastrophic.

For instance, let's say that if someone like a LeBron James or a Peyton Manning declared that they were gay; everything they've worked for will be gone. Jersey sales, fan bases, those big endorsement deals with Sprite and Visa, all gone. And let's not get started on how much their playing time will get decreased, even if they are superior players. My point is simply this: there may be other athletes out there who are gay but refuse to come out at the risk of losing everything that they worked their whole lives for.

There's also the matter of safety. Sports are violent, there's no doubt about that; but if there were ever to be a discussion between the two sides it would be just that – violent. Fans wait long after a game is over to see their favorite stars and meet them; in the case of a player who is openly gay, he could be met with bottles of beer and food being thrown at him or even worse.

In a recent interview with the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*, Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban embraced Amaechi's decision and called the former Orlando Magic forward, "a hero."

I fully agree with Cuban, but I also believe the next step is for an athlete to come forward during his career. With that, we can begin the process of avoiding a McCarthy-style black list and learn to accept our teammates.