

Ohlone continues playoff march

■ Men move on to next round, but women fall short against CCSF

By TOMAS ORTEGA
Staff writer

Saturday night, a packed house and the music is blaring. Sounds like a house party, doesn't it? Well, if you were in attendance at the men's basketball game on Saturday night against the College of Redwoods, you would have noticed the parallels.

The Ohlone baseball team added heaps of noise to the buzzing crowd, which was already causing quite a ruckus. Nonetheless, the Renegades, led by Sean Amos and his 19 points, blew past Redwoods 86-67.

After the game, Head Coach John Peterson was glad to see Amos playing so well. "It was great to see Sean playing so well tonight. His best friend was murdered [Friday] night in Philadelphia," Peterson said. "He was a wreck. And for him to come out and play the way he did was a testament to his character."

Amos was back and forth the entire game both on offense and on defense. Along with his 19 points, he collected four rebounds. Unfortunately, he was unavailable for comment after the game.

Also having a big game for the Renegades was Jermaine Smith. He finished the game with 11 points, eight rebounds, four blocks and three assists.

Peterson kept telling Smith all week he thought Redwoods post players were much better than he was. Peterson and Smith were even angry at each other at times during the week. Well, it obviously lit a fire under Smith, seeing as no other opposing player matched his eight rebounds.

The Renegades improved their season record to 27-3 overall and will be facing San Joaquin Delta



Photos by Jack Husting

Sean Amos leaps for the easy basket. A day after his best friend was killed in Philadelphia, Amos gave a heart-felt performance, scoring 19 points.

this Saturday at 7 p.m. in Epler Gymnasium. This will be a tough game for Ohlone. According to Coach Peterson, the Renegades "are going to get smacked." If that statement has any validity, Ohlone is going to have to hit Delta just as hard. It will be a slugfest come Saturday night.

There is not much you can do when you head into an opposing team's home court. All you can do is play as well as you can and anticipate the score leaning in your favor. Unfortunately for the women's basketball team, the first round of the playoffs did not go in their favor, losing 74-68 to City College of San Francisco.

City College was on fire the entire game, shooting a very high percent-

age from the floor. The Rams were also getting to the free throw line more often than the Renegades, which essentially meant they were attacking the basket much more than Ohlone. Head Coach Elizabeth Stanley was quoted saying, "they made their free throws and in a big game that's essential." The Renegades were only able to hit six of their 10 free throws throughout the game as opposed to the Rams 11-24 from the free throw line.

Ohlone's Kelly Fisher, the starting guard for the All-Conference team, tried to play in the game after being in a car accident the day of the game. However, she was not able to play at her peak going 0-7 from the floor. On the upside, she did contribute with five rebounds.

The leading scorer for Ohlone was point guard Danesha Wright who ended the night with 25 points.

The Lady Renegades did as best that they could but were not able to pull out anything more than a first round playoff loss. Stanley later commented, "The effort was there, overall, but given that City did not miss, we could not afford any let downs at any time throughout the entire game."



Ohlone Head Coach John Peterson, right, discusses strategy with his young team. Peterson and Ohlone will take on San Joaquin Delta, Saturday.

Lady Renegades split double-header

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

The Ohlone Lady Renegades went into last Saturday's double-header flying high. Pitcher Isabel Ramos threw a one-hitter against rival Chabot, while the offense flexed their muscle, bashing the College of San Mateo 7-0 last week. It was needless to say that the team would be in top form against the College of Siskiyous and Solano College.

On the mound for game one against Siskiyous was ace Isabel Ramos. Ramos struggled with the top of the Siskiyous lineup, but settled down quickly with the help of catcher Cassandra Ortega. Ortega and her quick instincts not only caught the runner trying to take second but stopped Siskiyous from drawing first blood.

It was now Ohlone's turn to retaliate. Leadoff hitter Valerie Briones started the Ohlone attack with a slap single to right-center. And after a failed pick-off attempt by Siskiyous,

Briones, AKA "P-Nut," stole second and put herself into scoring position. With one out in the inning, Kassy Winger stepped up to the plate. Winger grounded out, but with a late reaction by the Siskiyous first baseman, Briones made her way from second to home but was called out by the closest of calls.

In the fifth inning and with a runner on, Ramos grew tired. It was then that Head Coach Donna Runyon pulled her out of the game of the game in favor of freshman Danielle Yee.

Yee lasted the rest of the game, but gave up three runs in the process. Siskiyous took game one, 4-0.

However, game two was a far different story. Despite the fact that Solano scored three runs on starting pitcher Tiffany Chan, Ohlone wasn't rattled.

In the bottom of the second, Cassandra Ortega woke up the Ohlone bats with a line-drive single to center. After reaching third on two fielder's choices, Chan scored on an error by Solano's catcher. The inning was far from over.



Photo by Jack Husting

Freshman Kassy Winger turns a double play.

With Danielle Cameron on third, Dani Sommer took a pitch and drove it into center. The hit scored Cameron to make it a 3-2 game.

The offense was clicking on all cylinders now. In the fourth, Briones scored on a Winger single to tie up the game at 3-3. Winger then would later break up the tie by scoring on another hit by Chan. At the end of three, Ohlone had a 6-3 lead.

Chan helped her own cause

all game. Not only did the Castro Valley High alum hold off the Solano batters, but she was also 2-3 at the plate, with an RBI and two runs scored. The score was 6-4 before Chan handed the ball over to Ramos and that's how it would ultimately end.

The day ended the way it started, in the hands of Isabel "Chica" Ramos, who made the final out on a line drive right to her.



First and 10

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

Beckham: MLS hero?

As most have heard by now, last January the Major League Soccer's L.A. Galaxy signed former Real Madrid superstar David Beckham to a record five-year deal worth a total of \$250 million.

Yet, despite the numbers and the name, can David Beckham make soccer close to as popular in America as it is in the rest of the world? Then again, how many people in the United States know David Beckham?

We've yet to see the answer to the first question, but he will bring a huge presence to the soccer scene in America.

From the rise in ticket sales all around MLS, to a rise in average attendance per game, especially at the L.A. Galaxy games, to people even talking about soccer in America, he will popularize soccer in America both on and off the field. At 31 years of age, some could say that he's a bit off his prime, and might have lost a step speed-wise, but he still possesses one of the most dangerous shots in the game of soccer.

"I'm coming there to make a difference. I'm coming there to play football," he said to ESPN. "I'm not saying me coming to the States is going to make soccer the biggest sport in America, but I think soccer has a huge, huge potential. I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't believe in this project. This could create something that we've all never seen before."

He will easily be MLS' highest paid player at a base salary of about \$5.5 million with the rest of the contract coming from possible endorsement deals.

His main goal to bring U.S. soccer to that international level that England and Spain are on is already on track with his own soccer academy in Los Angeles. But Beckham's popularity in the U.S. will be determined by how well he plays in the MLS when the season starts.

Now, for the MLS to succeed and not go bankrupt after this signing, they will have to ride David Beckham like a Greyhound bus and hope that he can bring the MLS to a higher profile league than it is now. If the Beckham experiment goes well, we might see other international players make their way to the U.S.

David Beckham will soon be the present of MLS, and he will help teach and develop the future of MLS. In short, he just might be the savior of MLS, once he arrives in August.