

Sophomores go out with a bang

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

When the Lady Renegades dominated Foothill College, 16-1, on Tuesday, a sixth straight conference title was in the crosshairs. Pending a loss to San Jose City College on Wednesday, Ohlone would have full bragging rights. The win against Foothill also improved their record to 34-8 overall and 20-3 in the Coast Conference.

The final home game of the year also happened to be "Sophomore Day," where the seven sophomores on the team were celebrated. "It's (the sophomores) the most I've had," said Runyon. "And I'm certainly scrambling right now to try to get somebody to fill their shoes. This group is awesome."

All seven girls also happened to be pivotal in Ohlone's success. Pitcher Kristina Gonzalez was 6-0 on the hill while fellow hurler Isabel Ramos was the 2006 Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year and was the obvious workhorse for Runyon. Catching that duo was Meredith Ang, who Runyon described as the team's quarterback making her pitchers' jobs easier.

Then there's the always versatile Tiffany Chan. Whether she was at first, second, in the outfield or on the mound, Chan was a threat wherever Runyon put her. She led the team with 46 hits and had a .441 batting average. All this while maintaining a 3.5 GPA. Moving on, we look to Valerie Briones. "P-Nut," as she likes to be called, was the jump-start to every Ohlone offensive surge. Not only did she lead the league (25) and state (41) in stolen bases, she now holds the school record for stolen bases all-time.

Coming to Ohlone together from James Logan High was the infield duo of Jessica Soderholm and



Photos by Jack Husting

The sophomores with their parents from left: Kristina Gonzalez, Jessica Soderholm, Tiffany Chan, Raquel Torres, Meredith Ang, Isabel Ramos and Valerie Briones. Below, Soderholm reacts to Coach Runyon's big speech.

Raquel Torres. Soderholm was superb with the glove, sacrificing her body to get her job done. However, like Runyon said, "don't let the dirt on her uniform fool you, she's a walking fashion statement off the field." If there were ever a word to describe her fellow infielder Torres, that word would have to be clutch. In a match-up with rival Chabot, it was Torres' two-run homer that won Ohlone the game. However, when she was out of play, she was an avid cheerleader. "Her intensity, passion and excitement motivates us all," said Runyon. "When she smiles, she lights up a room."

With the score tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the second, Ohlone showed its run-producing power. With Danielle Yee on third and Torres on second, Ramos doubled a shot to the left-center to make it a 3-1 game. In that same inning and with only one, the Lady Renegades



tagged Foothill for three more runs via Ramos, Kristina Gonzalez and Valerie Briones coming across the plate. At the end of the three, Ohlone was up 6-1.

Moving forward to the third, the Lady Renegades kept adding salt to the 5-run wound. After a wild throw to home scored Danielle Sommer and Meredith Ang to make it an 8-1 game, Foothill became extremely rattled. Before they could record an out in the inning, Ohlone tossed them around more and made it a 10-1 ballgame. Before the inning was finished, Ohlone added three more runs to make it 13-1.

Before the eight-run mercy rule

could go into effect, Foothill had to finish their half of the fifth inning, but by that time Ohlone had added another three runs and it was now 16-1.

Cassandra Ortega contributed as she kept swinging the hot bat and was 3-4 with two triples and three RBI's. Tiffany Chan threw a spectacular game and gave up one run on no hits, while recording five strike outs.

Up next for Ohlone was San Jose City College on Wednesday. A loss for Ohlone would mean a split championship between the two teams who would both have four losses. Unfortunately, Ohlone did lose 2-0 and are now co-champs with San Jose.

Swim season closes out for Ohlone

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

What has been an injury-plagued season for the swimming team comes close to its season's end.

Their most recent meet two weeks ago saw the Renegades lose to Sierra College at home.

Yet the Sierra meet is not on the minds of the team right now.

The main thing that the swimming team is looking toward are the Conference and State Championships coming up this weekend, and next weekend respectively.

This weekend bring the Conference Championships, which Ohlone will host.

For the guys, look-out for both Danny DeGregorio and Cody Angeles. Along with Kevin Lutz, the men's side for Ohlone looks to dominate in the championships.

As for the girls, Ashley Rogers and the speedster Dolly Walters, both of whom may also possibly qualify for the State Championships, will look to dominate on the women's side in this weekend's tournament.

The Conference Championships will be held at Ohlone beginning today at 10 a.m., and conclude on Saturday.

The State Championships will be held at Ohlone beginning next Thursday, May 3 at 10 a.m. and concludes on Saturday, May 5.



Triples alley

By TOMAS ORTEGA
Staff writer

So who's better now?

If I told you at the beginning of the year that the Warriors would own the team that just missed winning last year's finals, would you smile and agree or slap me over the head?

Honestly, if someone gave me this same guff I'd have to go with the latter. It wouldn't faze me that Golden State had just hired Nelly (Don Nelson for those keeping score at home) who was the last one to lead these Warriors into the playoffs. Then again, I wasn't an avid basketball guy in November. I didn't watch much until mid-January, when the Warriors made that blockbuster trade (in my mind, anyway) for Steven Jackson, Al Harrington and change.

Watching Baron Davis run Nelly's run-n-gun offense was actually one of the things that drew me in. Granted, they weren't a "great" team then. However, fast forward to the end of April when the Warriors capped off a 16-5 record since March 5, tops in the league since then, to finish off the regular season and jump into the playoffs for the first time since '94. This is no longer the team that was playing from November through February.

That team didn't have a healthy Jason Richardson to compliment a healthy (I think) Baron Davis. The team that beat Dallas in the first round of the playoffs, that team DOES have J-Rich and Baron playing healthy together.

Back to my point now.

This team owns and will continue to own Dallas throughout this round one playoff. Golden State doesn't even need to win the series to show that they are the better team. When the Warriors decide that they want to pick up the pace, Dallas will be forced to play along with the looks that Baron and Co. gives them. I don't care that the Mav's didn't play their big men in game one. When Dallas decides to play their style of game that gave them the best record in the league, they will still not be able to handle the quicker team that is your Golden State Warriors.

I'm sure Dirk Nowitzki is going to try that same spin move once he is posted up. And when he does, Nelly will counter by sending his squad to double team Dirk and cause him to turn over the rock time after time.

My prediction for this round one installment: Warriors in 6. That's right, clinch round two berth at The Oracle.

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