

Ladies reload ammo for postseason hunt

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

By the blaring music and pleasant sounds of laughter, it would be rather hard to believe that the Ohlone Lady Renegades were preparing for another post-season push. After clinching a share of the Coast Conference title - Ohlone's sixth straight - with San Jose City College, Ohlone's ladies of the diamond earned a well-deserved day off last Tuesday, to take team photos and honor those who were selected to the All Coast Conference First and Second Teams.

"Today will probably be lighter than other days," said Head Coach Donna Runyon.

Center fielder Valerie Briones, utility player Tiffany Chan, slugging first baseman Cassandra Ortega, pitcher Isabel Ramos and second baseman Kassy Winger were those selected for the All Conference First Team. Selected for the Second Team were Meredith Ang, Danielle Cameron, Jessica Soderholm, Raquel Torres and Danielle Yee. Chan and Ortega also received Regional honors. That makes 10 out of 14 players on Ohlone's roster to receive

an award.

Ohlone is the sixth seed in the Nor Cal Region and will be taking on number 11 seed, College of the Sequoias, in the two out of three series. Ohlone will play host to its first regional playoff game in as long as Runyon can remember. The game is scheduled for this Saturday at 2 p.m.. If Ohlone loses game one, they will be staring elimination in the eye.

"It's always important, especially in a short series, to go out and win (the first game)," said Runyon. "We are home and we haven't hosted regionals in a very long time, so it's kind of fun to be host. I say it's an advantage to be the home team."

Runyon will put ace Isabel Ramos for game one so the chances of a game one defeat are very slim. Despite the loss to San Jose last week, Ramos has been lights out. Since her start against Chabot back on April 14, Ramos has given up a total of only six runs. Ohlone's aggressive tactics on the bases will definitely be in full effect. Look for lead-off hitter Valerie Briones to set that tone. If she and other speedsters can put pressure on the pitcher and defense, the dynamic



Photos by Jack Husting

Two of the All Coast Conference First Team: Tiffany Chan and Isabel Ramos

3-4 duo of Cassandra Ortega and Tiffany Chan could really do some damage.

After "kick-back Tuesday," the

rest of the week will go on like usual. Hitters will hit. Pitchers will pitch. Defense and base running will be preached. That same regi-

ment that Runyon has put into her practices will have extra assistance from former San Francisco Giant Shawon Dunston.

Club helps athletes get closer with God

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

If it's one thing that makes sports so special, especially in today's world is that the sports world is very diverse. People from every different race, religion, ethnicity, background and lifestyle play sports. Whether it be soccer, football, baseball, softball, cricket or basketball, each sport league is so diverse.

And most know that religion plays a big role in the lives of most athletes.

One of those people is Ohlone's Volleyball Coach Jamie Cortez.

Coach Cortez held the first Ohlone FCA meeting yesterday in Room 9103.

The FCA (Fellowship for Christian Athletes) was established back in 1954 by Don McLannan, a former coach at Eastern Oklahoma State College. It is now the largest inter-denominational, school-based Christian organization in America. Its goal is to encourage coaches and players alike on all levels to "impact the world through their faith and example." It is highly recognized

by the professional sports leagues. Many players and coaches from the NBA, NFL, AFL, MLB and the NHL are a part of FCA. The list includes Indianapolis Colts Head Coach Tony Dungy, Atlanta Braves right-fielder Jeff Francoeur and Seattle Seahawks runningback Shaun Alexander.

Coach Cortez first discovered the program through her father back when she was a child growing up in Texas, and has been with it since. Her father was a football coach for the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), Oregon and SFSU.

She finally decided to bring the program to Ohlone this year, and will have it going into the 2007 fall semester and beyond.

So, what is her main reason for bringing a "religious group" to a culturally-diverse school like Ohlone?

"There's a number of athletes that are Christian, but they don't know who to talk to," said Cortez.

But don't get the wrong impression - FCA is not just for athletes, everyone's welcome. Whether you're a student-athlete or just stu-



Photo by Jack Husting

FCA adviser Jamie Cortez, center, with Courtney Vjeh, left and Gayle Rusch

dent, Christian or non-Christian, the club is open to any and everyone.

Cortez hopes that with the help of FCA, that she can help Ohlone give

back to the city of Fremont, and at the same time have Fremont and cities beyond Fremont recognize Ohlone.

"We have awesome students and

athletes at Ohlone," said Cortez.

The Ohlone FCA meets every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in Room 9103.

Renegades suffer another close defeat

By TOMAS ORTEGA
Staff writer

Tuesday afternoon the Ohlone Men's Baseball team took on Skyline College but ended up in the loss column with a score of 6-3. Ohlone drew first blood in the second inning with back-to-back bunt singles by Jared Berrier and Matt Langseth after a double by Andrew Ham. They took an early 1-0 lead.

The Renegades tallied an extra run in the bottom of four on a two out base hit from Andrew Ham, putting them ahead by two.

On the hill, Ohlone had Kevin Ricketts, who cruised through the first four innings with no sign of trouble. Trouble came though in the sixth inning. After a lead-off single from Skyline, Ricketts induced a should-be double play ball that ended up being held onto by shortstop Derek Helenihi after a well-timed dive by Matt Wismann.

The next Skyline batter hit one into right field that looked as though it should have been gloved on a simple dive. A single and walk later, Skyline had the bases loaded with one out. The following hitter

then drove Ricketts' next pitch into the right field gap, scoring all three runners on base. Ohlone would eventually get out of the inning, but the damage had been done. Skyline led 4-2. Coach Eric Kahoalii later described that inning, mentioning that, "had we made those play on defense we would have been out of that inning."

Skyline went on to score two more runs in the eighth on a two-run single. Ohlone, on the other hand, scored only one the rest of the way.

Kevin Ricketts wound up pitching all nine innings of the game.

According to Kahoalii, Ricketts had a relatively low pitch count throughout the game, which may have attributed to leaving him in the game after his sixth inning woes. Coach K. also added that, "with Kevin [Ricketts], he always gives [them] a chance to come back."

Ohlone's next game will be later today at West Valley College in Saratoga at 2 p.m. The way the standings are looking, Ohlone is going to end up in third place in their division. However, according to their current RPI (statistic that calculates different factors for

playoff seeding) Ohlone looks to be heading into the playoffs later next week. As of Tuesday night, Chabot and West Valley held the number one and two spots respectively.

This game against West Valley will not dent Ohlone's RPI very much. But with selection Sunday coming up this weekend, it would be a good idea for the Renegades to end their season on a high note.

They sure don't want to leave too much in the hands of the selection committee. It is always best to take care of business. The playoff first round will begin Tuesday, May 8. Good luck, Renegades.