

Renegades welcome new coach

By **JEROME NEPACENA**
Staff writer

In any sport, a winning attitude is key to a winning season. The Ohlone Renegades must have had this in mind when they hired former Stanford University pitching coach Tom Kunis to lead the way through Ohlone's spring season. Coach Kunis served as Stanford's pitching coach for eight years and has proven himself effective in developing some top-level heat throwers. Coach Kunis is credited with helping nine Stanford pitchers make it to the MLB in the last eight MLB drafts. With this kind of leadership, Ohlone's next season should be an interesting one.

Coach Kunis is excited to work for Ohlone and is particularly excited about the coaching staff he

has ready to back him up for the upcoming season. Coach Kunis has this to say about the subject; "I am very excited about our coaching staff that includes last year's interim head coach Eric Kahoalii (infield coach), returning outfield coach Jeff Walker, and new assistants; Jordan Twohig (recruiting coordinator), Chris Dvorak (catching coach), Gary Berman (hitting coach). These coaches have excellent credentials and you would be hard pressed to find a more experienced and diverse group of coaches in college baseball."

The one-time national champion has not had the opportunity to really get to know the players he will be coaching yet, but he does have a good idea about who will help lead the team. In an email, Coach Kunis said that he's looking forward

to working with players like first Team all-conference second basemen Matt Kenseth, first baseman Aaron Plimmer, and outfielder Mike Vandenbusch, among others. According to Coach Kunis these players will "help aid the coaching staff in leadership roles, especially as examples on the field and more importantly in the classroom."

Aside from hiring a quality coach as head coach, Ohlone has also been credited with helping develop a talented young shortstop by the name of Derek Helenihi, who plans to transfer to and play for LSU. Coach Kunis praised Ohlone's coaching staff for helping to develop Helenihi and says that Helenihi should be an example to all community college athletes hoping to further their careers.

Hoping to contribute the best way

he can, Coach Kunis knows there will be challenges and obstacles to overcome for the upcoming season. "We play in a very tough conference and when you have 'change' within the head coach, there is usually a bit of culture shock at first and it will be up to myself and this coaching staff to establish our culture without disrupting too greatly the successes that this baseball program has enjoyed for many years..." Ohlone College made it to the playoffs this season as the Number 16 seed before falling to No.2 seed Fresno in the second round. Coach Kunis knows the success the Renegades have experienced and hopes to continue and possibly further that success this season.

The '07 Renegades look to improve on last year's record of 27-19.



Triples alley

By **TOMÁS ORTEGA**
Staff writer

September greatness

Can you think of a better month than September? College football kicked off this past weekend. Baseball is headed into the home stretch. And everyone's favorite, the NFL is starting up tonight.

The surprises began Friday night when Minnesota Twins pitcher Scott Baker went eight innings of perfect baseball. But heading into the ninth, he didn't get a few calls early in the count to the lead off batter and ended up walking the guy. One out later, pinch hitter Mike Sweeney, who was activated before the game, flared an 0-1 pitch into center to break up the no-no. That's the closest the Royals got to threatening. Baker then retired the next two hitters to close out the one-hitter.

Not to be outdone, Red Sox rookie starter Clay Buchholz one-upped Baker by tossing a no-hitter in his second career big league start Saturday night. It was the third no-hitter of the season, following White Sox pitcher Mark Buehrle and the Tigers' Justin Verlander.

College football. How can one not mention that when talking about September? We were treated to two great games: (5) Michigan vs. Appalachian State and (15) Tennessee at (12) Cal.

I only expected one thing from the Michigan game. Blowout. But what happens when you don't do your homework? You get trumped. That's exactly what happened with Michigan at the Big House. After not being able to score in the first half except for some field goals, you could tell they were in trouble. When Appalachian State blocked Michigan's filed goal attempt to put them ahead, it only told half the story.

And the Cal game. If there was a game that met all the expectations that were put in front of it, this was the game. Tennessee's opening drive was quickly halted, when Cal's linebacker had a jarring hit on the Vol's quarterback, causing him to fumble and let a Cal player return it for the first score of the game.

Exciting can't entirely explain this game. Every Cal skill player has big play potential, from their set of running backs to their receivers. It was clearly seen when Desean Jackson, one of the top juniors in the country, made the Volunteers' punt team look childish when he took a punt in for six.

These were only a few of the highlights of September. Not only that, but the NFL is yet to begin. So be ready for the MLB playoffs, college bowls and the juggernaut that is the NFL.

Soccer team ready to improve record

By **VANESSA BAUMANN**
Staff writer

This year's Ohlone Women's soccer team is relatively young, with only four returning players from last year. Head coach Larry Heslin is looking to lead the team to great success, and do better this year than their previous season.

Coach Heslin said, "we are coming off a down year and are trying to bring Ohlone Women's Soccer back to the level that is expected."

The Ohlone Renegades are really looking forward to competing hard this season.

The Renegades season started the August 29, a hot and dry Wednesday afternoon hosting Sacramento City College. At the end of a hard-fought 90-minute game, the score was even at 2-2, with goals from Rachel Morgan and Brittany Rollins, and an assist from Courtney Wilkerson. This was a very good start for the season.

"Our goal every year is to get

into the playoffs, and this year is no different," said coach Heslin.

The Renegades' schedule this season consists of games against Chabot, Foothill, Hartnell and Cañada College, Mission to name a few.

Next on the Renegades' schedule will be Friday Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. against Skyline College in San Bruno.

This should be a very exciting game to see and an important game for the team and coaches.

This year's squad should bring a lot of excitement and entertainment to Ohlone College.

"I am really excited about our team and with hard work and determination I believe as a team we can reach our goal," said Coach Heslin.

The Renegades will be looking forward to their next home game next Tuesday Sept. 11 and are looking to put a dent in the conference and pave their way into the State Finals in December.

Cortez looks to dominate conference

By **RICHARD KILLEEN**
Staff writer

The 2007 volleyball season is set to kick off this week. Although Ohlone has not been known as a dominant team, Jamie Cortez, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, feels this year the team is ready to make big strides in conference play.

"I think that this team can definitely be successful. I think we can be a powerhouse and a legitimate threat in conference this year," Cortez said.

With a new influx of talent in Leeanne Venessa Ridalo and Demi Wilson, along with solid returners like Jamie Munson and Alise Chastaine, the Lady Renegades look strong and on the road to making Ohlone a possible contender in their conference.

With these new faces, coach Cortez feels she has a big goal to meet this season.

"I really want to have the girls come together as a team and see what they are capable of when they work together, and recognizing that they are capable of more than they know," Cortez explained.

With practices beginning at 5 a.m., Monday through Friday, the players have shown their dedication to the team and to coach Cortez.

"This is a hardworking group. There is a lot of heart and a lot of desire, more than anything they want to succeed," said Cortez.

Cortez is hopeful that with the hard work the team puts in, Ohlone



Photo by Tomás Ortega

During the first timeout, Coach Jamie Cortez instructs her team to continue playing hard.

will begin to prove itself as a winning program.

"I would like to establish Ohlone; it hasn't really been known as a volleyball school," said Cortez. "We are trying to establish it and make it better known within the community."

Cortez will be beginning her third season as head coach, although she describes her first two seasons as a "rebuilding of the program," Cortez feels that this year will be the first step in getting Ohlone back

on top.

"I'm excited, I'm definitely excited," Cortez exclaimed as she went on to praise her team.

"As a whole, the entire group is strong, which is nice. They are all willing to work hard and motivate each other."

With the possibility of Ohlone working its way into volleyball prominence, the Lady Renegades would like to have more support from their home crowd. The die hard fans hope for a win.

"I want to open up to the rest of the community just to come out and check out the team, the girls would love to have your support," Cortez said.

The Lady Renegades season began Tuesday night with a 3-0 loss to Los Medanos College. This coming after a practice tournament the final weekend of August.

The next home game for the Renegades will be Friday, Sept. 14, at 6:30 against Skyline College in the Epler Gymnasium.