

Men's H2O host Conference Championship, lose

By **JEROME NEPACENA**
Staff writer

The first half was an offensive struggle for the Men's Water Polo team. The second half was a struggle defensively in the Renegades' 8-3 elimination loss against Solano College Friday afternoon.

Throughout most of the first half, both teams struggled to execute on offense, making it clear that the first team to put a few goals together and create some separation on that scoreboard was going to win the

game.

That is what happened, and unfortunately Ohlone wasn't the team that managed to gain the upper hand. The loss meant elimination from the Men's Water Polo tournament which spanned from Friday throughout all of Saturday.

At the start of the third quarter, neither team could score and many scoring opportunities were missed.

The difference was hustle, and Solano showed a lot of it by beating the Renegades to loose balls and



Photos by Daniel Yuan

Above and left: Ohlone players give it their best shot in the Water Polo tournament last weekend.



forcing turnovers. On the offensive end, the Renegades used too much time off the shot-clock and couldn't seem to get off a quality shot. As the quarter went on the Renegades were able to break free and score two goals in the quarter to make the score 5-2 going into the fourth.

Turnovers and bad shots defined the fourth quarter for the Renegades as Solano finally began to pull away. Solano managed to put the game away for good at

the midpoint of the quarter when an Ohlone turnover resulted in a score for Solano, giving them a 7-2 lead with six minutes left in the game.

The Renegades were held to one goal in the fourth and the end result was an 8-3 loss and elimination in the first round of the tournament.

The tournament was won by West Valley College, with Cabrillo College coming in at second place.

When asked about the Ren-

egades' overall performance for the season, Coach Gene Kendall said "We have been improving every week but not enough to win many games."

Players like goalie Kevin Lundt, Nate Gill, and Danny De Gregorio have been consistent performers for the Men's Water Polo Team, and, according to Coach Kendall, these players were bright spots for the Renegades in a somewhat disappointing season.

Men's Basketball ready for season

By **VANESSA BAUMANN**
Staff writer

Generally in every sport, two major things are needed to have a successful team: good players and a good coach. The Ohlone Men's Basketball Team has had just the thing in the past years, and this year is looking to have the same success.

Coach John Peterson will be coaching his sixth season at Ohlone this year. Throughout the years he has given a lot to the team. He led the team to the first league title in Ohlone history as well as the most wins and best win percentage in Ohlone's history.

Over the past six years, the Renegades' win/loss record is 128-57. The team has also won two Coast Conference Championships and has made five State Tournament appearances.

Their highest ranking in the state is No. 4, and their highest ranking in Northern California is No. 2. Last year's achievement included a record of 28-4.

They also won the Confer-

ence, but ended up losing in the Elite Eight. Last year 11 players transferred to four-year colleges, and of the only seven players who have gone to a DI four-year colleges in Ohlone's history, last year's team provided four of them.

With all of the team's success in the past six years, this year's plans are to deliver another year of success. With no returning starters from last year, 17 freshmen are on this year's team, along with two sophomores.

So the whole team is all new. Because this year's team is all new, there is no answer to what their strength is yet. With 19 new players on the team, they have been working well with each other in the gym and on the court.

That is very important and it is a good sign for the team. Coach Peterson said, "having good players, who are equally good people, that are willing to listen and learn," is one of the main keys to his success as a coach.

When asked about what drives Coach Peterson, he answered, "the

fear of losing, a desire to teach life skills to our athletes that will help them when they leave here, and the desire to help kids position themselves to get a scholarship and continue their education."

With a lot to live up to from the past years, this year's team will be working just as hard to succeed and prove that they are a strong team.

Coach Peterson's realistic expectations for this year's team is to win the state title. "If we do the things we are supposed to do, on and off the court, I think it could be a good year."

The men open at home Friday, versus Sacramento City at 7 p.m. in the first round of the Jonathon Wallace Memorial Tournament.



Photo by Tomás Ortega

Coach Peterson instructs one of his players during practice Tuesday afternoon.

Soulless holidays

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Wait for the holidays. Yes, there's a holiday rush.

Yes, you might have to not-so-gently nudge that ninety-year old grandma out of the way to get the last turkey on sale.

Yes, you might have to actually use one of uncle Alphonse' bonsai trees, because all the Christmas trees were sold out.

And yes, you might even have to be creative on your sister's present because you didn't sell your soul to beat the crowds on Black Friday.

But if you end up inviting that old grandma to share your family's Thanksgiving dinner, if you get to decorate that bonsai tree with your little cousins for their first Christmas, and if your sister just happens to appreciate the love and effort you put into your present rather than simply buying her something everyone else has, wouldn't it all be worth it?

I can't answer those questions for you, but I for one wouldn't have it any other way.