

Women's Basketball off to hot start

By VANESSA BAUMANN
Staff writer

After a 26-6 record last season, the women's basketball team heads into the 2007-'08 season looking to improve and win state.

With the return of last year's Coast Conference Coach of the Year Elizabeth Stanley, all seems possible for the Lady Renegades.

After their first two home games, the Lady Renegades traveled down to San Diego to play in the San Diego City College Thanksgiving tournament, which consisted of Ohlone, San Diego City College, Centralia College (Wash.) and Victor Valley.

This would be Ohlone's first appearance in the tournament, and they would not disappoint, as they would take home the championship trophy beating both Victor Valley 79-49 and Centralia (Wash.) 75-68.

The ladies continued their strong play last night as they hosted the Las Positas Ladyhawks.

Ohlone's strong play was near non-existent in the beginning of the game as they missed a few opportunities to open up the scoring as their first three shots were blocked.

Las Positas would take advantage of the Ohlone miscues and open up the scoring. But not before long, the Renegades' sophomore point guard, Taylor Lyons, would bring Ohlone its first points of the game.

Both teams would begin to exchange scores midway into the first half, yet Ohlone would continue to trail. Sophomore forward Kelly Fisher's three-pointer would even up the score at 16, only to have Las Positas score a three-pointer to regain the lead.

Renegades, down but not out, turn to their defense to regain the lead. Taylor Lyons' steal late in the first half would kick-start the offense for Ohlone as her steal and score gave the Renegades the lead, and they would never look back.



Photo by Jeff Weisinger

Tytiana Tobin works the ball upcourt against a tough Las Positas squad.

Ohlone capitalized on almost every mistake by the Ladyhawks as they would go into halftime leading Las Positas 54-36.

The second half once again started slow. This time, however, the roles somewhat switched as Ohlone began to make mistake after mistake with Las Positas began to capitalize on a few of the Renegades mistakes.

The Renegades would step up defensively to prevent any sort of comeback. Ohlone's Kelly Fisher and Geneaya Rogers continued their stellar games in the second half, with Fisher scoring a team high 19 points and Rogers finishing with complimentary 12 points on the night.

Ohlone led by at least 15 points for the rest of the game and would go on to win by a final score of 78-62.

The Lady Renegades' next game is in the Santa Rosa Junior College Tournament in Santa Rosa on Dec. 6-8, followed by an away game at Modesto Junior College the following Wednesday.



Photo by Jeff Weisinger

Tytiana Tobin keeps her eye on the rock, helping her defense stay on high alert.

Tennis returns to Ohlone College

By TOMAS ORTEGA
Chief-Sports writer

For years now, Ohlone College has produced many great athletes and many great teams.

Ohlone looks to add to that tradition by resurrecting its tennis program.

The last time Ohlone had a tennis team was back in the early '90's.

To lead this new team the Renegades welcome the youthful coaching duo of Cliff Awuy and Fu Wong to coach the Men's and Women's Tennis teams respectively.

Awuy spent a good portion of his life devoted to tennis. Since he was 11 years old, Awuy has been seen shuffling and darting across the tennis courts.

He played at Mission Santa Barbara then began to work for the Tompkins Tennis Academy here in Fremont.

Fu Wong spent his time in the Midwest. He grew up in Chicago and went to school in Wisconsin where he played tennis. Wong later

traveled to California to coach in Fremont at the Tompkins Academy as well.

Both Awuy and Wong have extensively worked with many nationally ranked amateur tennis players while at the Tompkins Academy.

With the experience they have gained working with high-class athletes, they hope they can build a strong program here at Ohlone.

According to Wong, they have very high expectations for the program. "We want to win state within five years," said Wong.

That is quite a bold statement from the young coach considering the fact Ohlone has yet to field a team.

However, he does understand that there will be a building process early on.

As for this year, they just want to field a competitive team, which is very possible.

Yet, in trying to do that, Wong and Awuy are taking an unorthodox approach.



Cliff Awuy, left, and Fu Wong are ready to bring back tennis to Ohlone.

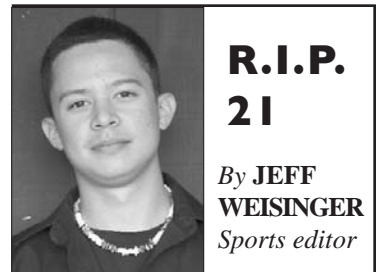
Rather than holding a regular open-tryout, Wong and Awuy are putting together an open-tournament on Jan. 15 for anyone who is interested in joining the tennis team.

The top four men and top four women will automatically earn a spot on the respective squad.

Coach Awuy strongly believes that they can do a lot to contribute to the sports department at Ohlone.

Especially with the courts being upgraded, the coaches are on board and there are plenty of possible athletes that attend Ohlone who could succeed and possibly head to a four-year university in the future.

To contact either one of the coaches, all those interested should call the Mission Hills Tennis Club at 510-656-2250 and leave a message for either of the two
You ready for some tennis?



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By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

Taylor's death a shock

Life is precious and, at times, life can be short. We should all remember that.

The sudden death of Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor on Tuesday is a much-needed reminder of that.

Taylor was shot in the leg during a home invasion at Florida home early Monday morning. He was quickly airlifted to Jackson Memorial Hospital where he was treated for a gunshot wound to his leg. However, he lost a lot of blood as the bullet punctured a main artery. Taylor was pronounced dead early Tuesday morning. He was only 24.

Taylor was the fifth overall draft pick by the Redskins in 2004. His start in the NFL was very rocky, but he slowly began to mature going into his fourth season in the league.

"He was kind of a wild child, like myself," said New York Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey, a teammate of Taylor's at the University of Miami. "But life changed for Sean after he had his baby girl. Fatherhood really changed him. He grew up and matured."

The birth of Taylor's first daughter gave him a new look on life, and his maturity showed on the field as he was selected to his first Pro Bowl last year.

Taylor's death has left a "numb" feeling among the team. Some players and even staff members could barely focus on work with memories of Taylor at every turn.

From the flowers left for Taylor at the door of the Redskins headquarters, to the number 21 on the grass by the practice field where fans held a candlelight memorial for Taylor last night, nobody was thinking of work, let alone football.

The timing of all of this couldn't be any worse also. Washington plays two games in five days. They play Buffalo at home on Sunday then turn around and play the Chicago Bears on a Thursday night game, with the funeral for Taylor being on Monday.

Both games are at home, but to have to deal with two games in a five-day span will be a challenge.

Every game on Sunday will have a moment of silence before kickoff and every player will wear a number 21 sticker on their helmet in memory of Taylor.

He was a star in the making. Now we'll never know how he could've been.