

# Connor's 3-pointer redeems mens' basketball

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Renegades' guard Chancious Rose and forward Matt Connors came up huge against Skyline Wednesday night.

Rose had 25 points, scoring most of them down the stretch, which helped the Renegades stay in the game, but it was Matt Connors hitting a fadeaway 3-pointer with 7 seconds left in the game that set up a huge defensive play by Rose.

After Connors hit the 3 to tie the game 71-71, Rose leaped into the passing lane for a steal and was subsequently fouled on a layup.

Rose hit 1 out of 2 at the freethrow line but because Skyline had no timeouts left, they had no choice but to throw up a prayer at the buzzer.

The huge plays weren't by accident, as Renegades head coach John Peterson would tell you.

"We executed them real well," he said of his team's big plays down the stretch.

"We've been working on late-game situations for the last three days."

But Peterson would also tell you that it wasn't easy; after a foul-ridden first half in which both teams were called for over 20 fouls, the Renegades also had 11 turnovers.

Strangely, they still held a 39-35 lead at the half. "We were sloppy, we had 11 turnovers," Peterson admits, "But in the second half, we only turned it over twice and didn't foul as much."

Despite the fewer turnovers, the Renegades could not put Skyline away, even allowing them to start the half with a 7-2 run and eventually building a lead as large as 5.

The stage was set for some heroics



Photo by Danielle Rivers

## Nate Liggins (33) with a reverse layup past Skyline's Mario Flaherty (45).

by both Rose and Connors, the 5'11" Rose hit three straight field goals including a short jumper which cut Skyline's lead to 1.

After getting a few defensive stops highlighted by a block by 6'8" forward Alpha N'Diaye and forcing Skyline into a shot-clock violation, it was now Connors' turn to make something happen.

"He'd missed his last four or five shots before that one," Peterson said,

referring to the game-tying three by Connors, "but Matt is too good a shooter to miss five in a row."

The clutch late-game performances helped the Renegades pull out a 72-71 win.

Skyline couldn't take advantage of a 19-point game by guard Shawn Echols and a four-for-four showing from the three-point line. He just missed his season high of 19 points.

## CCSF trumps

Saturday night's game, though it was filled with passionate fans on both sides, turned out to be a downer in the end.

The Renegades led by 11 at one point in the game, but ended up dropping the game to the No. 1

team in California, the Community College of San Francisco.

When asked about losing the double digit lead, Head Coach John Peterson said, "We stopped doing what got us the lead. Player movement stopped, ball movement stopped. Guys started going one-on-one. Then we didn't get stops on the other end."

The Renegades did a great job limiting the Rams' scoring opportunities from the perimeter, especially with CCSF shooting 50 percent from the field on the year.

Their two top scorers this season, Robert Owens and Jason Brownlee, combined for 28 points, including Owens shooting 3/5 behind the 3-point arc. Brownlee fouled out in the middle of the second half with 13 points.

Unfortunately, the 6'7" Brownlee was picked up by 6'6" Brandon Wiley, who led all scorers with 23 points. Wiley, who averages nearly 12 PPG, attributed his success against Ohlone to staying late at practice and working hard.

Like the box score shows, work hard he did. With their top three scorers guarded well, Wiley had his chance to shine.

As for the Renegades, Alpha N'Diaye and James Hancock did a great job in the paint early on, which included a few highlight reel moments by Alpha, including a few dunks and big blocks.

Looking forward, Peterson sees his group of guys being a very tough team come playoff time.

He remarked, "We're getting there. We lost to Delta when they were ranked number one, and Fresno when they were ranked number one. We're going to be tough."

The Renegades have now won six of their last eight games. Their next opponent is Las Positas this Saturday afternoon.

## Staff in order

By **JEROME NEPACENA**  
Sports writer

Coach Tom Kunis has his team's pitching staff in top form this season as the Renegades displayed a solid performance against San Mateo last Tuesday afternoon.

The former Stanford pitching coach watched his team defeat San Mateo College 2-1 through 9 innings and improve their record to 4-5 overall this season.

It started with Nick Colvin, the sophomore from Half Moon Bay High School, who gave up two walks and a hit but had three strikeouts at the top of the first inning. Through 6 innings, the score was still 0-0 and the pitching was holding up. But Freshman David Luna gave up a homerun to give San Mateo a 1-0 lead.

In the bottom of the 6th, the Renegades responded by scoring two runs highlighted by some nice base running by Sophomore Matt Langseth, who managed to steal second base and eventually run home.

The Renegades held on to their 2-1 lead through nine innings and went home with another win.

The victory was preceded by a good stretch of games last week with the Renegades going 2-1 in the Ohlone-Mission tourney.

The tournament was highlighted by an offensive explosion against DeAnza College, whom the Renegades dealt an 18-1 beating with yet another good pitching performance.

Shane Murchison had 5 strikeouts and 0 walks and led an Ohlone pitching staff that held DeAnza scoreless for most of the game.

"Kevin Radach came in relief with the bases loaded and two out to record a stifling blow to the Deanza Dons," said Kunis. Offensively, David Luna led the way with 3 hits and 4 RBI.

The win was followed by a 6-17 setback to Mission College, a loss which Kunis blames on "some poor pitching by us and some timely hitting by Mission, as well as some below-average defense which gave us the skewed scoring result."

Three Renegade players had two hits to highlight an otherwise lackluster performance. In the next game, the Renegades were back to their normal self with a 14-3 victory over Laney College to cap off



Photo by Pei Ju Chen

## Sophomore Nick Caravelli works his way down the baseline Tuesday.

the tourney.

Nick Caravelli and Matt Langseth tortured the Laney pitching staff by hitting some huge home runs, helping contribute to the nice offensive display by the Renegades.

"Joe Gardner pitched 6.1 very strong innings against the Laney Eagles, who were undefeated entering the contest," said Kunis.

"Kevin Radach, David Luna and, closer, Kurtis Sherer's combined

efforts held the Eagles scoreless the rest of the way."

It was a nice way for the Renegades to rebound from what Kunis called "an unsettling loss" against Mission.