

Ohlone beats Cabrillo; awaits Fresno

By **JEROME NEPACENA**
Sports writer

Ohlone's game against Cabrillo College last Friday night looked, sounded and felt like a playoff game, which is exactly what it was.

The Renegades rode into the playoffs determined to make a statement and they got their chance with a 70-62 victory.

The Renegades were able to withstand a late run in which turnovers allowed Cabrillo to come back from a deficit that ballooned to as many as 15 points.

With this victory, the Renegades were able to not only get a little revenge for their 72-62 loss to Cabrillo earlier this year, but also pick up their first win of the playoffs.

In the first half, the Renegades were able to keep some distance between themselves and Cabrillo by playing good defense and forcing 10 turnovers.

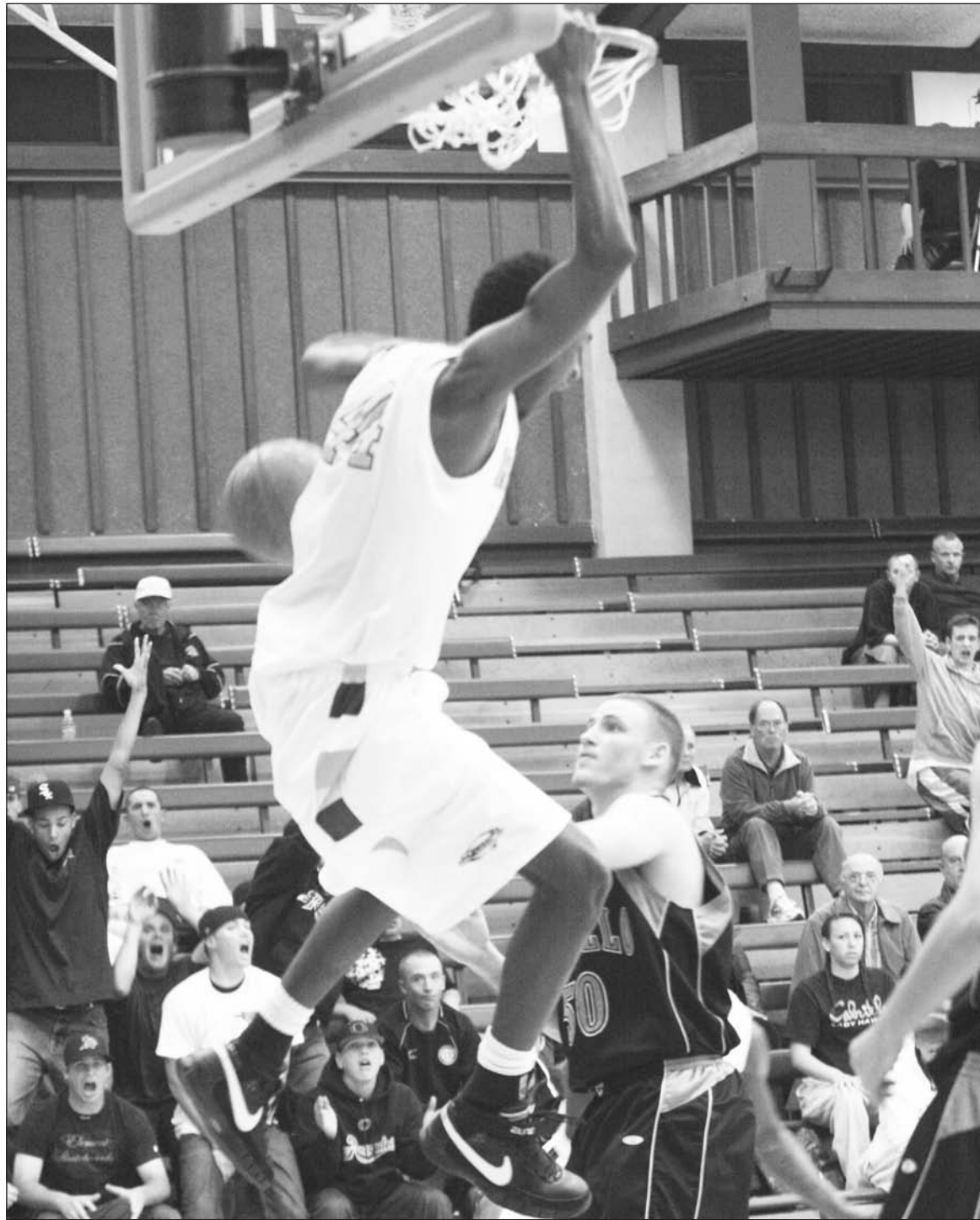
"The key for us was keeping them from penetrating into the paint; I just thought we did a great job of that, especially for about the first 30 minutes," Head Coach John Peterson said, "We did a great job of taking away what they wanted to do."

The half ended with Ohlone holding a 28-20 lead.

The Renegades looked to finish the job at the start of the second half which opened with a 3 point shot by Forward James Hancock, who followed the 3 with a short jumper in the lane to push the lead to 10.

The run continued, and Ohlone stayed hot behind another 3 pointer, this time by guard Amarildo Matos to extend the lead to 14. The lead was short-lived, though, as Cabrillo answered with their own run behind some nice inside scoring and free throw shooting to help them get back into the game.

The fact that the Renegades began to turn the ball over themselves didn't help matters. "We tried pretty hard to give that away



Alpha N'Diaye excites the Epler gym with a monster two-handed dunk.

Photo by Pei Ju Chen

there for a minute," Peterson said, "But that's ok, that's part of being pressured."

The late rally by Cabrillo helped them cut the lead to as little as 6 points with less than 3 minutes to

go in the game.

The Renegades responded by hitting big shots, the biggest shot coming from Matos, who scored on a layup and was fouled. Matos then proceeded to complete the

three-point play.

The Renegades' next opponent will be Fresno City College in their home town Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Fresno beat Chabot Saturday night 81-74.

Softball has good run early in season

By **TOMÁS ORTEGA**
Sports editor

The Ohlone women's softball team has had one hell of a year.

So far they are 12-4 overall including a stellar 8-0 record within the Coast Conference North.

Their dominance continued against the Merced Devils when they struck the final nail on the coffin with a 7-2 victory Saturday afternoon.

Renegade hurler Danielle Yee improved her record to 3-0 with an impressive line.

Through seven innings, Yee surrendered just two earned runs on seven total hits. She also struck out seven while walking none in her brilliant performance.

Yee didn't allow a run until late in the sixth inning, when the Devils' lead-off batter reached with a first pitch triple to the right-center field gap. She would later come around to

score on a base hit two batters later. The second run came in a short top of the seventh.

Sunday, the Renegade softball team decided to make play a bit of cat-and-mouse with Sacramento City College.

However, they would drop this ballgame 3-0 in Sac-town. That's what usually happens when you can only manage four total hits through seven. Kelly Colker wound up taking the loss bringing her to (6-3) on the season.

Fortunately for Colker, Tuesday would prove to be her rectifying performance against CCSF. Colker wound up going seven strong, while only allowing 4 hits.

When asking Head Coach Donna Runyon about her pitchers' performance, she said they teach their pitching staff to "pitch mad" and to "not show emotion".

With those keys, the Renegades are likely to take the Coast North.

Tough game ahead

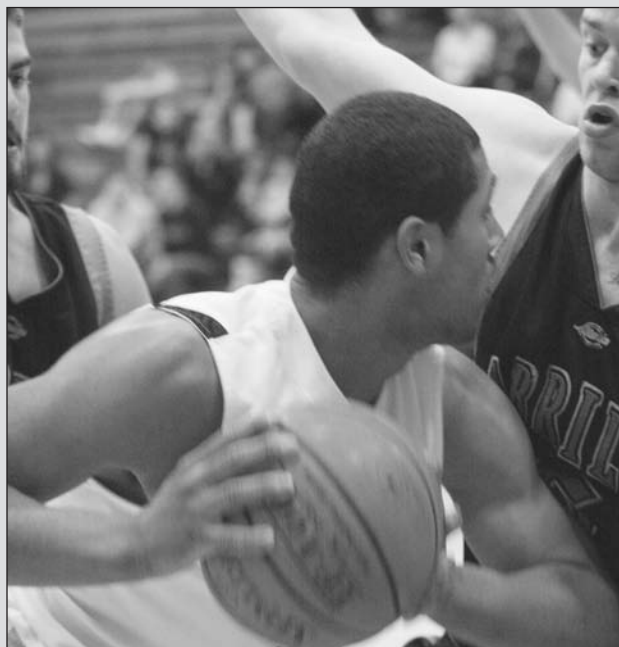


Photo by Pei Ju Chen

James Hancock's presence inside the paint will be needed when the Renegades take on Fresno City College Saturday night.



Hot Corner
 By **NATE GIL**
Sports writer

Best in west?

Finishing the 2007 season with a miserable record of 71-91, the San Francisco Giants were a substandard team at best. The rose-colored Giants fan would believe the 2008 season should be looked on with optimism hopes of a fresh start and a shot at being a playoff contending team.

Unfortunately the Giants are ranked 19th in hitting and dead last in fielding percentages this spring. With the loss of the home run king, the Giants' hopes for success in the clean-up spot lie in the bat of Aaron Rowand, who batted a very respectable .309, with 27 homeruns and 89 runs batted in during 2007.

But that's about all the Giants have as far as offense goes. Sure, they have a promising young pitching staff, but without any run support, the odds of having an above .500 season are very slim.

The only real talent for the Giants is the starting pitching. However this spring, history is showing signs of repeating itself through the arms of our young bombers.

Noah Lowry is coming off a 1 1-3 inning start in which he threw 9 walks to the 12 batters he faced and managed to throw 40 pitches in which only 4 were for strikes. He has now recently been diagnosed with tendonitis in his left wrist and must leave Arizona to see a specialist in San Francisco.

The rest of the Giants starting pitching staff seem to be plagued with some form of lack of talent this spring as well. With a seven-year-\$126 million contract with the Giants under his belt, Barry Zito is expected to make a dramatic turnaround from his 2007 struggle. A 22.09 ERA is not what Giants fans hoped to see out of Zito this spring, but hey, he's an Athletic at heart; they always start out kind of slow.

The four other teams in the Giants' division are all solid teams. They have young talent making them all playoff-contenders for many years to come.

The Giants, however, are at a frustrating standstill; the organization has developed a bad habit of picking up players who are on their last legs hoping it would let them sneak into the playoffs.

Now this tactic has backfired, leaving the Giants with soon-to-be-retired players and no signs of improvement anytime in the near future.

The rest of the league's growth in talent, the Giants' lack of aggression during the off-season to acquire big-time players, and the Giants' middle-aged roster assures this season will be another long and frustrating one for the team by the Bay.