

# No last-minute victory vs. State Champ Fresno

■ Ohlone played well with 10 freshmen

By TOMÁS ORTEGA  
*Sports editor*

Half a second left on the game clock. Ohlone inbounding in the frontcourt. Freshman Chancious Rose has a chance to win it with a three in the right wing....BUZZER. Rose bobbled it before he had a chance to shoot.

Ohlone eliminated in the Sweet Sixteen by defending champs, Fresno City College 64-62.

Read the third sentence again. It may seem like a direct knock on the Renegades' scoring leader. But it is far from it. Take a look again and you'll see "freshman" and "chance to win the game" in the same sentence.

That was the story of the season for the Ohlone Renegade men's basketball team. Carrying 13 players on the active roster and only three returners from last year's Elite Eight squad, this team showed a lot of fight matching up against the defending state champion, Fresno City College.

The game Saturday night got under way with a quick seven-foot jumper by Rose, giving the Renegades an early two-point lead. They would have to fight hard to get that lead back after seeing Fresno advance to as much as an 11-point lead late in the first half.

When the first half buzzer hit, Ohlone saw their one-time 22-11 deficit come down to a much closer score of 36-32.

Fresno's guard Brandon Johnson, who finished with 21 points in the game, said after the game that Fresno's second-year Head Coach Ed Madec had a "game plan to stop Chancious Rose. That was a hard thing to do because he's so fast and

strong. But we did it."

Rose was held to just 12 points in the effort.

The second half of the ball game saw a more fluid Renegade ball club, probably due to Fresno not applying a tough full-court press on every Ohlone possession.

At one point, Ohlone went up by two on a Nate Liggins baseline lay-in with 15 minutes left on the clock.

Fresno's next possession after that saw a huge swat by Ohlone's Alpha N'Diaye on Johnson that got the Ohlone bench fired up. Unfortunately for the Renegades, Johnson himself would go on a tear and score on Fresno's next three possessions, getting the lead back.

Ohlone had a chance to win it late, but Rose made a rare fumble of a pass and the clock expired before he could re-group and get a shot off.

Ohlone Head Coach John Peterson after the game was impressed with his team's performance.

He said pressure applied by Fresno caused his team to make mistakes throughout the game.

Peterson also said, "To get to [Sweet Sixteen] after being at .500 around Christmas time is a major accomplishment."

Also a major accomplishment for this Renegade ballclub is that they'll return almost all of their roster, including four regular starters, Rose being one of them.

Last year, the Renegades hit a wall when facing Antelope Valley in the Elite Eight.

Antelope Valley would go on to lose to an all-freshman Fresno City team with a first-year head coach.

Now, with Ohlone returning all these players next fall, they have a chance of being a final four team and bringing home another banner.

Or even better, a state trophy.

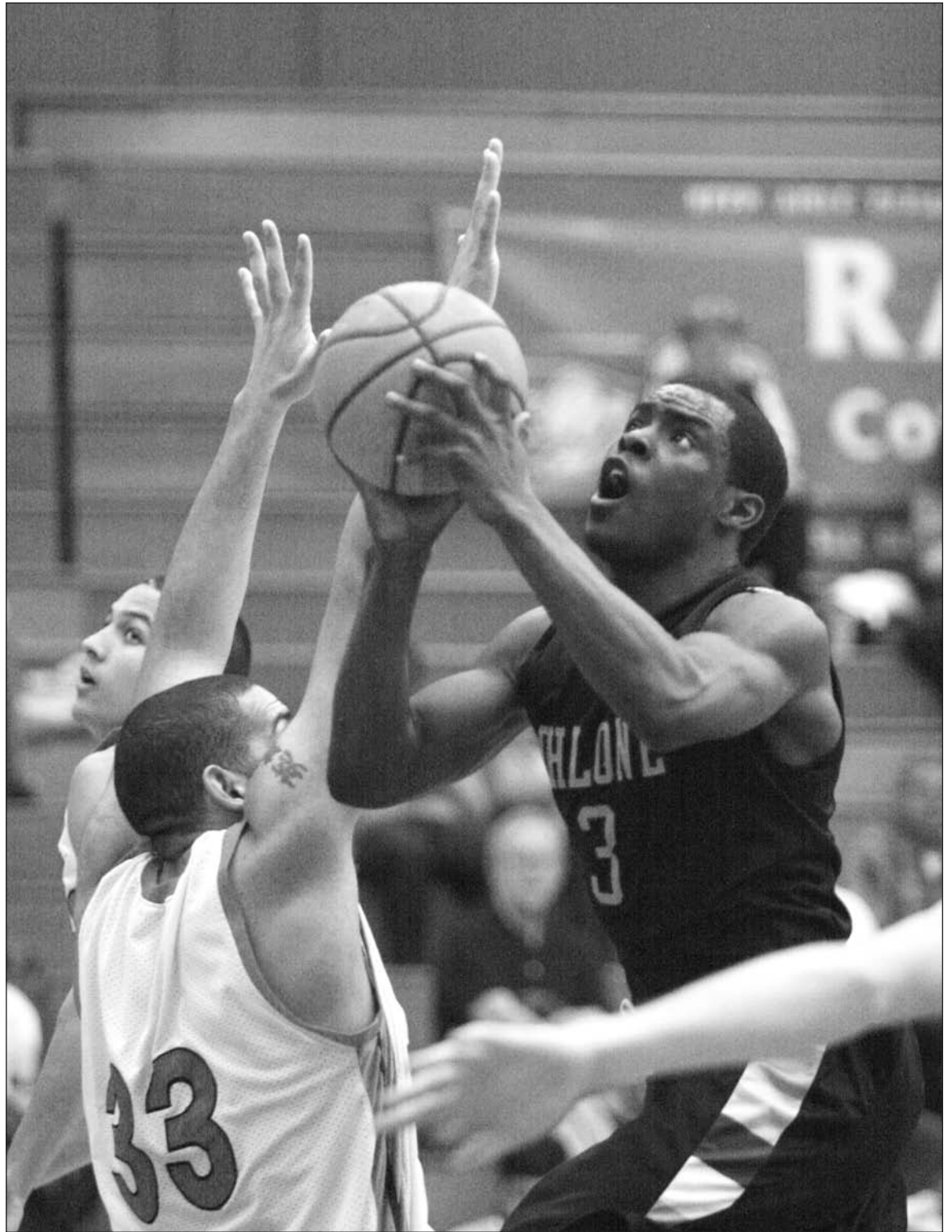


Photo by Rebecca Lancaster

Chancious Rose drives inside against Fresno's Arte Williams in a tough loss.

## Softball improves to 10-0 with win over rival Chabot

By TOMÁS ORTEGA  
*Sports editor*

Great pitching will win ball games. Even better hitting will put you among the elite. The Renegade softball team did just that, beating rival Chabot College on a chilly Tuesday afternoon 5-1.

A great crowd turned out to the ball field at 3 p.m. to see the Renegades drop a four-run second inning against Chabot pitcher Christina Panuco.

Ohlone's wild inning started with a four-pitch strikeout by Kassy "Red" Winger. She was followed by Cassandra Ortega's hard single down the third base line.

Three pitches later, Ortega wound up on third when Kelly Colker blooped a pitch into right field, putting runners on the corners. That's when the inning got wild.

With Danielle Cameron at the plate, Colker took off for second, but froze when the throw went through to second. Seeing her chance to score, Ortega bolted for the plate with the defense distracted

and managed to score after the throw home was oddly cut off by Chabot's Panuco.

Cameron then went on to shoot the next pitch into shallow right where the second-base man booted the flare, allowing Colker to score and Cameron to second.

Three batters later with the bases full of Renegades, lead-off hitter Kim Cawley scorched the second pitch she saw into shallow left. Chabot's left-fielder, Jessica Stellato, dived and looked as though she caught the ball, but the umpire then ruled it fell out of her glove.

Two of the Renegades' base runners would score from second and third, but trailing runner Danielle Yee must have not seen Stellato drop the fly. She would be the lone Renegade called out on the play when she was tagged out at first for not advancing.

Ohlone would scratch off another run in the third with a Kelly Colker double.

As for the pitching in the ball game, it was stellar.

Colker came out all guns blaz-

ing and threw 92 pitches worth of greatness from her hip, striking out eight while giving up no earned runs on three hits.

Even after striking out the side to end the game, Colker, who didn't say much, could only thank her defense in a post-game interview.

Also, after the game, Head Softball Coach Donna Runyon said her team "made a lot of loud outs."

She was also pleased with Colker's ability to knock in an RBI after giving up a run in the top half of the inning on defense. A philosophy of hers is "if a team scores on [them], they've got to answer back."

This win puts Ohlone at 15-4 overall, including an amazing 10-0 record in league play. This afternoon, the Renegades face off against San Mateo at 3 p.m.

Following Thursday's game, the annual March Madness tournament will be held over the weekend at the Pleasanton Sports Complex.

The venue was moved because the usual site, Fremont's Central Park, was reserved by another group.

## Men's Tennis plays well, loses anyway

By JEROME NEPACENA  
*Sports writer*

After several hard-fought matches, the men's tennis team came up short Tuesday afternoon against a solid Cabrillo College team in their fifth match of the season.

Each match was competitive and every set was played with players for both teams hustling to try to get an advantage.

"They worked hard; the score doesn't reflect how the games were played," said Head Coach Cliff Awuy, after all matches were played and Cabrillo came away with the victory. "Our guys made them work for everything and that's saying something against one of the better teams in the conference."

Results from the singles matches included Cabrillo's Landon Browne winning both sets against Ohlone's Kevin Chung with scores of 6-1 and 6-0, as well as Kyle Walker defeating Ohlone's Xavier Pedroca 6-1 in the first set and 6-2 in the second set.

After the singles matchups were completed, two doubles matches were played where Cabrillo also came away with the victories. Cabrillo's Landon Browne and Kyle Walker defeated Chung and Pedroca 8-0.

Awuy said the Men's Tennis team put up a competitive effort, especially considering they're undermanned and had to forfeit two matchups against a larger Cabrillo team.

The men's tennis team will suit up again and play on Friday against Los Altos College at Los Altos Hills to try and bounce back from their recent defeats.