



Triples Alley
By TOMÁS ORTEGA
Sports editor

Small Giants

So all is bad in San Francisco. The Giants are near rock bottom in the National League in hitting. Their pitching hasn't been as good as most fans have anticipated with Cain walking nearly as many hitters as he's struck out (9 BB/10 K).

There are only two teams who have scored less than San Francisco. That would be the Rockies, who are yet to impress this season. The worst team in the runs scored category would be the Detroit Tigers who, even with all the power they have, are still looking up at the Giants, of all teams, in the scoring department.

But there is quite a difference between the two ball clubs. The best hitter in the Giants lineup is a toss-up between Aaron Rowand or Bengie Molina, neither of which is going to consistently light up any box score.

The "best" hitter on the Tigers roster goes by the name of Miguel Cabrera who, even with the big contract he just signed, has only put together two hits for the last-place Tigers.

You can see the difference among those names in your sleep. It's a cold hard fact that Cabrera is good for a .300/35/120 season. Rowand or Molina? Anyone at all?

So if great, even good hitting isn't to be expected by the team on the Bay, what is? It has to be a "little victories" type of season for them. They may not go off and win 80 or more games. But we could see the progress of kids like Lewis, Ortmeier and Velez.

When 10 p.m. comes around, and I'm checking the box score for the Giants, I make sure to take a look at those three names. Did Lewis or Ortmeier have multi-hit games (yeah, right) and did Velez steal more than one bag? The latter is more likely to happen than Ortmeier or Lewis getting multiple hits.

Also, Velez isn't the only kid who has potential for multiple stolen bases a game. If center fielder Rajai Davis can bump up his hitting and break into the everyday lineup, he and Velez could run circles around NL lineups.

Speed is the one thing the Giants team can try and rely on to win this season. Especially with a park the size of AT&T. Right-handed hitters will not be successful if they try and send the ball the distance to left.

So hold on tight. Lincecum looks like he will be a dominating force for them. Cain will have to dust himself off a bit from his recent outings. And notice, I did my best not to mention Zito here. For no wins and a big check every two weeks, why would I?

Runyon picks up 700th win

By JEROME NEPACENA
Sports writer

The Lady Renegades gave Coach Donna Runyon reason to celebrate, as she picked up her 700th career win in the game against DeAnza College Tuesday afternoon.

After the game, Runyon was congratulated by her team and presented with flowers and an ovation by the crowd that was at hand to witness a solid win by the Renegades softball team.

Speaking of the game, the Renegades wasted no time and seemed very determined to help their head coach reach the milestone in what has been a very memorable season. Kelly Colker impressed the crowd with a great performance, pitching a no hitter, striking out the first three at-bats and finishing the game with 10 strikeouts and 0 walks.

Through 6 innings, it seemed as if first base was off-limits for any DeAnza player; the one hit they got was off an error at second base when DeAnza's Lauren Esteban was able to get their first base hit.

Ohlone still ended up winning the game 7-0 to boost their record to 32-7 and 19-0 in their league. "I feel like I'm pretty lucky," Runyon said after the game, "I enjoy my job and I enjoy my players. I feel very proud...32 wins is a lot of wins."

Runyon was all smiles after the game, when she took pictures with all of her players to capture the moment. Other solid performances in the game included Katt Sumner,



Photo by Tomás Ortega

Softball coach Donna Runyon heads back to the office to add to her 700 wins.

who finished 2-4, with 1 stolen base and an RBI and Danielle Cameran, who was 2-3 with 1 RBI, as well as Brittney Langs, who was able to get the last hit of the game and get a runner in to seal the win for the

Lady Renegades.

The Renegades play next at home on Thursday against City College of San Francisco, where they look to get started on Coach Runyon's next several hundred career wins.

Baseball win over DeAnza

By NATE GILL
Sports writer

Ohlone squeezed out a tough 6-4 win over De Anza on Tuesday afternoon. The coaches, the players and the fans were all on edge as they watched each play, knowing that in a close game, any big play could be the deciding factor.

Both pitchers were dominating, not allowing either offense to touch them until the fourth inning, when both teams' bats woke up. De Anza drew first blood with a lead-off triple, followed by an RBI single to put them ahead 1-0. Pitcher Shane Murchison kept his composure and got out of the jam with some solid defense and a huge strikeout.

In the bottom of the fourth, it was time for the Renegades to go to work. David Luna and Justin Lunday came out with powerful back-to-back doubles. Lunday went on to score on an RBI single by Braxton Miller to put Ohlone ahead 2-1.

With a lead-off walk to start the bottom of the 5th, Matt Langseth had a booming triple to cash in another run for his squad. The boys did some more damage in the 6th putting up a two-spot, taking advantage of De Anza's defensive mistakes. Murchison seemed virtually untouchable after giving up the one run in the 4th. The only small blemish in his day came in the 7th inning, when he got into some trouble as his defense made a few errors behind him. The inning



Photo by Tomás Ortega

Shane Murchison goes 6.3 strong frames in the win.

looked like it was taking a turn for the worse, but relief pitcher Kevin Radach came in and shut the door on DeAnza, getting a huge strikeout and a much-needed ground ball to end the inning. Shane Murchison finished the game with 6 1/3 innings pitched, 5 hits, 3 walks and 6 strikeouts, picking up his 8th win of the season. In the bottom of the 7th, when the boys needed some insurance, Langseth led off the inning with a single to get the rally started. Pinch hitter #14 Ryan Harmon came through with his first hit of the season, moving Langseth over into scoring position. Langseth used his speed to get an extra 90 feet, stealing third base.

Then Lunday came through again in the clutch with a sacrifice fly

to put much-needed pressure on the offense of De Anza. Relief pitcher David Luna dominated through the 8th inning with solid defense and a huge strikeout. The top of the 9th was a nail-bitter. Closer Kurtis Sherer looked strong, striking out his first batter and getting the next to ground out to the second baseman. Then he got into trouble, hitting a runner with two outs. That led to back-to-back singles and a run scored. The coaches were screaming, the players were chanting and the fans were grinding their teeth. Then Sherer came out with a huge strikeout to end the game and give his team their much-needed 17th win. After the game, Coach Tom Kunis said. "We are fighting for our lives."



Unanimous decision
By JEROME NEPACENA
Sports writer

Times tickin'

Last Monday, the Bay Area's favorite team of high flyers and big shot makers were able to keep their season alive with a win over the Sacramento Kings.

The only problem was that the team they're competing with also won big, against the Los Angeles Clippers. Before the season started, Bay Area residents were convinced that the Golden State Warriors would be able to build on the success and excitement of last season and translate it into a Phoenix Suns-type year where they'd literally run other teams off the floor.

But an 0-6 start and some inconsistent shooting through the course of the season helped to keep that from happening. Which brings us to now, tied for the eighth spot with the Denver Nuggets. Each game is huge, but none much bigger than tonight's matchup against Denver.

The game can do a lot to show NBA fans what the future holds for both teams. Many argue that Golden State has been lucky the last few days, that the Nuggets have dropped some very winnable games including a double overtime loss to Seattle on Sunday.

Losing to Dallas last week wasn't just another loss to a good team, it was a loss of momentum and a bit of a downer. What happened to last season, when they swept the Mavericks in the regular season and proceeded to pull off one of the biggest upsets in NBA history?

This year, the Warriors are 1-3 against Dallas and it gets me thinking, was it all just a fluke? Was Charles Barkley actually right when he talked about the Golden State "Munchkins" as too small of an NBA team to actually contend? Again, I try to be optimistic, but now I'm just downright nervous.

If the Warriors lose tomorrow, Barkley's words are going to end up ringing louder and louder in my ears. A loss won't mean that Golden State is out of it, but it will mean that the doubters are going to make themselves look smarter. Hopefully the Warriors will prove the doubters wrong.

Please, Warriors, don't waste what could be your first 50-win season in years as well as Baron Davis' first healthy season in what feels like forever.

Here's hoping that they bring back the Matt Barnes Mohawk and the yellow "We Believe" t-shirts, but most importantly, here's to hoping they bring back the "proving the doubters" wrong habit they picked up last year, because we all know how much fun they can be when they do that.