

Baseball goes 12 innings strong, lose to Hartnell

By NATE GILL
Sports writer

Tuesday's game against the Hartnell Panthers was the biggest and most important game of the season for the Renegades. After three hours and 12 innings of long, hard-fought baseball, the boys fell short of picking up a crucial victory to put them in a 3rd place tie with Hartnell.

Renegades' Head Coach Tom Kunis pulled out all the stops, using four different pitchers and introducing some new faces in the starting lineup in an attempt to earn a victory over Hartnell.

The big right-handed bats of David Luna and Justin Lunday were absent in the beginning of the game, as Kunis utilized his left-handed hitters against Hartnell's right-handed pitcher.

"It was a strategy that worked; this pitcher really struggles against left-handed batters. He walked six and gave up four hits to left-handed batters."

Starting pitcher Shane Murchison lasted 2 1/3 innings, giving up three earned runs; his day was cut short when he got into a big jam in the 3rd inning.

Relief pitcher Ian Hoff then came in; it was an attempt to get Ohlone through the 3rd inning but he was unable to do so. Kunis was forced to use a third pitcher in the inning, Kevin Radach.

Radach threw one pitch to get a huge ground ball out and stop the bleeding. Joe Gardner came in to relieve and had a dominant performance, racking seven strikeouts and only allowing five singles. "To win a game like this, we gotta be error-free" said Kunis after the game.

Ohlone tied the game at four apiece in the 7th inning, with a lead off double by Matt Langseth, followed by a RBI single by Michael Vandebusch. Langseth finished the game with two walks, two stolen bases, four runs scored, one RBI and a home run shy of the cycle.

Vandebusch added with a couple sacrifice bunts, a hit and two RBIs.

Hartnell responded in the 8th

inning and regained the lead at 5-4. Ohlone rallied in the 9th with a lead-off single by Zach Townsend; Justin Lunday pinch-hit and worked the count to get a walk.

Langseth came to the plate getting an RBI single to tie the game at five apiece. A sacrifice bunt by Vandebusch moved the runners over. Hartnell intentionally walked Aaron Plimmer to load the bases for pinch hitter David Luna.

A sacrifice fly would have ended the game, giving the Renegades their victory, but a double-play by Hartnell ended the 9th, sending the game into extra innings.

In the 12th inning, the Hartnell Panthers rallied with two outs with a single and a stolen base, followed by an RBI single scoring the go-ahead run. Ohlone was unable to recover, falling short to the Panthers 6-5, putting their shot at a playoff berth in serious jeopardy.

It won't be an easy task for the boys as they play their next three games on the road and close out the season at home against a very talented West Valley team.



Photo by Pei Ju Chen

Second baseman Matt Langseth slides home for his fourth run scored.

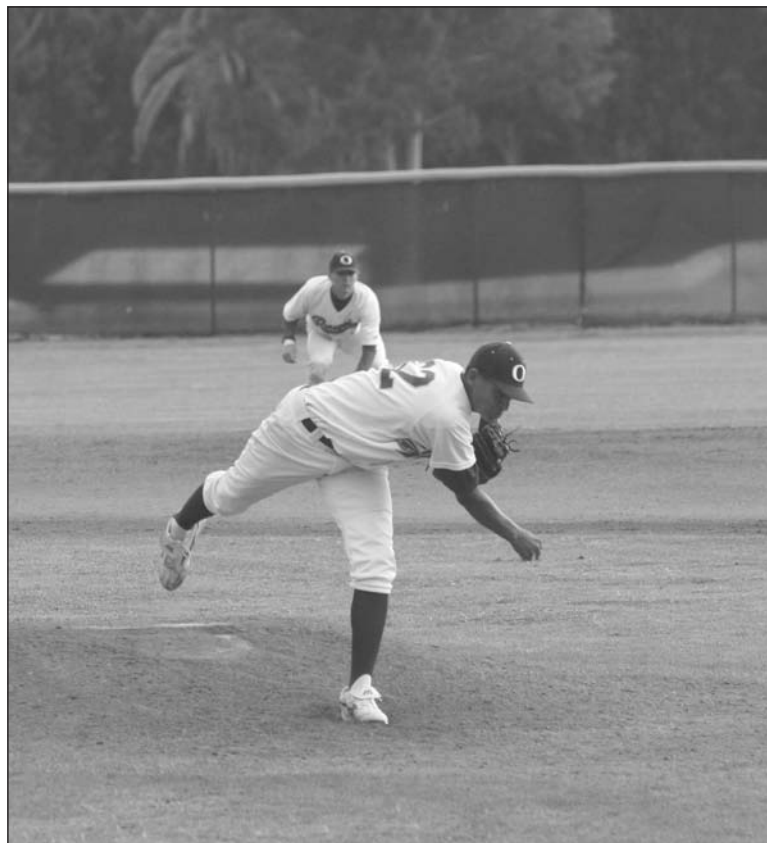


Photo by Pei Ju Chen

Joe Gardner delivers a pitch in Tuesday's loss.

Softball strolls into playoffs

By TOMÁS ORTEGA
Sports editor

Ohlone's Softball Coach Donna Runyon should have a new plaque to hang in her office wall soon. She will, though, have to make a decision on where to place it, seeing as a plaque from 1990 where her team took her to a 42-11 (17-1) hangs for all to see.

"I can't remember ever going undefeated," she said while pulling out various scoresheets from previous years. This year's team, which did have a few injuries and illnesses scattered throughout the schedule, was able to battle tough all year long and finish the regular season 38-7 overall, 24-0 within their conference. Runyon later said, "The kids stepped up when the others were either sick or injured. And we didn't skip a beat."

The Renegades have very good momentum heading into the playoffs that start next Saturday. They have won their last 11 games with their last loss coming against American River, when they played them in Sacramento.

Runyon, ecstatic at the success of her ballclub, even has a small speech prepared for them. "My speech will be 'there are only 16 teams practicing. Everyone else is planning a banquet.'"

Ohlone will be one of the 32 schools in the state still looking at a chance to hold a state championship trophy. Half the teams are made up of the northern part of California, the other half are in the south.

At press time, Ohlone was ranked fifth overall in the north of California. Runyon added, "It would be a nice placement if we could have the three or four spot."

Tennis players finish strong

By JEROME NEPACENA
Sports writer

Ohlone's Lea Knop pulled deep into last weekend's women's tennis conference tournament, and made it all the way to the finals to highlight a season in which the Renegades' finished strong.

In order to do so, Knopp beat Megan Kummer, whom she lost to earlier this season.

Knop managed to make it all the way to the finals in the tournament in both singles and doubles competition, with Hanh Nguyen as her doubles partner.

Knop kept fighting through the tournament before getting eliminated in the finals by Foothill.

For a first-year team trying to find

a rhythm during the course of the season, a 0-7 start is not unusual.

"We had a great season," Tennis Coach Fu Wong Chong explained,

"We went 0-7 our first 7 matches and then we won 5 of our next 7 matches."

The year was one of growth for Wong, who credited players Susana Bumb and Christina Vargas as being the ones who have made the biggest jumps in their games.

"They are the most improved players of the year," said Wong, who lead his players to an overall record of 5-14 this season.

The Renegades look forward to helping build on the success of the last few games and build on their 5-2 finish to the '07-'08 season.

Verde Fusion Gourmet 菁菁茶膳坊

HOT SIZZLING Tepanyaki

• ASIAN RICE MEAL • GOURMET PASTA • NOODLE SOUP • SNACK • OVER 50+ KINDS OF DRINKS •

• 熱燙鐵板 • 特製湯麵 • 每日特餐 • 台式套餐 •

• WELCOME • DINE IN • TAKE OUT • CATERING • PARTY •

BRING THIS COUPON AND GET
20% OFF *

* OHLONE STUDENTS ONLY
* VALID THROUGH MAY 31, 2008

MISSION BLVD.
SCOTT CREEK RD.
DIXON LANDING RD.

• LOCATION •
47954 WARM SPRINGS BLVD
• TELEPHONE •
(510)657-8061