



Triples Alley

By TOMÁS ORTEGA
Sports writer

We got a winner

Did Johan Santana of the New York Mets deserve it?

Sure did. As did Milwaukee's C.C. Sabathia for half a year and Arizona's Brandon Webb.

As for the 2008 N.L. Cy Young award winner, Tim Lincecum, he should have gone unanimous.

Speaking of going unanimous, if Tim Lincecum played on the East Coast there is no discussion of who could possibly win the award other than him.

Lincecum earning the award makes you wonder what this kid is going to accomplish in his Major League career.

Only 24, Lincecum blew the National League away with his 97 MPH heater and devastating drop down curve. Those two pitches alone are what got him into the bigs and set the groundwork for him to cruise through the 2008 season almost unscathed in any pitching category. He even added a slider to mask his curve and an un-hittable change-up which he seemed to use much more than his signature curveball.

The pitches alone reminded me of another S.F. Giants pitcher who nearly won a Cy Young with a fastball and change-up, Jason Schmidt.

However, just the type of stuff Lincecum blows past all the hitters looks just like the former Giant. Only much, much better.

Lincecum's opponents hit just .221 against the 5'11" 160-pound kid from Washington.

When hitters came to the plate, they were already in a hole.

Being forced to watch the kid's elbows, knees, ankles and even all that grungy looking hair fly at them and then try to find the ball out of his hand was no easy task.

National League hitters also had no problem letting the world know how tough it was to hit off the guy. In mid-October, players in the N.L. voted Lincecum as the pitcher of the year in the league as well as the Major League's Players Association Outstanding Pitcher of the year. So it should be no surprise that Lincecum also deserved the honors given out by the baseball writers.

Lincecum is only the second Giant to win the award. The first was not Juan Marichal, but Mike McCormick in 1967. The honor presented to the light-weight, right hander is one that will stick for ages. In the words of McCormick, once you win the award, you are forever introduced as a Cy Young award winner [enter name here].

Ladies and gentlemen, at the top of the Giants 2009 starting rotation, Cy Young award winner Tim Lincecum!

Perfect start kicks off Ohlone's chase for State

■ Renegades win J. Wallace tournament, start season 3-0.

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

"We've got to bring it all the time."

Those were the words of sophomore Renegade guard A.J. Flournoy after the second day of the Jonathan Wallace Memorial Tournament as Ohlone advanced into the finals, beating Sacramento City and Feather River.

And "bring it" the Renegades did in the tournament final against Merritt College Sunday afternoon as they handled Merritt 80-54 to win the annual tournament.

Ohlone proved that they're back and ready for the season on Friday night's game.

In a game that saw the Renegades force a total of 32 turnovers against Feather River, Ohlone started with the lead, despite troubles offensively and lack of ball control, but never looked back as they won 63-46.

"We are looking at a fresh season and have great expectations this season," said Ohlone Men's Basketball Head Coach John Peterson, who proudly explained his hopes for this season.

Despite the opening game jitters Ohlone might've had, they were ready for their upcoming game the next day against Sacramento City.

However, Saturday's game against Sacramento City was almost a cakewalk, but the Panthers caught up to them in the first half after trailing by as much as 12-2.

That would be as close as the Panthers would get as the Renegades would dominate, forcing 37 turnovers and going on a 14-6 run in the end of the first half, led by James Hancock's 13 first half points. Hancock finished with 21 on the night as the Renegades beat Sacramento City 74-50 to go to the finals for the fourth time in the five-year history of the tournament.

Flournoy led both Friday and Saturday night's game with a total of 44 points in the tournament.

Sunday's game looked even brighter for the Renegades against Merritt College, as they picked up where they left off the past two days.

Merritt College started off the

Ending season on a high note

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

Although the Men's Soccer team ended their last home game against Gavilan College Tuesday in a scoreless tie, Ohlone showed much improvement.

The defense played more solidly, taking pressure off of goalkeeper Iman Aghel.

Aghel played an impressive game with a key save against a penalty kick for Gavilan.

Ohlone dominated throughout



Photos by Tomás Ortega

Both guards Tim Bowman, below, and Kevan West, above, played well in the Renegades' opener against Feather River College.



tournament rough Friday night, struggling against Diablo Valley College winning by one point in a neck-to-neck battle.

Ohlone would end up decisively beating Merritt 80-54 to win the tournament, and start the season 3-0.

The perfect start to the season is exactly what Ohlone needs if they are going to make a run for the state championship. With a healthy and

the game offensively with 13 attempts, compared to Gavilan's three.

"The other team had a rough season too, so I was hoping for a one-goal-win game," said Renegades Head Coach Don Williams.

With the season coming to its end, Williams is looking forward to recruiting some new players around Los Positas and Milpitas.

The team will lose seven sophomores in the end, but Williams has hopes for his recruiting class for 2009 and a much improved team.

very talented bench, where anyone can be the sixth man, the Renegades look to be at their strongest they have been in a long time.

Peterson played 16 different players through the tournament, but has not yet set up a rotation for the season.

The Renegades will be heading off to continue their winning streak against Sierra College in Rocklin tonight at 6 p.m.

"Every team beats with one heart," Williams said after the game as he is ready to move on from this year.

Forward Danny Zermino was recognized by the California Community College Athletic Association with an honorable mention for the Athlete of the Month.

The men will be playing their last game this Friday in San Bruno against Skyline College, who they previously lost to, but the wind is always changing and so can the scoreboard.



Third and Five

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

The A's Holliday

The MLB season ended just a few weeks ago and with the holidays coming up soon, it seems as if the Oakland A's have received an early Christmas gift.

In the current biggest trade of the offseason, the A's sent reliever Huston Street, left-hander Greg Smith and up-and-coming star outfielder Carlos Gonzalez to the Colorado Rockies for star outfielder Matt Holliday on Wednesday.

Smith and Gonzalez were both part of the trade that sent pitcher Dan Haren to Arizona.

"We landed one of the biggest hitters out there," said A's manager Bob Geren. "He's definitely a piece of the offense you can build around."

Holliday has one year left on his contract, and although it is unknown whether he'll stay with Oakland after 2009, let alone the All-Star break is yet to be seen, but there's no doubt that he definitely upgrades an A's offense that was offensive to watch in 2008.

Oakland, as a team, batted a .242 average, the lowest in the league, hit 125 home runs, which ranked 25th in the majors and only scored a total of 646 runs, ranking fourth to last. (Giants fans, you did no better, so keep quiet)

"First of all, we needed to upgrade our offense. That was obvious," said A's general manager Billy Beane. "Matt fills a much-needed spot in the order."

Holliday, who turns 29 in January, finished the 2008 season batting .321, with 25 home runs and 88 RBI's, all of which led the Rockies in a disappointing season after reaching the World Series the year before.

Holliday also finished the season second to Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins in the NL MVP voting.

"It's caused a lot of attention around these parts, the fact that we got a big guy the Yankees wanted and a lot of other teams wanted," said new teammate Jack Cust, who spoke over the phone in New Jersey.

This is a rare, yet major move for Oakland considering that they are used to losing star players to other teams and not acquiring them.

Holliday will also add a sense of stability in an Oakland outfield that saw eight different starters in left field last season.

Holliday joins six-time Gold Glove third-baseman Eric Chavez along with star shortstop Bobby Crosby in an Oakland A's team that looks to rebound from a dismal and injury-filled 2008 year.

The "Holliday" begins in March 2009.