

## Gladiators outlast Renegades 71-65

### ■ Rival Chabot shocks Ohlone Wednesday

By ANKITA CHHABRA  
Sports writer

The new year brought new changes for the Men's Basketball team. They had some great wins over winter break, including one against their toughest opponent, San Francisco City College, in a 75-59 game. They're undefeated in conference, with a record of 4-0 and improved offensively and defensively.

However, you win some and then you lose some.

The Renegades faced their rivals, the Chabot Gladiators last Wednesday in a very physical game, but their efforts fell short as they lost, 71-65.

"We never came into this game looking for a win, just to play hard," said Ohlone Head Coach John Peterson, who admitted that this game could have been better.

On the other side of the bench, though, was Chabot Head Coach-Denny Ave, who was pleased to have his team get a taste of the tough Renegades defense. "They do a good job at giving you six different defensive looks, and we were lucky to have overcome them."

The game started off slow for both sides, as neither the Renegades nor the Gladiators could

take control of the endless amount of turnovers and steals that resulted in empty baskets, until Chabot forward Jonathan Darwin opened the scoring. James Hancock answered right back with his first shot for the night and it didn't stop there.

The first half ended with Ohlone in the lead, 28-25, but the tide turned in the second half.

The Renegades came back strong as they put up consistent baskets by center Alpha N'Diaye, who scored seven points on the night, and Leon Hart, who put four points.

But the Gladiators caught up to Ohlone's second half start, tying the game at 38-38 and took control from there.

Ohlone mistakes turned into Chabot points as the Gladiators easily capitalized on every Renegade turnover.

"As captain, I should have kept more poised and kept my team together, but I just lost it too," said guard A.J. Fluornoy after the game, who was disappointed in the loss against their rivals.

Fluornoy had a total of 25 points on the night.

Scott Clark's and Matt Wittbrodt's efforts at the end of the game to ignite a last-minute comeback fell short.

Still carrying an undefeated conference record and with a league record of 17-7, the Men's basketball team plays at Cañada and Sacramento City College next.

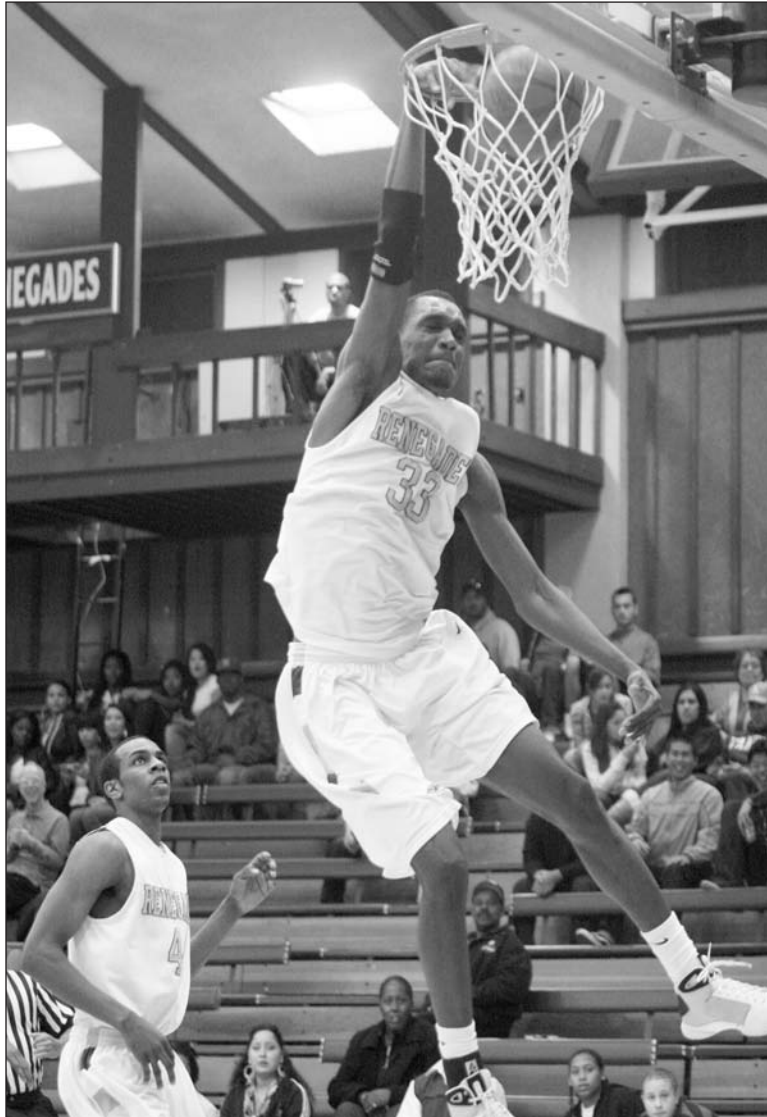


Photo by Jeff Weisinger

**Despite the occasional great plays by center Alpha N'Diaye and the Renegades, Ohlone was simply outplayed Wednesday night.**



Third and Five

By JEFF WEISINGER  
Sports editor

## Wild Cards

In the same season that Tom Brady went down and Brett Favre played for a team not in Green Bay, it only seems fitting that the Arizona Cardinals go to the Super Bowl. And only right to say that hell finally froze over in the NFL in 2008.

At least Detroit stayed true with (finally) a winless season.

Yet, nonetheless, our annual Super Bowl holiday will give us the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Arizona Cardinals for football's greatest prize, the Lombardi trophy.

The Cardinals' last championship came in 1947 over the Philadelphia Eagles in the then-NFL Championship as the Chicago Cardinals. The state of Arizona hasn't seen a professional sports championship since the Diamondbacks won the World Series in 2001.

Arizona's road to sudden glory came at the shock of almost any and everyone, from fans to sportswriters alike. Whenever they were doubted, the Cardinals simply won. It was said they couldn't beat Atlanta, and they did. Then everyone predicted that Arizona's run would end in Carolina. The Cards blew out the Panthers. Then we said they couldn't beat the red-hot Philadelphia Eagles. And the Cards shocked the world and beat Philly.

So, is it any surprise that the Steelers are the favorite over Arizona? No.

Pittsburgh is the better team compared to Arizona. However, so were Atlanta, Carolina and Philadelphia.

Arizona can pull the upset, mainly for one simple reason.

Not only are the Arizona Cardinals not supposed to be in the Super Bowl, but the Arizona Cardinals also have nothing to lose in the big game.

That fact alone makes them scarier than most people want to think.

With a "washed-up" 37-year old quarterback who used to bag groceries, a receiver who was a ball-boy, and a safety who stayed with a struggling franchise for more than 10 years, the Cardinals story seems too good to be true. But this is something we can believe.

Linebacker Karlos Dansby predicted that if Obama won the election, the Cardinals would be the first team that would meet the new president.

Seemed funny at the time, but all the laughs have now been silenced.

By the way, when these two teams played last season, the Cardinals beat Pittsburgh 21-14.

## Lady Renegades tame the Jaguars

By ANKITA CHHABRA  
Sports writer

"We play not to lose," said Ohlone Head Coach Elizabeth Stanley, as her Lady Renegades won Wednesday against San Jose City College 63-50.

With inconsistent shooting by both sides and an endless amount of turnovers and careless passes, the one thing that seemed to stay consistent was each team's intensity and the desire to win.

The Jaguars kept the Renegades on their toes as they put up three's time after time throughout the night.

However, the Renegades answered back with shots by Christina Dixon and Cassie Bates, who kept the team going, and played well

offensively and defensively.

The first half saw both teams go back and forth, basket to basket, but it was Ohlone in the lead 30-29 at halftime.

"We got outplayed tonight and our defense lagged," said Head Coach Terri Hearn of SJCC.

The Lady Renegades started off slow in the second half, missing many layups. But they still managed to go up 10 points with 13 minutes left in the game.

"We were all nervous and that's why we were inconsistent throughout the night," said Stanley, who knew her team could have done better.

Despite the slow start to the season, the Lady Renegades have now won four in a row with an overall record of 10-7.



Photo by Jeff Weisinger

**Lady Renegades forward Casceal Swaggard took advantage of almost every Jaguar mistake.**

## New year, renewed field, better team?

By TOMÁS ORTEGA  
Sports writer

After finishing the 2008 season with a 21-22 record overall, the Ohlone baseball team is quite optimistic about the season that begins Tuesday in Sacramento.

"We're going to be good this year," said returner David Luna. "We'll be good because everyone that's here works hard to be here."

That mantra may sound boring, but everyone seemed to say the same thing on a gloomy practice

day a good week before the season opener. Even with the entire field muddy and a white tarp laid across the infield, the Renegades continued to get ready for the 2009 baseball season.

"We have a good offense and good defense," said Luna. "We have four or five [starting pitchers] we can throw out there and any one of them could be our ace."

"You can't say anything [bad] about our pitching staff," added Tanner Laran.

The buzz among the players is the quality of the pitching staff. The

staff, anchored by San Jose State-bound Luna and Sean Martin, looks to improve on a 5.62 team ERA from 2008.

Offensively, the team lost their best hitter, Matt Langseth to graduation. Langseth batted .370 in 2008 with 30 RBI's and three home runs.

The team batted a combined .297 in 2008.

However the team has confidence in the incoming freshmen hitters, particularly Zack Johnson, a third baseman out of Livermore High.

Even Head Coach Jordan Twohig is impressed with Johnson.

"I didn't expect to be doing so well so fast," said Johnson.

Johnson missed the last two years because of an elbow injury due to lack of care.

This past fall, though, Johnson and was convinced by twin brother Jeff to play baseball for Ohlone.

Neither of which have played baseball since 2006.

"I honestly didn't think I would be playing baseball ever again."

With 2008 in the books, Ohlone looks forward to success in 2009.