

Resilient Renegades' comeback falls short

■ Ohlone bats remain hot despite Tuesday's 12-8 loss at DVC

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

During the Renegade's five-game win streak, Ohlone outscored their opponents 47-20, scoring at least seven runs in four of the five wins.

Although Tuesday's 12-8 loss to the Diablo Valley Vikings snapped the streak, Ohlone still proved that they can score at will.

Diablo Valley Vikings pitcher David Hurlbut (2-0) shut out the Renegades for 5 1/3 innings as Ohlone was unable to figure out the 6'4" freshman right-hander.

"They got a way better quality start from their pitcher who threw well," said Renegades Head Coach Jordon Twohig. "He threw his pitches for strikes and located really well on the outside corners of the plate."

However, that all changed in the top of the fifth when Renegades center fielder Cody Foster hit a double off Hurlbut to start the inning, then catcher Braxton Miller sent in Foster from second with his RBI base hit, as the Renegades began to claw back from a 12-run deficit.

Designated hitter Jeff Johnson's two-run home run in the fifth in-



Catcher Braxton Miller, above, sparked the Renegade's rally with his RBI single in the sixth. Below, right-hander Jon Fragulia pitched a very solid 2 2/3 innings as Ohlone's pitching struggled against the Vikes.

ning sparked new life to Ohlone, who cut the lead to 12-3 after the fifth inning.

"We took more of a line-drive approach in the sixth and seventh and it paid off," said Twohig. "My guys got a lot of fight in them and I commend them for that," he added.

The Renegades tacked on three more runs in the seventh inning by Foster, Zach Johnson and Brad Reeves, who had an RBI each in the inning to cut the Vikings lead down to 12-6 after seven.

Aaron Plimmer's two-run shot to center-right in the ninth would inch the Renegades closer, down 12-8, but Vikings pitcher Casey Goonan struck out JoJo Hernandez to end the game.

The Renegades' very solid pitching staff took a slight step back Tuesday, however freshman right hander Jon Fragulia looked very sharp as he came in the fifth with one out, down 12-0 and pitched a solid 2 2/3 innings, allowing one run on three hits. Ian Hoff entered the ninth and allowed one hit.

Photos by Tara Lynn Lanning



No worries after losing doubleheader

By **TOMÁS ORTEGA**
Sports writer

"We haven't been doing the little things to win games."

You hear a statement like that from a 700-win coach who has her team sitting on a 4-2 record to begin the 2009 campaign and wonder 'Coach, how on Earth do you see your team not doing the little things right? You must be doing something right, especially since the two losses were by one run each.'

But then you realize that Head Softball Coach Donna Runyon has been here for quite some time and has managed to compete year in and year out to accumulate the astounding number of wins.

So if you have an issue with her thoughts, relax and take her word for it.

The Renegades had a double header on Sunday against Fresno City College and San Joaquin Delta College. The games didn't exactly fall in the Renegades' favor, losing to FCC 5-4 and Delta 2-1.

Kelly Colker was on the mound against FCC and was shelled. She finished all seven innings, but not before allowing five runs on ten hits.

The bulk of the damage against Ohlone's ace came in the third and fourth when Fresno brought four runs across the plate. Another run in the fifth gave Fresno a 5-1 lead.

Ohlone rallied late with one run in the sixth and two more in the

seventh, but couldn't get the extra push to even the score.

Kendall Beermann threw all seven innings against Delta College and had a little better luck than her sophomore teammate.

Beerman allowed two runs in the sixth that turned out to be the difference in the game.

Baserunning mistakes and unproductive at-bats did the Renegades in. The Lady Renegades inability to produce a "team at-bat" as Coach Runyon said was a sore issue the team dealt with. Non-team at-bats included getting deep into counts by taking pitches as opposed to the instilled Renegade modus operandi of fouling pitches off and tiring the opposing pitcher.

"We did it well against Sierra,

but not on Sunday," Runyon said. "You have to look forward to it, to playing good teams, to playing against a contender. We'll see how they respond to back-to-back one run losses."

The Lady Renegades squad has played all six of their games at home so far.

But they will be tested on the road the next four days which includes a game against Modesto today and four games over the weekend in Visalia.

The Visalia games are part of a tournament held by College of the Sequoias, who the Renegades will play against on Sunday. Butte College, Cosumnes River and Cypress are the other three squads awaiting them.

Renegades win key game at Foothill

By **ANKITA CHHABRA**
Sports writer

One can most certainly say that the Ohlone Men's Basketball Team's defense is something to watch out for.

Game after game have they improved, and are on top of the conference because of it.

After getting the much-needed win against Las Positas 71-58 on Saturday night, the Renegades looked to give themselves some cushion on top as they traveled to Los Altos to take on the Foothill

Owls Wednesday night.

The Renegades beat Foothill earlier in the season 74-67 at Ohlone, and did the same again Wednesday night as they beat the Owls 74-61.

The Renegades improved their record to 21-8 on the season, 8-2 in conference play, tying the CCSF Rams for first place in the conference. The win is also Ohlone's fourth in their last five games.

"This was a big game for us and we knew Foothill was looking to win, but now we're just looking forward to seeding in the conference,"

said Head Coach John Peterson.

The Owls did a good job keeping Ohlone on their toes as Ohlone fell into foul trouble again.

But that did not stop the Renegades from putting up some clutch shots to widen up the gap in the second half and keep the lead to themselves until the end.

"Every game is as important as the last one, and now we just need to play as we did tonight for the remainder of the season," said center Alpha N'Diaye.

Peterson also claimed this game to be one of the best the team has

played this season as they improved in their free throw percentage, rebounding and offensive play.

With the big rivalry game coming up this Friday against Chabot College, the boys are ready to get that win back for themselves and head on to playoffs.

The Renegades lost a thriller against the Gladiators on Jan. 21, as Chabot came to Ohlone and beat the Renegades 71-65 as Ohlone's comeback effort fell short.

They'll host Cañada College Wednesday in their home finale at Epler Gymnasium.



Inside the lines

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

Fighting forward

Ashley Valenzuela has been playing basketball ever since she was 8 years old.

Learning the game under current Ohlone Women's Basketball Head Coach Elizabeth Stanley in the Fremont youth league, Valenzuela was on her way toward the top.

However, her basketball career almost ended before it took off.

A week before her ninth birthday, Valenzuela underwent surgery after being diagnosed with papillary thyroid cancer; a curable type of cancer, commonly found in people in their 30's and 40's, that starts in one lobe of the thyroid and usually grows slowly, spreading to the lymph nodes in the neck. It's 99.9 percent curable and doesn't require any treatment, according to WebMD.

"When they opened me up, they realized that the cancer was aggressive and it turned into a 10, 11 hour procedure," Valenzuela said.

The doctors discovered that the cancer wrapped around her vocal cord and was on the way towards her esophagus. They removed the thyroid and paralyzed her left vocal cord as they cut the cancer surrounding it.

The doctors succeeded in removing the cancer, but one more problem would return.

"As I grew up, I kept on going, but the paralyzed vocal cord moved over and blocked my airway," Valenzuela added.

In her senior year at James Logan, Valenzuela began to experience trouble breathing.

After going through a few medical tests, it was discovered that the paralyzed left vocal chord had moved over and began to block her airway.

She went through another operation, missing her senior season at Logan.

"Missing your senior year sucks. It's what your work for."

Despite sitting out her senior year at Logan, Valenzuela still received much support from her Colts teammates, as she does from her Ohlone teammates as well.

"I love my team. We're like family. I know that if anything happens they'll drop whatever and come and get me."

Her connection with Stanley was what brought the freshman guard to Ohlone.

"Coach Stanley knows my situation fully. At first I wasn't going to come back and play, I was going to take a year off and work. But she convinced me that if I come, she'll get me back to where I used to be."

Despite not getting much playing time this season, Valenzuela is looking forward to getting back on the court in 2009.