



Inside the lines

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

Two of a kind

Ever since they were little leaguers, Renegades third baseman Zach Johnson and outfielder Jeff Johnson have played baseball on the same team.

"It's actually really cool because you always got somebody to talk to after the game," said Jeff Johnson. "He's pretty straightforward with me, too. If I'm struggling, he's right on it."

"We've always been playing together, so we're used to it," said Zach Johnson.

However, the story of the Renegade twins goes further than just being twin brothers playing for their junior college baseball team.

Their story actually begins just as their baseball careers seemed to end.

After high school, Zach tore a ligament in his throwing elbow, preventing him from playing baseball after graduation. He would be out of the game for the next two years, simply working during his time off.

Zach's injury affected not just his throwing arm, but affected his hitting too.

After resting for a year, Zach began rehabilitation, working with light weights to strengthen the elbow and his shoulder. However, the time off also matured the young third-baseman.

"I'm more mature about training and rehabing so I don't get hurt again."

"I honestly didn't think I'd play baseball ever again," Zach said back in January, as Ohlone prepared for the incoming season.

The time off was a complete change of pace for the Johnsons, who've played and been around baseball their entire lives.

"It was actually pretty tough," Jeff said. "Our whole lives have been centered around baseball and then not playing it. I kind of instantly missed it."

Yet despite missing two years of the game, both Zach and Jeff actually became better players during the time off, despite the challenge of having to get their game back.

"Personally, I like where I've gotten in the past two years. I'm in better shape, more athletic and faster," Jeff added.

"The last two years was tough not playing from playing for so many years, then thinking I'm never going to play again," said Zach. "But having the opportunity to come out here and play again is great. It just makes me want to work harder to keep playing."

Zach and Jeff Johnson's hard work and determination in their return to the baseball diamond proves Kevin Garnett's famous inspirational quote that "Anything is possible."

Renegades marching to playoffs

■ Men's basketball
playoff-bound after 69-26 blowout of Cañada

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

"CCSF was a wake-up call for us, and we had practice that same night when we got back. And now we are on a roll because we play every game like had to win," said sophomore James Hancock after defeating their rival team, the Chabot Gladiators, Friday night at Chabot.

Despite losing to the Gladiators on their home court, they traveled over to Hayward hungry to get back the win they were looking for.

Even on Friday the 13th, the Renegades dominated throughout the whole entire game.

Alpha N'Diaye led the scoreboard with nine points and he showed no signs of stopping there as the Renegades led 32-18 at halftime.

Ronnie Sawyer, who finished the game with eight points, explained what went right this time around.

"We weren't selfish with the ball and we played harder defense."

After a long season of committing numerous turnovers, the Renegades have become a solid squad on the defensive levels.

Chabot Coach Denny Aye was more than disappointed with his team's performance, but admitted that, "Ohlone came out strong tonight and was tough on our offense. We were shooting like we usually do, and that killed us."

"We hustled them tonight, and that was a great win for us," said guard Kevan West as the Renegades shut down the Gladiators 63-43.

Coach John Peterson agreed with Hancock that "[CCSF] did us a favor by beating us because it helped us adjust our offensive game," and with that improvement he gave the winning cause title to the "team's defense" against Chabot.

Ohlone is now looking at 1st place in conference above CCSF, with a record of 9-2 with CCSF following them with 8-2.

Considering that Ohlone has no more conference games and CCSF has two more to go, there still might a chance that Ohlone will have to share the conference championship title.

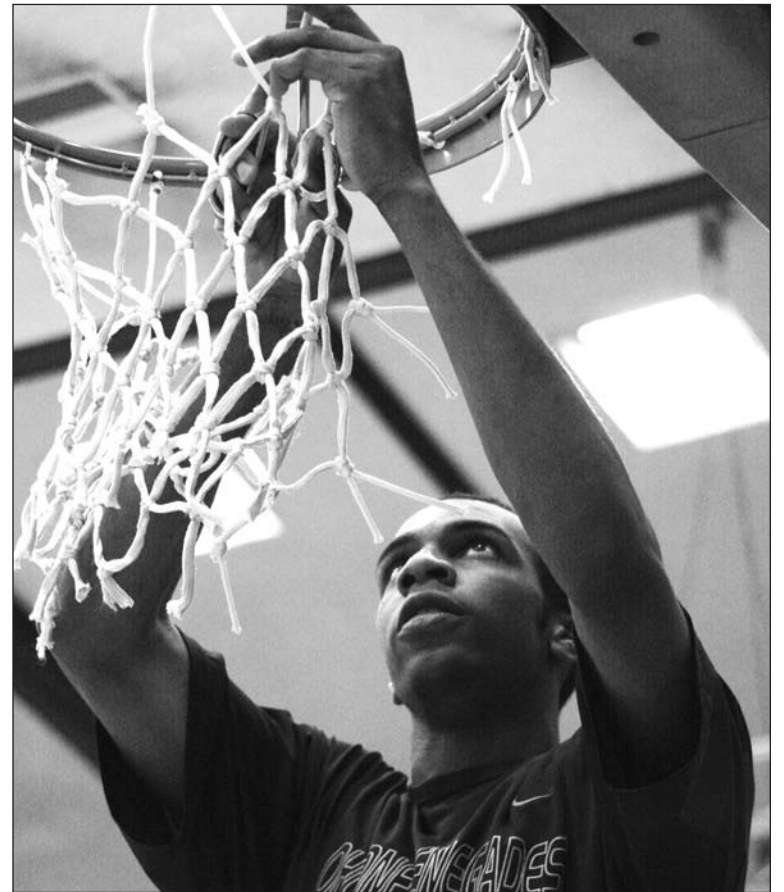
After the Chabot game the Renegades improved their league record to 22-8, and then returned back at home for a rematch against Cañada College to bag in another victory.

As the Renegades got ready for their rematch against the Colts, they also prepared for their regular season finale at home, along with sophomore night.

Even though Ohlone is hoping to play "seven more games," according to Peterson, last night was a special one for the leaving sophomores.

"Almost very single one of them is looking at a scholarship and my only wish for them is that they pick a great school for themselves to play in the future with," said Peterson after the game.

Ohlone dominated from the
Continued on Page 7



Photos by Tara Lynn Lanning

Sophomore captain A.J. Flournoy, above, cuts the net to celebrate their playoff berth. Below, Ronnie Sawyer saves the ball from going out.



Padilla gets first win as Ohlone rolls on

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

Renegades freshman left-hander Roberto Padilla has struggled so far to earn his first win of the season.

After losing at Diablo Valley back on Feb. 10, the Renegades traveled to Southern California to take on Cuesta College and the College of the Canyons.

Padilla watched as sophomore David Luna earned his second win of the season against Cuesta and fellow freshman Sean Martin earned his third win of the season against

the College of the Canyons.

Padilla's wait for win number one would finally come to an end yesterday in the Renegades' 7-4 win at West Hills College.

His first win of the season marks Ohlone's third in a row, and their eighth win in the last nine games.

Padilla (1-2) pitched a strong six innings, allowing two runs, both earned, on just four hits with three strikeouts.

Daniel Buffington relieved Padilla in the seventh, allowing one hit and two walks in his lone inning of work.

Freshman right-hander Jon Sa came in the ninth inning to close the door on West Hills to earn his first save of the season.

Ohlone trailed by two runs going into the third inning until centerfielder Cody Foster's sacrifice bunt brought in Aaron Chavez from third. Chavez reached base on a one-out walk and advanced as he earned second off an error and stole third.

The Renegades broke out to take the lead as they scored four runs with two outs in the fourth inning.

After David Luna flew out to right field and Brad Reeves struck out, second baseman Ryan Harmon drew the walk. Moments later, Kyle Holmstrom singled to right, then Chavez sent Harmon home with his RBI single, tying the score at two.

Steven Ramos' two-RBI double to center gave the Renegades the go-ahead lead which Ohlone would never look back on.

Ohlone would build on their lead in the late innings off Foster's RBI single in the sixth and Ryan Kanza-ki's RBI single in the seventh.

Lady Renegades cool off after 4-0 start

By TOMÁS ORTEGA
Sports writer

The Ohlone Softball team isn't living up to the standards it has set the past handful of years. After starting the 2009 season 4-0, the Lady Renegades are one game over .500 (5-4).

Their first two losses came on the second Sunday of February when they hosted Fresno City College and Delta College.

A similar thing happened this past weekend when the softball squad traveled to Visalia to play four games. However, only two

games ended up being played. Cypress College and College of the Sequoias, both ended in losses for the Lady Renegades.

The first two games Saturday were rained out due to the storm.

At press time, there has been no word whether the games against Butte College and Cosumnes River College will be rescheduled.

For the Cypress College game, the Renegades threw ace right-hander Kelly Colker on the mound.

Colker again went a full seven innings, though she gave up six runs on eleven hits. Colker cruised

through the first six innings, allowing only one run up to that point.

With her team up one run entering the top of the seventh inning, Cypress lashed out for five runs on Colker, giving them a 6-2 lead that would prove to be enough for the victory.

The Renegades managed to score only one run in the bottom half of the inning, for a final score of 6-3.

In the second game, Ohlone gave College of Sequoias a dose of Kendall Beerman.

Unfortunately, Beerman was pulled in the fourth inning, in favor of Colker after allowing five runs,

three earned, on seven hits in 3 2/3 innings. She also had seven strikeouts in the game and allowed one walk.

Colker finished with 3.1 innings pitched, allowing only one run, on three hits and one walk.

But Colker's performance in relief was not enough to give the Renegades the push they needed for a victory, losing 6-4.

The Renegades only scored four runs in the fifth inning off Sequoia's pitcher Alycia Campos.

The Lady Renegades still stand at the top of the Coast Conference North, ahead of DeAnza.