



RISE OF THE RENEGADES

Photos by Jeff Weisinger and Tara Lynn Lanning

Sophomores A.J. Flournoy, left, and C.C. Swaggard, right, led their respective teams to victory over the weekend.

Ohlone shoots down the Thunderbirds

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

"I think we had a great win and played hard like we needed to. And we need put the same effort and time into this Saturday's game to try and get another win," said sophomore guard Kevan West, who nailed five three-pointers in last Saturday's Regional Semifinal playoff win against the Merritt College Thunderbirds.

This was the first time the Renegades, who are seeded fourth, caught a taste of the Thunderbirds.

Ohlone did not get to play in the San Diego Invitational Tournament

earlier in the season.

Though the Thunderbirds tried to hold a tight grip onto the scoreboard, the Renegades had stronger efforts and a higher energy level as the Renegades advanced to the "Sweet 16" with a 85-63 win.

The Renegades started off strong as they opened the first half with their back-to-back shots by sophomore forward James Hancock, who had 17 points.

Assisting him throughout the first half and continuing to be a power force on the court was teammate Ronnie Sawyer, who scored 13 points on the night and gave the crowd a little taste of his signature three-point shot from the corners

and wings.

The Thunderbirds did not slack off, however.

Despite an unfavorable scoreboard, team leading scorer Drew Pughsley, who had 17 points on the night, tried to have his team hold together as he led the Thunderbirds in rebounding.

The Renegades had to work hard toward the end of the first half as the game was up for grabs with Ohlone taking the 35-24 halftime lead.

The second half opened strong for both sides as Joe Powell for the Thunderbirds and Alpha N'Diaye for the Renegades led their teams in the second half scoring, each with

15 and 14 points respectively.

But Renegades team captain A.J. Flournoy was the one who brought the game back to life for Ohlone.

He finished strong with 11 points and with excellent man-to-man defense that the Renegades switched to.

"As a team I think we did really good. We prepared and practiced had all week and executed where we needed to," said Flournoy after the game.

"We have places we can improve on and we are going to work on that and get ready for Reedley."

And where does that improvement lie?

It's in their shooting and offensive rebounding, which did not look like its usual, but practice makes perfect.

The Renegades finished off strong in the last 12 minutes of the game as the rest of the Renegades got some playing time.

With one game down, the Renegades advance to the next round and will be playing this Saturday against Reedley College at 7 p.m.

Reedley is seeded number five, just one spot below Ohlone.

The winner of Saturday night's game will proceed to the state championships in Fresno, where the top four teams from Northern and Southern California will meet.

Lady Renegades continue streak to State

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

After much excitement and anticipation for their first playoff game this season, the Ohlone Women's Basketball team went in headstrong and finished headstrong against the College of the Siskiyous Lady Eagles, winning 75-65.

With the titles in the bag, and honorable mentions being talked about in the crowd, the Lady Renegades came in with great depth and showed why they were undefeated in conference against the Eagles.

The game started off with a battle of the baskets with the two teams, as both teams struggled to

make the opening shots with the ball missing the rim.

However, the Lady Renegades picked up the pace, ending the first half with a 20-point lead as Ohlone went into halftime with the score 45-25.

Not only did Ohlone lead at the half, they also kept the Lady Eagles All-Conference guard Chrissy Watts under control by using their man-to-man defense, which favored them and the scoreboard.

The ladies came back the second half confident that this game was now in their control and all they had to do was keep the lead and keep playing as they are.

Markielle Styles led the Lady

Renegades with 14 points, while teammates C.C. Swaggard, Braleigh Miller and Jasmine Rubin each had 12.

Chrissy Watts was having trouble getting past the Lady Renegade defense in the first half.

However, she managed to find her limelight in the second half as she tried to bring the Eagles back.

After their strong win over Siskiyous, the seventh-seed Lady Renegades will advance to the second round of playoffs as they travel to number three-seed Delta College Saturday at 5:30 p.m. for a chance to go to the state championships.



Photo by Tara Lynn Lanning

The Lady Renegades ran right through the Lady Eagles all night in their 75-65 regional semi-final win.