



FALL OF THE RENEGADES

Photo by Tara Lynn Lanning

Ohlone's Ronnie Sawyer dives for a loose ball as a Reedley player takes control of it.

Renegades' third chance not a charm

■ Renegades lose in regional finals for third year in a row

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

After rolling through Merritt College 85-63 in the playoff opener, the Renegades looked primed to make a legitimate run at the State Championships.

The only obstacle in their way was the Reedley Tigers.

However, even the best fall sometimes, and that was the case for Ohlone this time around as Reedley upset the Renegades 58-57 on Saturday.

The loss marks the third consecutive year that Ohlone made it all the way to the Sweet 16, only to lose the shot to go to the State Championships in Fresno.

"We played hard, we prepared well -- it just didn't go in our favor," said Ronnie Sawyer, who like the rest of his team knew that they had come in strong, but the best team won.

The game started off with Ohlone and Reedley scoring back-to-back,

until the Tigers took control midway through the first half.

Tigers guard Marquel Hoskins kept the Renegades on their toes as he took advantage of the Renegades miscues, scoring on the rebounds of Ohlone's missed shots.

However, Ohlone would come back late in the first half to cut the deficit, going into halftime down just 29-28.

The Renegades began to show signs of life in the second half, fighting back to take as much as a five point lead.

But the Tigers would claw their way back off Justin Ayer and his game-leading 23 points on the night, as Reedley took a one-point lead with 14 seconds left in the game.

Ohlone, with time for one more play, took the court in hopes of a game-winning shot, however Kevan West's last second heave hit the rim as the clock expired.

"It was a heart-breaking game, because we thought we were going to win. But you win some and you lose some," said Tim Bowman, who finished with 12 points.

Sophomore captain A.J. Flournoy put up 15 points for the night



Photo by Tara Lynn Lanning

Ohlone Head Coach John Peterson tries to find a way to stop the Reedley Tigers.

and James Hancock finished with 11 points.

Yet the Renegades' best efforts still weren't enough to punch Ohlone's ticket to Fresno.

"It was a well-fought game and it was one of the most exciting ones we've played," said Flournoy after the game, as he reflected back on the season being a great one as he enjoyed every minute of the team, coaches and fans.

"We played against a very good

team, we just happened to make the last shot," said Head Coach Brian Fonseca of Reedley College as he and his team walked out of the Epler Gymnasium.

"This was a great journey for all of us, said Ohlone freshman guard Jamaal Blalock. "It just sucks that it ended so soon."

Although it may seem too soon for Ohlone to be out of the playoffs, all Ohlone can do now is get ready for next season.

Delta drowns the Lady Renegades

■ Lady Renegades lose by 28; fall short of Elite 8 berth.

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

They started the 2008-'09 campaign 0-5. Then they entered conference play with a mediocre 6-10 record.

Then they ripped 12 straight on their way to an undefeated conference record, including a 100-36 win over Mission College in the regular season home finale. Head Coach

Elizabeth Stanley also received the Coach of the Year award.

After winning 75-65 against Siskiyous in their playoff opener, the Lady Renegades looked like they would continue their playoff run and make the Elite 8 in Fresno.

However, the Lady Renegades failed to continue their playoff push, losing at San Joaquin Delta College 88-60 on Saturday.

The first half started off with Delta grabbing a quick lead, while the Lady Renegades struggled at the start.

However, they tried to stick through in the first half as they were

down by 12 points.

"We had a lot of sloppy plays and turnovers," explained Ohlone's freshman guard Cassie Bates, who thought that "they were a better team and they played better."

With a survivable deficit, the coaches expected the girls to close the gap and come back in this one.

However that did not seem to be the case that night as the second half looked even worse for Ohlone.

Though the points were not adding up, Jasmine Rubin still stepped up to the plate as well as Casceal Swaggard.

"I felt like Delta was just more

prepared and we did what we could do to battle through the game," said Swaggard.

"We were off on our rebounding as we were under our usual average," added Laura Elliot after the game.

As the game ended, so did the hopes for making the Elite 8.

But the achievements of this team this year were not overlooked.

Despite the slow start, they fought back, finished "perfectly" strong and played hard to get to the Sweet 16.

Despite falling short of state, this year was a success.



The fast break

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

End of the road

All great things must come to an end, and on Saturday, the end of the season came for Ohlone Renegades basketball.

Both the Men and Women's teams put down the basketball for the 2008-'09 season and reflected on the great wins, sloppy losses and above all, the great memories.

After endless hours spent in the weight room, the long practices and the bursting energy on game day, these athletes were left with a learning process and a healthy growth of a everlasting family.

"It was a great learning season and now we're just like brothers," said Men's Basketball sophomore forward Leon Hart.

With both teams under the guidance of great coaching staffs, it was just a matter of the collaboration and teamwork that would take them to great heights.

Both teams opened their seasons strong, with the Men's team facing off against Feather River College and winning 63-46.

They set the bar high for themselves and it only grew higher from there as each game they played they grew and improved.

The Women's team had a rough early start as they lost their first five games, but the sixth game against Lassen College showed their true capability as they won by one point, 64-63.

"The season was an overall success because we made the unexpected happen," said Lady Renegades Cassie Bates.

The season brought some rough times for both teams, but it was those losses that made them stronger and drove them harder to come back and get a win.

The Men's team was given a wake-up call as they faced their toughest opponent in the conference, City College of San Francisco.

They had a successful win against them on home court, but when they met again for the rematch up they fell victims to their mistakes on their court.

For the Women's team it was the Foothill College game that crushed the eight-game win streak the team was on. But that did not stop them as they got back right back on track and finished number one in conference undefeated, 12-0.

The Women's had many highlights. They showed how they could make 100 points in a 40-minute game. Among the many standouts were point guard Cassie Bates and Coach of the Year Elizabeth Stanley.

Though this season has come to its end, the journey that was taken this season was one to remember.