



Inside the lines

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

13 going on 30

First in Northern California, second in the ABCA Pacific and sixth in the nation.

What a difference a year makes... right?

Since 2001, the Ohlone baseball team has a combined 229-152-2, including this season.

However, of the seven winning seasons in the last nine years, none have been as dominant as the 2009 season.

Ohlone's 3-2 win in 12 innings over Cosumnes River on Wednesday not only marked the Renegades 13th straight win, but it also marks just the second time this decade that the Renegades have reached the 30-win plateau, their first in 2002 (34-15-1).

They came close to 30-wins in 2003 (29-17) and 2007 (27-19) but could not get over the hump then.

"When you can count all the losses on just two hands, that's pretty good," said Renegades Head Baseball Coach Jordon Twohig.

In his first season as Head Coach, Twohig turned around a team that struggled to a 21-22 record in 2008 under then-Head Coach Tom Kunis.

"Any time you get to that 30 mark and start building from there, that's a good sign," Twohig added. "That means playoffs in the future and that you're taking care of business everyday."

Taking care of business is what the Renegades have done best this season. Offensively and defensively, this could possibly be the best squad Ohlone has had since that 34-win 2002 team.

After taking two years off from baseball, outfielder and designated hitter Jeff Johnson leads the state in home runs with 15 on the year, while twin brother Zach Johnson has played very well, hitting over .350 in the season.

Freshman right-handed phenom Sean Martin, from Newark Memorial, has been simply dominant in his first season with the Renegades, going 7-0 in 10 starts with an ERA just above 2.00.

Sophomore San Jose State bound right-hander Ian Hoff has been completely lights out for the Renegades in 2009, leading the team with an ERA just below 1.00 and 7 wins. Last year he went 2-2 with a 4.72 ERA.

The Renegades in 2008 played hard despite the record, however injuries and lack of consistency brought them down to just under .500 for the season. Their longest win streak was three games and their best pitcher Shane Murchison was just 8-3 with a 4.03 ERA.

2009 is more than a comeback season, its a storming-back year.



Photos by Tara Lynn Lanning and Jeff Weisinger

Sophomore David Luna, left, and freshman Sean Martin, right, both pitched well against Cosumnes River Wednesday, despite neither getting the win. Ohlone won 3-2 in 12 innings in game one and lost 3-2 in seven innings in game two.

Renegades split double-header

■ Renegades hit 30-win mark, but snap 13-game win streak vs. Hawks

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

What a difference a year makes. After being the "team that couldn't" in 2008, the Renegades are the "team that does" in 2009. They're ranked sixth nationally, let alone first in Northern California.

Ohlone (30-6, 17-2) took on the Cosumnes River Hawks of the Big 8 conference for the last two games of the Ohlone College tournament.

The Renegades beat Mission College 9-1 on Monday with sophomore Cory Krisman picking up his third win of the year.

With Tuesday's game being rained out, the Renegades played a double-header at home Wednesday against the Hawks.

Sophomore David Luna took the mound for the Renegades in game one. Luna (6-1) pitched a good 6.2 innings, allowing just two runs on five hits with six strikeouts.

Still without an answer for Stanley

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

It's been about a week since Women's Basketball Coach Elizabeth Stanley was let go from Ohlone and still there is no word on why.

When asked about the situation, Athletic Director Chris Warden simply said he has "no comment." The same went for many in the athletics department.

The topic also was not discussed at Wednesday night's College Board of Trustees meeting.

Stanley, who was named the 2008 Coach of the Year, finished

Ohlone struck first in the fourth inning as Ryan Walterhouse scored Ryan Kanzaki from second base to give Ohlone the 1-0 lead. Ohlone struck again in the fifth inning off a Cody Foster RBI single to give the Renegades a 2-0 lead.

The Hawks came back in the seventh off a Nick Duval RBI single, then Bryce Miller's RBI off a double-play tied the game at 2-2.

Both teams took the game into the 12th inning, continuing what would be the first pitcher's duel of the day. Jeff Johnson's RBI single in the 12th scored Aaron Chavez, who singled earlier in the inning, to give the Renegades a 3-2 win.

"It's always fun to win a game in extra innings," said Head Coach Jordon Twohig as Ohlone earned their 30th win of the season.

Freshman right-hander Sean Martin looked to go 8-0 in his 10th start of the season as he got the start for the second game of the double-header.

Martin (7-0) didn't get the win, but he pitched a solid six innings, allowing just two runs on three hits, striking out eight batters and

in conference an undefeated 12-0 after her Lady Renegades started the season 0-5. Her team would make it all the way to the Sweet 16, where they were defeated at San Joaquin Delta College 88-60 back on March 7.

Toward the end of spring break, during the recruiting period, Stanley was told that she was not going to return as Head Coach of the Women's Basketball team.

Without any reason why, many rumors are beginning to swirl around campus as people in the program and those around it try to find out why Stanley was let go.

walking just two. Freshman lefty Roberto Padilla (3-4) relieved Martin in the seventh, but allowed the game-winning run in the seventh and was tagged with the loss.

"In all three games overall, we were very competitive," Twohig added.

Jeff Johnson hit his state-leading 15th home run in the third inning as Ohlone cut the Hawks' lead to 2-1.

However, Ohlone left a total of

11 runners on base as the Renegades were able to get runners on against Hawks starter Cody Berger, but were unable to capitalize, especially in the sixth when Ohlone loaded the bases, but was unable to capitalize with the game tied at 2-2.

The Hawks scored the game winning run in the seventh as Nick Cole, pinch running for Brock Neil who singled to start the inning, scored on a sacrifice fly by David Henderson to give the Hawks the 3-2 win.

Nahale sparks Ohlone's 5-0 win

By TOMÁS ORTEGA
Sports writer

After defeating Foothill College for the second time this season Tuesday afternoon, the Ohlone Softball team is approaching the playoffs in the coming weeks. With the seventh best record in California, Ohlone (31-9, 12-1) looks to add to its win total in the final four games of the regular season.

Although the Lady Renegades have done well up to this point against conference teams, they will still need to grind out some tough victories before the regular season is over.

Ohlone's 5-0 win over Foothill (9-24, 3-10) was one of those tough matchups. On paper, the Renegades were heavy favorites to win the game. However, because the Renegades are the top team in the Coast North, even teams that struggle during the regular season bring their A-game against them.

In games like Tuesday afternoon's duel, players like freshman Ashley Nahale step up to give the team the spark they need to keep up with the status quo they have set this season.

Nahale collected three hits in

her four at-bats, including a pair of doubles. She is hitting an even .500 in the team's last eight games and is one of the key contributors to the Renegades success this year.

"I put extra time into my hitting whenever I can," Nahale said. "I didn't know college would be so different, so I came out wanting to practice because college is a different level than high school. I have played a long time and coming to play here is a huge step."

Head Coach Donna Runyon is impressed with Nahale's performance through the season.

"I'm excited to see how she finishes the season," Runyon said before displaying a huge smile to the fact that Nahale will be returning for another season. "She's also quickly becoming a leader."

The Kennedy H.S. graduate is hitting .381 with four home runs and 30 runs batted in. She is also tied for second in both home runs and RBI's in the Coast North Conference.

"All teams put their best out against us. I can see it. Everyone is out to get us," Nahale added.

"We have a target on our back," Runyon added.

"It would make everybody's season to beat us."