

THEY'RE '4' REAL!

■ Ohlone baseball breaks top-5 national rankings



Photo by Tara Lynn Lanning

Freshman pitcher Roberto Padilla, above, pitched his first complete game in Ohlone's win over Hartnell Tuesday. Below, third baseman Zack Johnson's sixth home run of the season sparked the Renegades' 16-1 win.

Renegades bring the heat in 16-1 win

By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

The heat was not enough to stop the Ohlone baseball team on their hot streak Tuesday in a 16-1 rout over Hartnell College for their third straight win and their 16th win in the last 18 games.

Ohlone jumped up two spots to fourth in the national rankings this week and is still the top team in Northern California.

Freshman left-hander Roberto Padilla (4-4) had a very strong outing in his first complete game victory of the season.

Padilla allowed just one run on five hits while striking out five on the day.

"I did good today because of my defense," Padilla said after the game.

Despite the heat and the playoffs coming in about two weeks, Head Coach Jordon Twohig decided to keep his young lefty in with a 15-

run lead.

"Anytime you get late in this season, you want your pitcher to get close to his pitch count just so he gets used to it for his next start," Twohig said.

Padilla had a lot of help from his offense as Ohlone took control from the very beginning, as they took advantage of Hartnell starter Leonard Giammanco.

"Roberto gets better each time out," Twohig added.

Giammanco, who took the loss, only lasted five innings, eight runs, six earned, on nine hits while striking out just four.

The Renegades took the early lead in the second inning as Ryan Walterhouse's RBI triple, scoring catcher Braxton Miller, scored Ohlone's first run of the game. Walterhouse would score himself to give Ohlone the 2-0 lead off a throwing error from Hartnell second baseman Justin Andrade. Walterhouse went 2-4 on the day with an RBI and a



run scored.

Ohlone came firing right back in the third inning off Jeff Johnson's one-out, two-RBI single, scoring Aaron Chavez and Steven Ramos. Johnson finished the day 1-4 with two RBI's and two runs scored. Shortstop Aaron Chavez went a perfect 3-3 on the day with a run scored.

With the win, Ohlone is just one

win shy of tying the school record for wins in a season (34) set by the 2002 Ohlone baseball team that went 34-15-1, and with four games left in the regular season, the Renegades look to shatter the record.

Ohlone travels to Monterey Peninsula today, starting a three-game road trip before returning home on Thursday, April 30 to face Skyline in the regular season finale.



Inside the lines
By JEFF WEISINGER
Sports editor

Rollin' to regionals

One team continued their dominance on the diamond, the other simply rejuvenated it.

The 2009 spring sports season has been one to remember for both the Ohlone baseball and softball teams.

The Lady Renegades ended their regular season last Saturday, beating rival Chabot College 2-0 to finish the regular season 16-1 in conference and 35-9 overall.

Sophomore pitcher Kelly Colker (22-6) made her last regular season start for Ohlone as she earned her 22nd win of the year. They'll enter the playoffs hot off an eight-game win streak, and will find out their seed this weekend for the playoffs that begin on May 2.

During their current eight-game win streak, the Lady Renegades have outscored their opponents a combined 64-6.

The story of the spring, however, is the turnaround of the Ohlone baseball team.

When they started the season 2-2, some began to think that nothing changed from 2008 except the head coach.

And then they went on a five-game win streak, followed by win streaks of 11, nine and, recently 13.

Ohlone has stayed consistent throughout the season both offensively and defensively.

Under the young, first-year head coach Jordon Twohig, the Renegades went from an under-achieving 21-22 2008 season, to their first 30-win season since 2002.

To add to the turnaround, Ohlone baseball is also ranked fourth in the nation, making them the first Ohlone team to be nationally ranked.

Freshman outfielder Steven Ramos was the first Ohlone baseball player to be named CCCAA Male Athlete of the Month back in February and designated hitter Jeff Johnson leads the state in home runs with 15 shots on the year so far.

The Renegades are also on pace to shatter the school record for wins in a single season.

The record of 34 wins was set by the 2002 Ohlone baseball squad that finished 34-15-1, losing to Sacramento in the state playoffs.

The Renegades, currently at 33 wins, have a legitimate shot to break the record with four games left in the regular season.

With the regular season in the books, both teams are in prime shape to take their respective top seeds when the Regional playoffs start in May. Question is, will the regular season results translate over into the playoffs?

Allender takes over for departed Stanley

By TOMÁS ORTEGA
Sports writer

It took no more than three weeks for the Women's Basketball team to find a new head coach.

Julia Allender, who worked as an assistant to former basketball coach Elizabeth Stanley, was named head coach Tuesday afternoon, according to a press release from the athletic department.

Allender replaces Stanley after the best season by any basketball team.

Stanley's contract was not renewed by the college and no comment was ever issued about the release.

Allender worked under Stanley for the last three seasons and was in charge of recruitment, player development and offensive strategies.

The hiring of Allender comes at a good time for the basketball team as a whole.

April is generally the time of year when coaches scout the local high schools to recruit players for the following season. Allender is fully aware of it and has already begun the recruitment process.

"First thing to do is recruit. I need to go out and get what I need," Allender said. "I'm ready to get things started. I'm antsy and really excited."

Allender has been handed a great



Julia Allender

program left behind after Stanley's sudden departure.

A team that was 19-12 overall, including a 12-0 conference record, is a treat to any new head coach. Especially to someone like Allender,

who was heavily involved with the 2008-09 team as assistant coach.

"This team has a positive atmosphere," Allender added. "I hope to take the core returning players and go beyond just the state playoffs. I also want to place kids where they can perform beyond their potential."

As far as whether she sees her team being successful, Allender answered quickly and confidently, "Absolutely. I've never not had success. I know what it takes and have the ability to get the best out of players."

Stanley left with a winning record over the eight years she coached at Ohlone.