

■ Men's soccer finishes homestand with 2-1 win over Monterey Peninsula

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Editor-in-chief

"The wins help out a lot, because it builds confidence in the players."

Ohlone Men's Soccer Head Coach Jan Nordmo couldn't have asked for a better start for his team in 2009 after the Renegades beat the Monterey Peninsula Lobos on Tuesday, 2-1 to finish their season opening three-game homestand with a 2-1-0 record.

"I'm quite pleased with what we're being able to do," Nordmo added. "We've been lucky to some degree, but you create your own luck."

Ohlone created their own luck early in the first half of the game off a goal from freshman Pierre Brugeman, as his shot hit the top of the crossbar, bouncing in behind Lobos keeper Manuel Reyes to put the Renegades up 1-0 early.

"We're getting bodies in and we're taking chances," Nordmo said.

MPC would answer right back with a goal of their own to end the first half tied at 1-1.

The Renegades would come out strong in the second half, driving straight through the Lobos midfield and backline, however Ohlone could not capitalize on any opportunity as they were shutdown by the MPC defense that came up in



Photo by Tara Lynn Lanning

Freshman Pierre Brugeman celebrates with his coach and teammates after his go-ahead goal in the second half in Ohlone's 2-1 win.

the clutch early in the second half.

The Lobos also could not capitalize on their opportunities, as Ohlone goalkeeper Daniel Galloway came up with clutch save after clutch save, including a diving save by Galloway off a shot by Lobo's forward Carter Fries which prevented MPC from going up 2-1.

However it would be the Renegades who would break the 1-1 deadlock in the second half off

George Mayer's goal off a throw in to put Ohlone up 2-1 midway through the second half.

"George and Sean (Randall) have just prove to be invaluable here," Nordmo commented about his two freshman recruits.

The Renegades' 2-1-0 start is just what they needed as they head into their two-game road trip at Merritt College on Tuesday.


They return for back-to-back

games against Napa Valley and Skyline in the conference opener.

"We're building one game at a time," Nordmo added. "But we'd like to finish in the top three."

If the Renegades can continue to play solid, and an easy schedule, they have a good chance to go into conference a streaking 5-1-0.

This squad set up by Nordmo still has a bit to prove in the year, but they are far improved from 2008.



Swing away
By **NICK ZAMBRANO**
Sports editor

Kicking off '09

In the Bay Area, football is on the decline. Both the 49ers and Raiders are battling internal issues. We all already know about "Cable, bumaye!" and the San Francisco-based soap opera, "Days Without Crabtree." But how will they actually fare in the '09 season?

The 49ers actually stand a fair chance to improve on their 7-9 record, despite the fact that they still have question marks at the quarterback and wide receiver positions.

Although coach Mike Singletary has preached a run-first offense, it'll be inevitable that they utilize the pass. Even with the likes of Shaun Hill under center, short, quick routes can make a coach's job expectancy last longer.

However, if neither Hill or Alex Smith can perform, rookie Nate Davis will eagerly step in. Davis may be the quarterback of the future if Singletary gets him in there at the right time.

This is where Crabtree is hurting San Francisco the most. At Texas Tech he was notoriously known for his yards after the catch. Exhibit A: his game-winning grab and dash against Texas last season.

The defense will be the staple that keeps the team together, if they come undone, the team will bleed out all over itself. Another 7-9 season is possible but with Singletary, I doubt it'll be satisfactory.

The Raiders on the other hand, are a team loaded with potential but doomed for disappointment.

Obviously Al Davis was not sold on Michael Crabtree, but the pick-up of Darrius Heyward-Bey left fans unsold. Instead of taking a receiver with a no hands, Davis could have opted for Missouri's Jeremy Maclin, who is a more complete receiver than Heyward-Bey.

JaMarcus Russell has yet to step up as a leader on the field, as he showed up to camp sluggish and overweight. Jeff Garcia was brought in to help Russell reach his potential. Russell was nothing short of unresponsive.

During the preseason, Russell threw only one touchdown and often got lazy. This was apparent when he try to float the ball in the air to prove that Heyward-Bey has hands.

Even with the acquisitions of Greg Ellis and Richard Seymour, the defense is still wide open enough for Mr. Magoo to drive a semi-truck through. An optimistic record for Oakland this year would be 5-11.

Thankfully, however, football is not limited to only the Bay Area. So keep the chin up, the 2009 football season will get better, the farther you get from the Bay, anyway.

Volleyball blanks Alameda, 3-0

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Editor-in-chief

Despite getting blown out by West Hills last Wednesday, and their match against Laney College being postponed, the Lady Renegades proved that they could play at a top level in their 3-0 sweep of the College of Alameda Wednesday night.

"I'm kind of sorry that we didn't get to play Laney," said Lady Renegades Head Coach Jeremy Peñaflor after the game. "But after that mishap we just looked forward to this and I'm very pleased with how we passed."

In their season opening loss against West Hills, the Lady Renegades passed the ball poorly, allowing chances for West Hills to capitalize, in which they did. Ohlone fixed that problem against Alameda, passing very well off serves and defensively.

"I was really pleased with our adjustment from the last game to this game," Peñaflor added.

Ohlone played sharp from the very start, taking an early 16-4 lead as the Lady Renegades took advantage of every miscue from Alameda.

Ohlone went on as high as an 8-0 run in the first match to build a big lead over Alameda, capitalizing on their defensive mistakes.

However, Alameda would slowly claw their way back, taking advantage of Ohlone's mistakes and after

back-to-back points by Alameda, Peñaflor, upset with his team giving up easy points, called a timeout.

"We weren't keeping the ball in play, and we weren't in attack mode," Peñaflor mentioned about why he took the timeout. "There's no reason why we should give points away."

Ohlone came out strong after Peñaflor's "pep-talk" and finished off Alameda to win the first game 25-17.

"I didn't think that we ever had lost control at any part of the match.

In the second game of the match, the Renegades came out flat, allowing Alameda to keep it close as both teams battled back and forth to a 6-6 tie.

Ohlone would takeover off the six-all tie and stop any chance at a comeback by Alameda in a 25-19 win.

The Lady Renegades would dominate in the third and final game of the match, starting with a 5-2 lead, thanks to a well-placed spike by Jayme Leftridge.

Ohlone never looked back after taking the early lead in the third game, never giving up the lead as they would take the final game 25-16 to win the match 3-0.

"We could've beaten that team a lot more than we did," Peñaflor added.

Ohlone (1-1) continues their three-game homestand against Cosumnes River Wednesday.

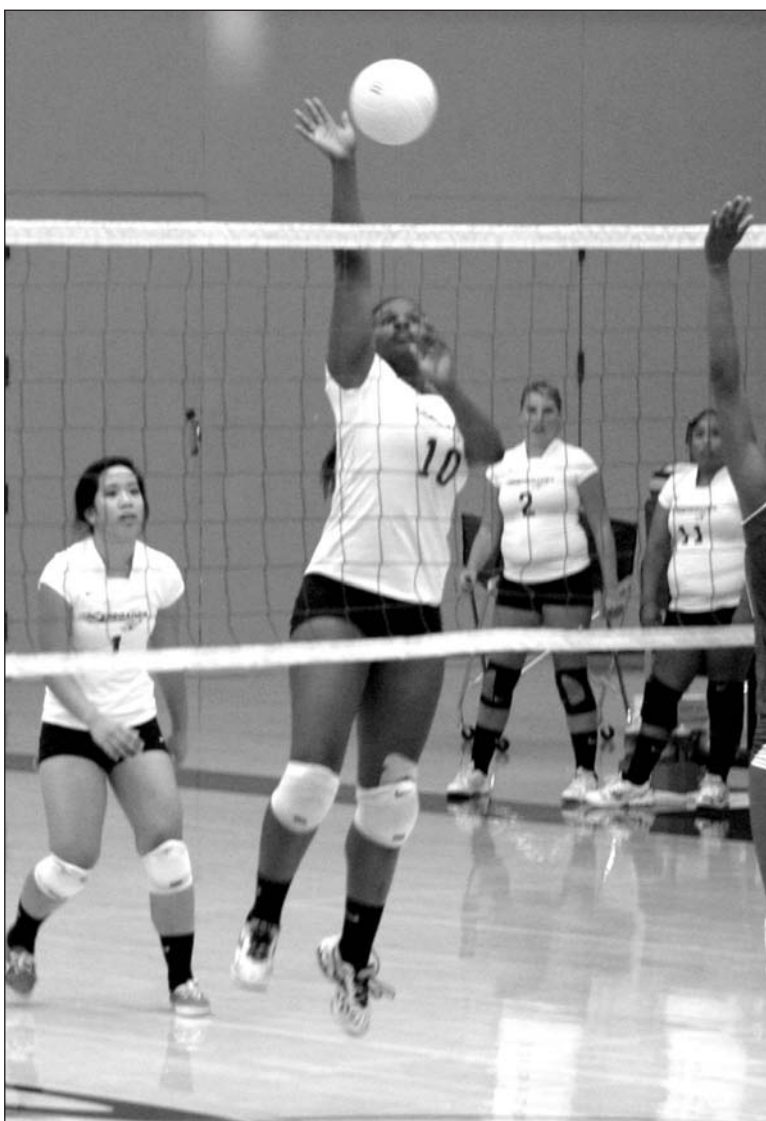


Photo by Nick Zambrano

Outside Hitter Jayme Leftridge leaves her feet to deliver a spike on Alameda College. Leftridge and the Lady Renegades rolled over the College of Alameda 3-0.