



Swing away

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

Giant power

A sign of life is what Giants fans are asking for when it comes to the state of their offense. Well, ask and you shall receive. Fans got their wish with Tuesday's 10-2 whooping of the Rockies, a game which the Giants desperately needed to win.

On Tuesday, San Francisco saw production from the entire lineup. Juan Uribe led the charge going 2-5 with three runs batted in. Following in Uribe's footsteps were Travis Ishikawa and Aaron Rowand, who combined for four RBI's. Despite going 1-3, Randy Winn contributed by crossing the plate three times.

The question that has lingered around San Francisco since April is where would the Giants get their run production from. Bengie Molina has batted clean-up for the majority of the season but his production numbers have been pretty dismal. For the season, Molina has batted .265 with only 18 homers on top of that. Hardly the numbers any manager wants out of his number four hitter.

With a solid number four, Pablo Sandoval's numbers could be even better than what they are right now. Since the All-Star break, Sandoval's batting average is floating just above .300 and has only six homers to his name. Teams have grown wise and have opted to throw around Sandoval because of his ability to hit for both power and average.

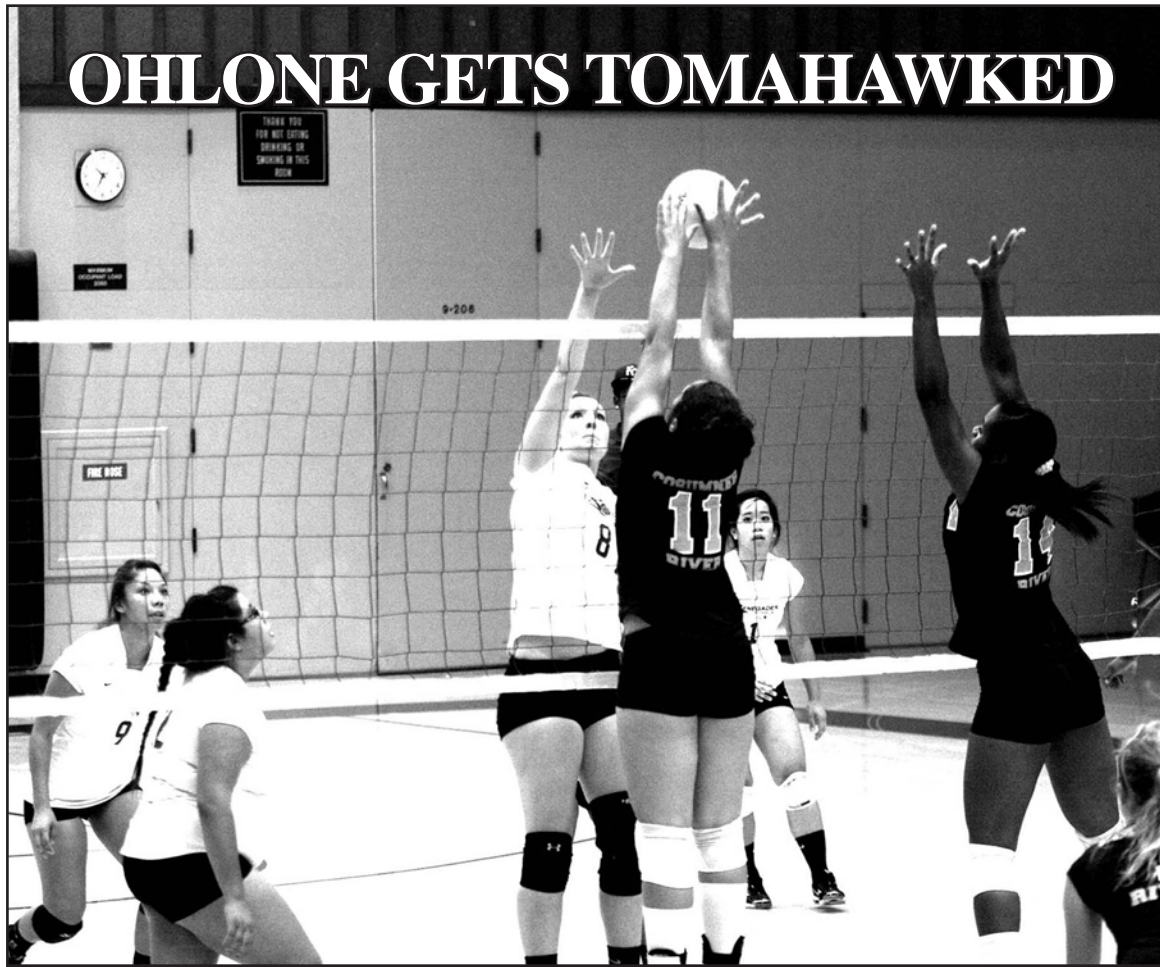
Sandoval is the investment that benefits the most from a big slugger in the lineup.

The acquisition of Ryan Garko failed right from the beginning as Brian Sabean settled for less. The obvious target in the Garko deal was Victor Martinez. The switch-hitting Martinez would have been a perfect fit, as his ability to play either catcher or first base would have given Bruce Bochy loads of lineup options.

Cleveland may have wanted more but a deal for Martinez may have paid off if San Francisco clinched a playoff berth this season.

This off-season will have general managers foaming at the mouth as plenty big-name bats are for sale. Sabean has never been shy about opening up the checkbook, so when he sees Carlos Delgado, Matt Holliday and Miguel Tejada with "For Sale" signs around their necks, fans will be all smiles across San Francisco.

Any one of those hitters would be well-suited behind Sandoval. because as much as fans believe it, Tim Lincecum and Matt Cain can't do it all.



OHLONE GETS TOMAHAWKED

Photo by Tara Lynn Lanning

Middle blocker Kelly Idle tries to spike between two Consumnes River defenders. The Lady Renegades' next home game will be Sept. 25 against West Hills.

Volleyball falls to Consumnes

By JEFF WEISINGER
Editor-in-chief

After taking Division-III Mills College to five games last Thursday, the Lady Renegades looked nothing like a team that took on a D-III team in their three-match loss to Cosumnes Rivers Wednesday night.

"I was really disappointed with the lack of effort," said Head Coach Jeremy Peñaflor after the game. "They weren't doing things that we've been working on for a match like this. We had some good spots, but it wasn't consistent enough."

After losing the first game, Ohlone created mistake after mistake as Cosumnes River took an early 4-10 lead after trailing the Lady Renegades 2-0 to start the second match. Ohlone was never able to pull it together for most of the

second match, despite a big block by Brenda Calara and Stephanie Cao to bring the Lady Renegades back to 7-10, however the Lady Hawks would go on a 5-1 run to take a commanding 15-8 lead over Ohlone in the second game.

Down, but not out, Ohlone began to fight back, pulling as close as 13-16, highlighted by two kills by Jayme Leftridge, cutting the Hawks' lead to just three. However, Cosumnes River would pull away, going on a 9-4 run to win the second match.

"Coach told us that we needed to focus and keep our heads in the game," said Leftridge.

Ohlone would do just that to start the third match and slowly fought back after losing the first two matches as they took the Lady Hawks to a 6-6 tie to begin with,

including a back and forth battle between the two teams that ended in a foul for hitting the ball twice, cutting the early Ohlone lead to 5-3.

Despite a good early start, Ohlone's miscues and the ability of Cosumnes River to finish off the Lady Renegade mistakes cost the Renegades a chance at a comeback as Ohlone lost the third and final match 25-22.

"In the third game, we started to come back," Peñaflor mentioned. "CRC has a solid team, but it's not an overpowering team."

With the loss, Ohlone falls to 1-2 on the season with just a game left before conference play starts on Oct. 2 when Ohlone hosts rival Chabot.

Ohlone hosts West Hills on Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the third game of a four-game homestand.

Freshmen anchor ladies polo

By TOMÁS ORTEGA
Staff writer

The 2009 season for the Ohlone Women's Water polo team looks to be a lot of fun for Head Coach Don French.

After their first tournament last weekend at the Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, Coach French already has a plan mapped out for the year.

"My purpose for the tournament at Cuesta was to get the girls to bond," Coach French said. "I wanted to see where we needed help and what we needed. If you only have [intra-squad] games you don't learn anything. They bonded well with no drama."

This year's team has 16 players on the roster for French, the most he has had in any given season. As the season progresses he plans to use each player regardless of skill or experience.

"Everybody is playing," Coach

French said. "Even in games that are close because they need to learn game situations. The emphasis is to build for next year. I have a fresh core of players from high school water polo who don't see the difference in the college concept of the game."

"We have a young, young team. It's going to be a rebuilding year. They can all swim, just not all that fast. We need to defend differently because all teams in the conference have fast girls," French continued.

Though the squad is made up of mostly freshman, Coach French does have the luxury of knowing he has a group of returners that have shown good leadership to this point.

"I have three girls that are stepping into a leadership role:" Hannah Moreno and Vicky Zolfereli who are both sophomores. Hannah is more of a lead by example type while Vicky is very vocal yelling instructions

out to her teammates which is fine. I also have Jennifer Manry who is a freshman, but an older freshman. She provides lots of leadership as a first year player."

As for the tournament this weekend at West Valley College, French doesn't expect too much a lot from his team. Though for sure, he wants to see an improved style of play.

"I'm going to tell them the same thing I told them in the unscheduled game we played against American River College on Tuesday, 'You're probably not going to win this game, but I want to see improved play,'" French went on to say.

"This game isn't like football where they can see the play; it's a fluid game," French added.

The 2008 Lady Renegades didn't set a very tough benchmark with an 8-18 overall record. That's a record this year's squad should have no issue achieving especially with the depth this team has compared to years past.



Inside the lines

By JEFF WEISINGER
Editor-in-chief

0-1, with promise

It's been a while since the Raiders have started the season 1-0 (Sept. 8, 2002, 31-17 over Seattle) Now, it'll be a while until the Raiders once again get in the playoff picture, however after their 24-20 loss to San Diego, the Black Hole has a few things to look toward.

Oakland (dubbed "Choke-land" by ESPN's Jim Rome) took a go-ahead 20-17 lead with 2:34 left in the game, thanks to a 57-yard touchdown pass from JaMarcus Russell to rookie Louis Murphy. However, Oakland's defense, which held up against Philip Rivers nearly all game, fell apart in the last 2:30, when Rivers orchestrated another fourth quarter comeback. He went 6-7 for 79 yards before Darren Sproles scampered for a five-yard touchdown to silence the Black Hole.

In a season that will define whether or not Russell is a legitimate quarterback, he still needs a lot of improvement. He finished the day completing just 12 of his 30 passes for 208 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

In the last Oakland drive before the half, Russell looked very solid, coming up with three clutch completions including what should have been a touchdown pass to Louis Murphy with 43 seconds left in the first half. However, the "real JaMarcus" showed up in the third quarter, missing open receivers left and right.

Despite how solid JaMarcus looked toward the end of the 2008 season in wins against Houston and Tampa Bay, he has yet to prove that he can be a consistent quarterback, something the Raiders desperately need.

However, the bright spot, despite the loss was the Raider defense, that showed signs of life for at least three quarters. Zach Morrison, newly acquired Richard Seymour and company held LaDainian Tomlinson to just 55 yards on 13 carries and held San Diego to 317 yards total offense. Tomlinson averaged 119 yards rushing per game before Monday night's game.

Oakland can start to climb back to becoming playoff entity once again, although it won't happen this year, and finish at best 8-8 this season if they can simply learn to finish games.

Offensively, JaMarcus needs to just become consistent, and the Raider secondary has to keep receivers in check.

Despite a four-point loss, the Raiders are a far improved team than what most thought they would be.