

Chabot ends Ohlone win streak at 11

Chabot wins at Ohlone for second straight year

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It's been a while since the Ohlone Men's basketball team went undefeated in conference play, and after Wednesday night's 64-53 loss to rival Chabot, the Renegades will still have to wait for a chance to finish undefeated in the Coast Conference North.

"We've gotten accustomed to winning," said Renegades Head Coach John Peterson. "But Chabot played great. It was an identical game to last year."

The Gladiators' 11-point win marks the second consecutive season that Chabot has come to Ohlone and defeated the Renegades at home. Ohlone won the prior three matches against the Gladiators at home since 2005 before falling to Chabot last year 71-65.

"It's a big win for us," said Chabot Head Men's Basketball Coach Dennis Aye. "We're trying to compete in conference as well as get ready for the playoffs."

Ohlone started conference play with a 5-0 Coast conference North record going into Wednesday night's matchup. The loss put Ohlone at 5-1 in conference play, tying them with Foothill for first place in the Coast Conference North, with just six games left to play in the regular season.

Yet despite the loss, the Renegades are still off to one of their best starts of a season in recent years, now riding a 16-4 overall record. They started the season 5-0 before losing back-to-back games in the Shasta College tournament and then to Cabrillo College back on Nov.

25, then went on to rip 11 in a row until Wednesday night.

"(The loss) will only hurt if we don't bounce back," Peterson added.

The Renegades didn't help themselves at all on the court Wednesday night, shooting a mere 39.2 percent from the court, including going an embarrassing 9-for-26 from the court in the second half.

That 39.2 shooting percentage is also the worst that Ohlone has



John Peterson

shot in any of their four losses this season. In their three-game losing streak back in late November, the Renegades shot at least 43 percent or better in the losses.

"We had to do a better job of keeping our composure and shots would fall," Peterson said. "Some of them were good shots that didn't go in, but some shots were shots where guys were pressing. And the more we missed, the more we struggled defensively."

The 53-point total for the Renegades is also the lowest point total for Ohlone this season. Ohlone scored 56 at Foothill in a 56-52 win back on Dec. 20.

"The effort level was embarrassing," Peterson said. "That was the frustrating part. I think the effort level went down as the game went

on."

"We know Ohlone's very physical, very fast and play tough," Aye added. "Given that, I thought we played well."

Ohlone led throughout most of the first half, starting the first five minutes of the game on a roll to an early 11-4 lead. However, the Gladiators would fight back to come within one point, 15-14 with 10 minutes left in the first half.

The Renegades would go up by seven after Demetrius Love's layup with just under seven minutes remaining, but Chabot would fight back again off Jason Rockwell's three-pointer with 1:03 left, tying the game at 28.

Chabot would take the lead in the final seconds of the half off a free throw by Meka Ezekwesili, and a last-second layup by Mark Stevenson to go up 31-28 at the halftime. Stevenson finished with a game-high 26 points for Chabot on the night while Ezekwesili finished with four points, two of which coming on free throws.

Quaran Johnson would bring the Renegades within one, 33-32, early on in the second half, but the Renegades would never take the lead back, pulling within one three times in the second half, and tying the game once at 44 off Love's three-pointer. Johnson led the team on the night with 17 points while Love finished with six.

Yet, once Chabot's Derrick Bruce hit his jumper to break the tie, giving the Gladiators the 46-44 lead, Chabot never looked back, holding off the Renegades for the win.

Ohlone battled for first place in the CCN against Foothill on Friday. Scores were not available at time of publication. Ohlone will travel to Feather River College on Thursday, Feb. 4 before returning home to take on Canada on Saturday, Feb. 6 in Epler Gymnasium.



Photos courtesy of Don Jedlovic

Quaran Johnson's 17 points were not enough to overcome Chabot. John Peterson, left, was not happy with his team's play Wednesday.

A penny saved is a penny earned for Ohlone

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who works with Robbins implemented and processed 1,526 purchase orders.

These purchase orders were valued at over \$12 million in 2007-'08 and he did comparative shopping regarding those orders. He continued with this process during 2009.

Now, as more purchase orders go online, the buying procedure is running more effectively because of streamlining the process. It also decreases wasteful spending and benefits the consumer.

There is more time left to focus on combing the internet for the lowest prices and checking community vendors' rates.

Robbins is also using a "just in time" system for ordering office supplies.

A department can place online orders and this was implemented by a purchasing consortium.

It's based on the principle that a group can combine their power to have more clout in negotiations for lower prices from vendors.

Ohlone has such a consortium in place.

The Foundation for California Community Colleges has obtained the lowest bid for office supplies from Office Depot.

The foundation conducted what is called a reverse auction – companies did online bid-offs for the types of items, which the Foundation posted online that it wanted to buy, and suppliers bid for the contract. The foundation selected the lowest bidder – Office Depot.

The procedure for online shopping is convenient. Ohlone submits a requisition for its estimated annual purchase and obtains a blanket purchase order from Office Depot.

Each department at Ohlone has an online account with Office Depot.

Robbins encourages administrators, faculty and staff to take advantage of additional discounts on commonly used items called "best buys," which are available on the company's website.

Once a purchase is made, the supplies are typically delivered within 72 hours.

These simple actions of utilizing technological advances contributes

to the ease of acquiring supplies.

And this goes a long way in helping the college save money. That money can be allocated in order to fund other projects and for other materials that are necessary.

In this case, a penny saved is a penny earned.

Robbins has also instituted a wider distribution of CalCard credit cards to staff and faculty to use for routine purchases that don't require his prior approval.

The CalCards decentralizes the procurement process, thus reducing the purchasing staff's workload, so that they can concentrate on comparison buying and contract procurement.

In order to get the most bang for the buck, Robbins is also cutting costs by using a new state law.

Ohlone has elected to participate in the Uniform Public Construction Act.

This particular piece of legislation allows Ohlone to solicit informal bids for construction projects valued between \$30,000 and \$125,000.

Ohlone was required to use

formal sealed bidding procedures for contracts valued over \$15,000 before this law was enacted.

Now such requests for proposals, which were required prior to the utilization of this were often time consuming and expensive to generate.

Contracts can now be negotiated and evaluated on other criteria.

Now he can focus on making sure that the project will be "built to industry standards."

Robbins expects Ohlone to engage in at least 75 contracts next year and possibly more if the underground water intrusion project is funded by the state legislature.

The project has not been submitted because of the lack of state funding during the economic crisis.

Robbins is hopeful that state money will be released "little by little over the next year so that this project can go forward."

Robbins and his staff are also contributing to Ohlone's finances.

His department is also a revenue center with some nonbuying responsibilities.

It contracted with a new snack

vending company for new machines at higher commissions.

It also negotiated with Fresh & Natural to provide food services at the Newark campus, the proceeds of which are directly distributed to the ASOC.

The people in the purchasing department are no longer back-office types who haggle prices and fill supply closets.

They are now up front, using high tech, finance, the law, and entrepreneurship to cut costs for Ohlone.

The purchasing and contract department is playing a visible role in shaping the finances and the future of our college.

With the fiscal quandaries that Ohlone faces, the purchasing and contracts department has exercised a means in lowering costs for the administration and faculty.

Robbins has worked for Ohlone for three years. His background is in business administration.

Prior to Ohlone, he worked a combined 20 years for community colleges and for a Cal State University.