



Photo by Alex Glanville

Celebration time: Ohlone guard Quaran Johnson holds up the net in victory.

Renegades win league title against Las Positas

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Sports editor

The motto inside the Ohlone Renegades' locker room has always been: "Do not look past any opponent." The motto has been installed by Head Coach John Peterson since day one, and the team has chosen to live by it.

And with a rematch with Chabot scheduled for Friday night, Ohlone did not look past Las Positas with a 82-58 win during last night's sophomore night.

The win also marked another Coast Conference title for Peterson, the fifth of his tenure.

"We do want to play them badly," said sophomore center Reggie Jones about the rematch with Chabot. "But we're looking at the bigger picture and they're just a small piece in the bigger picture, so right now we're just focusing on that."

Back on Jan. 27, Ohlone suffered their first loss since November when the Gladiators upended them 64-53. Chabot also managed to hold Jones to just 11 points in the contest.

Since that game, Jones has managed to average 27.5 points per contest.

However, it wasn't Jones that lit up the scoreboard against the Hawks of Las Positas.

Lavon Gray led all Ohlone scorers with 17-point output. He did so while also collecting four rebounds. Ronnie Sawyer notched 14 points, as well as hitting the Renegades' lone three-pointer.

Coming off the bench, Maurice Briggs collected 12 for himself while also going four for four from the free throw line.

A detrimental part in Ohlone's clutch victory was their second half performance.

To open up the half, the Renegades went on an 18-4 tear in the half's first seven minutes.

"Tonight, it was about the energy levels," Peterson said.

In the Renegades' last victory over City College of San Francisco, they also exploded in the beginning of the second half for a 31-6 run.

Ohlone would go on to win that game, 76-57.

Now, with Las Positas behind them and another conference title waiting to be hung in the rafters of Epler Gymnasium, Peterson and the Renegades can now look toward Chabot.

"It's a personal deal for them, no question about it," Peterson said about the rematch with the Gladiators. "There will be (extra motivation) probably. But we haven't even really talked about it."

The Chabot affair will also be the last regular season of the year.

With the clinching win, Ohlone now stands at 21-4 overall, they also add an extra notch in their conference win total, which is now at 10-1.

FINAL SCORE

Las Positas: 58
Ohlone: 82

Next game:
Fri. Feb. 19,
at Chabot
7 p.m.

Strike 2: Ohlone bats silenced in second loss of year

By JEFF WEISINGER
Editor-in-chief

It's not often that the Renegades lineup struggles, but in their 5-3 loss to Diablo Valley College on Wednesday, that was the case.

"Today, we had opportunities to score early," said Ohlone baseball Head Coach Jordon Twohig. "There's some guys that are doing a good job and some guys that are struggling."

The Renegades run production has fallen a bit since their 14-run, 17-hit performance at Diablo Valley in the season opener. Ohlone has outscored opponents 27-5 in their three wins, while being outscored 16-9 in their two losses.

"I think we're giving ourselves a good chance to score runs," Twohig added. "We're just coming up a little short on timely hits."

"We just have to battle a little more," said sophomore leadoff hitter Steven Ramos. "I think we're doing just fine. We'll pick it up."

The 5-3 loss on Wednesday comes a day after Ohlone won 5-3 against Los Medanos. It's the first pair of back-to-back games the Renegades have played since the 2009 playoffs.

The Renegades had a good chance early on in the bottom of the first off a single by Ramos. Ramos would advance to second base on a sacrifice bunt by Cody Foster, and would steal third with one out. However, Viking freshman right-hander Steven Swift ended Ohlone's chance to start with an early 1-0 lead,

FINAL SCORE

DVC: 5
Ohlone: 3

Double Header:
Sat. Feb. 20,
vs. Sac City
11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

striking out designated hitter Jeff Johnson and Christian Weeber to end the inning.

His counterpart, Ohlone right-hander Mark Mercer, pitched well in his home debut, pitching six innings, allowing two runs on six hits including four strikeouts in a no-decision. The

Renegade infield helped Mercer out, turning three double plays on the day.

The Vikings took the opening lead in the top of the third off Justin Manci's two-RBI double with one out. The Renegades would get a chance to take a 3-2 lead with Kyle Holmstrom reaching third, however catcher Michael DiRocca struck out swinging to end the inning.

Ohlone would attempt another comeback, clawing the deficit to 5-3 as Michael Ussery scored off Foster's sacrifice with one out in the bottom of the seventh, but the Renegades were held hitless in the last two innings.

Ohlone (3-2) will look to come back from the loss in Saturday's doubleheader against Big 8 opponent Sacramento City College.

Mission unable to handle Lady Renegades

By KEVIN YIN
Staff writer

The Ohlone Lady Renegades earned their 25th consecutive conference win with a 75-57 victory over the Mission College Saints last Saturday night in Fremont.

FINAL SCORE

Mission: 57
Ohlone: 75

Next game:
Fri. Feb. 19,
at Foothill
7 p.m.

The game featured the top two scorers in the Coast Conference South division in Ohlone guard Jasmine Rubin and Mission center Angelica Williams. "She's definitely a powerful force," Ohlone head coach Julia Allender said of Williams. "We didn't want to let her cut or catch."

Williams entered the contest averaging 21.2 points per game but



Photo by Alex Glanville

Going all in: Ohlone guard Ashley Valenzuela fights to recover the loose ball. Valenzuela finished the game with six points.

was held to just 19 points Saturday by the tenacious tandem defense of Ohlone forwards Elise Spain and Jayme Leftridge.

"I thought Jayme did a great job. Played her tough, really contested shots," Allender said, "I think Elise did a great job as well."

Mission was equally impressive during the first half in foul trouble after picking up two quick fouls in the game's first 1:58.

Fortunately, Ohlone packs a powerful second scoring option in guard Ganeaya Rogers.

During a 14-3 run, the Lady Renegades pressed the issue relentlessly, with Rogers and guard Jazmine Duenas seizing every opportunity to get into the open court.

"When you have athletes like I got," Allender said of her team's aggressive play. "You want to get

them out in the open floor as much as you can."

Ohlone closed the half with an 18-8 run that gave them a 38-27 lead at intermission. Rodgers had 10 points for Ohlone during the run. She would finish the game with 24 points on 12 of 15 shooting and 6 assists.

Early in the second half, sharp Mission jump shooting and sloppy Ohlone offense would let the Saints close the lead back down to six at 42-36 with 15:08 left to play, but this scare was little more than a wake-up call.

A 12-4 Ohlone run over the next 4:32, fueled by intense defensive pressure and three Leftridge baskets down low, placed the score at 54-40 almost midway through the second half.

After the game, Allender praised her team's focus and preparation. "We're really pushing them, and they're doing a great job."

The Lady Renegades (16-6, 11-0) faced De Anza College at home on Wednesday night. Results of the game were not available at press time.