

Women's soccer keeps the good times rolling

By **KYLE NORDEEN**
Sports editor

The women's soccer team posted another positive result Sept. 20 as they walked away with a convincing 3-0 decision over visiting Las Positas College.

First half strikes from Presley Strother and Lora Lee gave the Renegades a comfortable 2-0 lead heading into the break, while a second half goal from Jessica Hernandez put the game to rest.

"It's nice to keep a clean sheet," said head coach Larry Heslin. "It's good for our defense to work on keeping our shape and they did a good job of containing [two] very good players..."

While the defense was easily one of the noticeable strengths of the team, things looked a little shaky from the onset.

Through the first quarter of the match, the team was playing a little sloppy and uncertain. They were having a hard time maintaining possession and spent a lot of time trying to play out of their own half.

"It took us about 15 minutes to kind of get into the game and Las Positas was playing pretty well. It's a testament to the girls to be able to turn that around and take over the run of play in the game and then come back and get the result."

The breakthrough came thanks to a spectacular solo effort from Strother, a freshman forward from Amador Valley.

Strother found the ball at her feet just beyond midfield, dribbled through the Las

Ohlone a 1-0 lead.

"It felt good," said Strother, who now has three goals to go along with four assists on the season. "It was kind of surprising. I didn't expect to dribble through all of those

front of the Ohlone bench.

The ball in just evaded the head of forward Elizabeth Mooney, but fell to freshman midfielder/forward Lora Lee, who chested the ball down and tapped it in to double the

the Las Positas defense.

Hernandez would find herself on the score sheet, though, in the second half when her left-footed shot was parried up by the keeper, who attempted to deflect it over her goal, but couldn't push it far enough back and watched it bounce into the back of the net, giving Ohlone their final goal of the afternoon.

The Ohlone keeper had a routine day at the office and was barely tested aside from a Las Positas free kick in the second half.

"I feel like we played really well, played well as a team," said Cheyenne Kirsthardt, a sophomore forward on the team, on the team's performance and clean sheet. "It helps us step-by-step as a team to move forward and take positive things and go from there."

The team has a bye this Friday and will use the time to nurse injuries that have been nagging at the team for most of their non-conference schedule.

"We're just now getting a little more healthy," said Heslin. "We have some muscle issues and some ankle issues. The girls have a few days off now... so we're going to try and rest and get them healthy and get them going."

The Renegades will carry their momentum in a home meeting with rival Chabot on Sept. 27 at 4 p.m.



Photo by Kyle Nordeen

Freshman Lora Lee chests down Presley Strother's cross before tapping it in to give Ohlone their second goal en route to a 3-0 home victory over Las Positas.

Positas backline and fired a left-footed effort across the keeper toward the far post.

The keeper managed to get her finger tips to the ball, but her efforts proved futile as the ball nestled itself in the corner of the net, giving

people."

Ohlone didn't stop there, but kept pressing the issue and the second goal came shortly after the first.

Strother, once again involved in the action, floated a cross in from the corner in

Renegade advantage.

The Ohlone lead was nearly three right before the break, but a clever attempt to lob a ball over the keeper by freshman midfielder Jessica Hernandez clanked off the crossbar and was cleared by

Ohlone's Ottavis sparks special season

By **NAVIN KRISHNAN**
Staff writer

This year, the Ohlone women's volleyball team is on the brink of a breakout season, going undefeated in this year's contests. While the basics of the game rely on team play, coaches must have recruiting to fall back on.

Today, Ohlone's head coach, Jeremy Peñaflor, is backed up with recruiting for size, defense and ball control. However, sometimes the luxury of having good individual players may come as a surprise.

This year's exception features a Renegade who ventured into Ohlone's program as a walk-on. Anna Ottavis, a starting outside hitter and captain of Ohlone's volleyball team, fits that description.

The sophomore's personality and flare sets up what could be a perfect season.

"I played for Fremont Christian... a small private school..." Ottavis said. "A lot of the competition was definitely not close to this. Ohlone

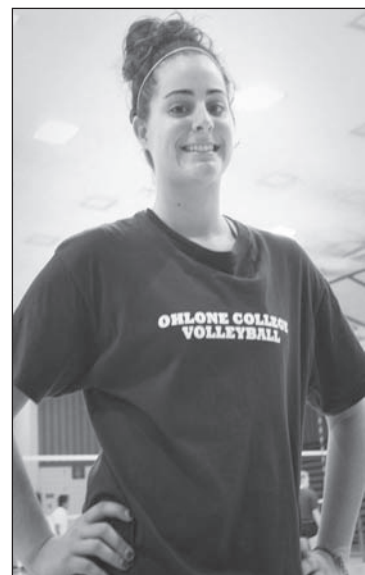


Photo by Simon Tang

Anna Ottavis

is a lot more competitive and intense."

Her story took an unexpected and unusual turn when she signed up for an Ohlone class in the summer of 2010 featuring incoming volleyball recruits.

"I took [the class] because my friend wanted to take it. She didn't want to take it alone, so I took it with her."

According to Ottavis, her

summer teammates asked her if she was going to play and it was then she realized she had a shot.

During the class, she met coach Peñaflor, who was named head coach of the women's volleyball team in 2008.

As her abilities became recognized, she became touted as a missing piece to a complicated Ohlone puzzle.

"A situation like that almost never happens," said Peñaflor. This came from a coach who realized that most intercollegiate athletes in Ohlone, for much more than just volleyball, are recruited out of high school or college. However, it may have simply been a new coach's luck to trot upon a hidden gem like Ottavis.

"[Being] a walk-on, you have to prove yourself more to everybody and you have to play a lot harder. If you're recruited... [you are] are guaranteed a spot. You have to show everybody that you're

there to play."

Ottavis proved she belonged, quickly emerging as the star captain of a young but talented Ohlone squad.

Being one of the older players on the team at 21, Ottavis' tenure with Ohlone may be one of the bright points of her career. Her personality is serious yet enlightening, bringing a fierce face but a bright mood to a team constantly dealing with pressure situations.

Her charisma allows her to get along easily with everyone on the team. Peñaflor calls her "a great example of good work ethic."

That work ethic translates to on-court production, which is what makes Ottavis an undefeated captain. Her personality and work ethic spun a 7-0 (6-0 with Ottavis) web.

Ottavis has shown she is more about hustle and effort than just numbers, earning a reputation as a player that is consistent at "leaving it all out on the court," according to Peñaflor.

Ottavis has also earned a reputation as an excellent passer, garnering high praise from her coach and earning the respect of her teammates.

Peñaflor adds that Ottavis' 'passer rating' is consistently among the top three on a winning team. Ottavis also boasts great leadership skills, being of a veteran few on a very young team.

Ottavis may have seen the last of last year's injury bug that handicapped the team when she was recently out with an unknown infection and was placed on antibiotics.

However, she recently made a comeback, showing that the only infection that can affect her team's chemistry is her infectious positive attitude.

"I hope that this is the last [of the injury bug]. I think we're going to have a good season."

To highlight her on-court gifts, Ottavis is scheduled to participate in the San Jose City league tournament this weekend.