

Women's water polo dominates Laney at home

By NAVIN KRISHNAN
Staff writer

The Ohlone Women's Water Polo team dove into Friday's game and resurfaced with a 21-1 win.

The Renegades went into their first conference game looking young and energetic, having only one sophomore on their squad.

Ohlone came out looking sloppy, missing four goal attempts in the opening moments.

The Renegades quickly cleaned it up, scoring the first goal within the first three minutes.

Ohlone's defense was superb as usual, igniting a 5-0 run. A free throw put Ohlone up 6-0.

"It's not fun. [Winning like this] is not fun. This game did not help us," said Ohlone head coach Don French.

Laney's only goal came as a surprise.

A loose ball floated into the Ohlone goal while the Renegades enjoyed a lapse of attention.

At the half, Ohlone was up 11-1.

Ohlone's defense tightened an extra gear in the second half, each turnover leading to transition opportunities that became easy to Ohlone and a



Photo by Jessica Kuester

Looking to play the ball forward often, Ohlone sank 21 goals en route to a comfortable win over Laney.

broken record of a nightmare for Laney.

"We have great goalies. Rachael [Whitaker] and Lindsay [Ramos] are maybe the best goalies in the league."

As for Laney's performance,

coach French said, "It's obvious that they're a really young team."

"I like that they didn't give up even though they only had seven players (no substitutions)."

Ohlone's attack to diffuse the Laney defense was fierce, coordinated, and reliable.

Every time Laney had a sloppy possession or turnover, Ohlone snapped back.

Over. And over. And over.

To Ohlone, it came as a boring, endless exhibit of their talents.

To Laney, this was their royal punishment.

It was their public dethroning, in front of a vivacious crowd under the hot Mission sun.

They had possession after possession to score; to start something; to set themselves free.

But nothing came as a result of their trials.

It was an exhibit to just how distracting and coherent the Ohlone defense was and how coordinated their responses were.

"We do a lot of pressuring, but at different times, so it [becomes] confusing."

"If they [Laney] looked confused, it was by design [Ohlone's fault]."

Moreover, it was definitely more than that.

A loss like this must have more than one explanation.

A Laney team with seven players became decimated, and, in a sense, bullied by

Ohlone's more experienced squad.

"I know they [Laney] were getting tired." Coach French admitted Laney didn't give up, despite what the score suggested.

Perhaps Laney was simply outmatched against the overwhelming Ohlone defense.

Despite how effective Ohlone's transition game was, the head coach would like to see the team evolve past being repetitive yet effective.

"[We need] to think more offensively, and not just [rely on] counterattacks. They [Ohlone] took the easy way out."

"In past games we have shown a very strong defense," said coach French, before the game.

"Our offense is slowly coming together."

Ohlone proved they can be a viable force in a league with good competition.

"I think we can be a strong contender in the Coast Conference this year."

Ohlone will have a chance to prove this victory was more than a fluke.

On Oct. 5 they faced Cabrillo College at 4:30 p.m. as the finale of a double-header.

The result of the match was not available at press time.

Men's water polo sinks against Cabrillo

By KYLE NORDEEN
Sports editor

The Ohlone men's water polo team couldn't hold onto an early lead and fell 14-7 to visiting Cabrillo College in the first part of the home double-header on Wednesday.

The gloomy weather foreshadowed the impending defeat when the few moments of sunshine subsided in place of ominous cloud coverage and rain.

The Renegades jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter, scoring the first three goals of the game and ending the quarter with a 4-2 lead.

Head coach Gene Kendall was happy to enter the second quarter with a two-goal lead, but he had a feeling that things would be changing quickly in the coming minutes.

"What happened was they didn't play their best player in the first quarter," he said.

"He is a machine and, if for some reason he was being disciplined or if they just wanted to keep him fresh for the last three quarters or what... I don't know, but they didn't play him in the first quarter."

Kendall estimates that he was responsible for at least



Photo by Kyle Nordeen

Ohlone dominated play in the first quarter against Cabrillo, jumping out to a 3-0 lead in the games opening minutes, but failed to hold on, losing 14-7.

half of Cabrillo's goals, despite playing in only three quarters, and was one of the main difference makers in the game.

While the offensive impact of the Cabrillo's workhorse — known solely as No. 13 by Kendall — changed Ohlone's fortunes, a host of errant passes and mental mistakes made it almost impossible to get back into the game.

The Renegades entered the half down 6-5 with the game still very much in the balance, but the momentary lapses in concentration proved costly.

"Basically, what killed us, was we took good care of the ball in the first quarter; we were smart with it, and then, I would say, in the second half, we just turned the ball over almost every single time

down," said Kendall.

"When you turn the ball over like that and you make bad passes, that leads to counterattacks in the other direction and that's exactly what happened to us."

The Cabrillo counterattacks really did burn Ohlone, constantly finding the Renegades undermanned and out of position for easy goals

that just kept adding to a seemingly insurmountable Seahawks advantage.

Kendall was not too pleased with the team's performance as a whole and viewed the game as a rather forgettable one.

"There weren't a lot of positive things," he said.

"But our goalie played a great game."

"I thought he did a good job. Obviously when you are getting counterattacked they are up three-on-two, two-on-one... even a great goalie isn't going to stop those situations."

The mental errors, while frustrating to watch as a coach and player, are easily correctible in practice and just require recognition and a little extra attention to reverse.

"When you make mental mistakes like we did today you just can't win," said Kendall.

The men's water polo team has had a disappointing season thus far.

The team's lone victory during the 2011 season is a 5-0 defeat of Modesto Junior College on August 27 — their third game of the season.

The Renegades will look to get things back on track against De Anza away from home on Oct. 7 at 3 p.m.