

Men's basketball eager to move on from 2010

By KYLE NORDEEN
Sports editor

The 2010-11 men's basketball season was a massive disappointment.

While making the CCCAA playoffs should be seen as a great accomplishment, a spot in the postseason has become the norm for the Renegades.

The team has secured a playoff spot every season since Head Coach John Peterson took the reins in 2001, except for the 2004-05 campaign.

The men's team finished last season with a less than stellar 16-12 overall record — the lowest win total since the 2004-05 season — and a mediocre conference record of 7-5.

"I've thought about [last season] a lot, actually," said Peterson.

"I did a bad job putting the team together, miscalculated on some guys in terms of talent and of character, and we just weren't very good."

"We couldn't rebound, didn't guard, average point guard play... It was a frustrating year; a hard year."



Photo by Kyle Nordeen

Head Coach Jon Peterson and the rest of the basketball team are yearning to get back on the court.

While the team managed to make the playoffs, they were ousted in the first round by Reedley College by a score of 69-56 — the second largest point-deficit suffered in the last five seasons.

"We just didn't have enough guys that bought into what we were teaching," Peterson said.

"They had their own agenda. We had guys that just

weren't great students; they didn't want to go to class."

"All the way around it wasn't up to the expectation that we normally have here."

But with what is essentially a brand new team, things look like they will be getting back on track in a hurry.

Of the 14 players on this season's squad, 12 are new players, but they have come

together as a team rapidly and know that the team's accomplishments take precedent.

"Total turnaround; complete turnaround... Just a really, really coachable group. I think the talent level is better, the commitment level to being a good student and being coachable is 100 percent better."

"They get along a lot better as a group; [team chemistry] is way better."

One player that will definitely be missed from last season's squad will be Lavon Gray. Gray was essential to the bits and pieces of success that the team enjoyed last year.

"I think [Gray] is the one we'll miss the most," said Peterson.

"You know, two-time first-team all conference guy, was an honorable mention all-state guy... He was good."

"He could guard multiple positions and you knew he was going to go get eight rebounds a night."

"What remains to be seen is if we can replace the production... but I think we can do

it with a group of guys."

Strong defense has been one of the defining qualities for the team since Peterson's arrival, consistently ranking in the top four in the state in points allowed per game.

Despite having a practically entire new squad, Peterson plans on going back to a defensive style of play that helped establish the program into what it has become today.

"We haven't been able to press the past couple years," he said.

"For the first seven or eight years I was here, that was all we did... we're certainly going to defend better than we did last year."

"The tempo will be up a little bit, for sure, I think we have those kinds of guys that we can go back to playing that way."

The men's basketball team launches its season at home on Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. with the eighth annual John Wallace Tournament and Peterson is anxious to get back out on the court.

"Can't wait."

Women's soccer glides past visiting Cañada

By AMY SCOTT
Features editor

Ohlone took charge of Friday's women soccer game against Cañada College, defeating the visitors with a score of 4-0.

"We pretty much dominated from the opening whistles all the way through. I thought the girls worked hard, played well as a team, created some really quality scoring opportunities," said Head Coach Larry Heslin.

Early in the first half of the game, the Renegades scored their first two goals against Cañada.

Ohlone's first goal was scored by Ashley Strother in the beginning of the game. Heidi Moreno assisted Strickland in getting the first of many goals over Cañada.

Cheyenne Kisthardt and Stephanie Costa followed soon after, scoring another goal in the first half.

However, Cañada had only 10 of its players available to play. The team was unable to change out its players or rest players who were playing with injuries.

The fact that the team was unable to rest those injured players hurt them greatly in



Above: Cheyenne Kisthardt plays a ball upfield during Ohlone's 4-0 thrashing over visiting Canada College.

Above right: Birthday girl Celia Ochoa celebrates the victory after the game with Kisthardt.

the game.

Ohlone kept possession of the ball and pushed Cañada back into their half of the field.

The Canada team struggled to break through Ohlone's offense to give their team an advantage over the Renegades.

Coach Heslin was aware of Cañada's players and the team shortage.

"They were in a little bit of a tough position. They only had 10 players. They've had a tough season."

Despite the team's short-



comings, Cañada played a good game of soccer with almost half of a team.

The Renegades were still able to take something from the game, such as one-two passing.

"We were able to get the girls got some quality playing time," Heslin said.

In the second half, Cañada kept the Renegades from scoring early on as they had in the first half.

But, towards the middle of the second half, Ohlone triumphed once again.

Heidi Moreno aided teammate Ariana Strickland in scoring the third goal of the

evening.

The final goal was scored during the last few minutes of the game.

Celia Ochoa scored the last goal of the game, while being assisted by Heidi Moreno.

The women ran to the center field, enthusiastically calling it Ochoa's "birthday goal."

Overall, Heslin was happy with Ohlone's victory against Cañada.

"Defensively, we were very organized, worked well as a unit, and communicated well. Overall, they played very well."

The Lady Renegades also earned a 1-0 victory against Las Positas College on Tuesday, giving them five wins out of their last six games, an overall record of 12-4 and a conference record of 9-2.

The team had a conference record of 6-5-1 last season and an overall record of 11-8-2.

The team has a bye on Friday and looks to continue their winning ways when they visit Chabot on Tuesday at 2 p.m.