Women’s soccer breaks even against CCSF

By NAVIN KRISHNAN  
Staff writer

A hopeful Ohlone team on the ropes and desperate for a win marched into Tuesday’s game looking for an opportunity to separate its season from the norm and ended up with a tie on sophomore night.

The field stands were packed as the Renegades clashed with a feisty City College of San Francisco (CCSF) team. What started as a reason for Ohlone to hang its head (2-0 at the half) ended up being a contest filled with drama and tension.

As the Renegades took on CCSF in the first half, things started to look gloomy.

The Renegades fought and battled for an edge that seemed impossible to attain, whether it was from out-of-bounds plays or penalty kicks. No matter what they tried, the ball didn’t roll their way. But they didn’t quit.

They came back in the second half with a ferocity that was able to push back CCSF to the edge, evening the score at 2-2.

The first Ohlone goal came when Jessica Hernandez made a spectacular play, dribbling the ball from midfield, severing her way through the porous CCSF defense to smash the ball in a goal.

That emphatic play ignited the crowd and provided some balance for Ohlone’s determination.

“Jessica Hernandez,” said Ohlone head coach Larry Heslin.

“She just went in, came off the bench, had a little bit of a lucky bounce, hit a little rut in our field, popped up over their goalies, and put us right back into the game.”

The second goal for the Renegades came in the final seconds.

Ohlone was down 2-1, and desperate for a goal to tie the game up.

They dribbled the ball up the field, but had it kicked out.

The referee signaled for a corner kick; the perfect opportunity for Ohlone to take control.

The kick landed in a pile of Ohlone and CCSF players, bounced around and then was finally kicked in at the last second, literally, by the Renegades.

However, that break came just after a bit of controversy.

A CCSF player and an Ohlone player broke into a fight that resulted in awarding a CCSF player a red card.

“That kind of situation is never a positive. It takes away from what’s going on,” said Heslin.

“I thought the referee let things get a little out of control. San Francisco is a very physical team. Their girl reacted, our girl did a pretty good job of holding her composure. [The CCSF player] got sent off for doing something she shouldn’t have done.”

Heslin stated having one less opposing player was good, but he also said, “You never want to see [a red card being handed out].”

Nevertheless, it was an tie against a team with a solid record.

“The girls were excited about it. It was important for us, for the playoffs,” Heslin said. “Getting that result from CCSF is huge. It was emotional and we fought to the last second. I thought our girls deserved at least a tie out of that. Just the effort they put in, the desire that they had. I couldn’t be happier.

“We had that late chance, last minute in the first half, kind of adjusted, so we got [a goal] the last minute in the second half. It was tough to give up that goal.

The Renegades play their final regular season game against Skyline tomorrow before beginning their playoff schedule on Nov. 19.

Ohlone volleyball tramples over tricky SJCC

By NAVIN KRISHNAN  
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Ohlone treaded a unique but necessary path as it looked to knock off San Jose City College.

It trampled SJCC 3-0 in what was a fantastic display of old-fashioned teamwork.

It wasn’t an easy win, to say the least.

“San Jose City College can be a tricky opponent,” said Ohlone head coach Jeremy Peñaflor.

A night attending the game would notice its trademark trait.

“They’re loud.”

This audible orchestrated distraction, Peñaflor explained, “can get to our girls if they pay attention to it.”

Peñaflor also pointed out the scrappy defense and good individual play are key elements to have watched out for as the Renegades tangled with another opponent en route to the playoffs.

To counter their play we have to set a standard of staying consistent within our system,” said Peñaflor. It took teamwork, acknowledged Peñaflor.

“Truly believe that. Everybody contributed really well. It’s not so much the individuals that thrive in our system. ‘I think we played really good as a team, and defensively, we fed the offense.”

Though it was totally a team effort, Peñaflor acknowledged Ohlone’s unserialize Anna Ottavis as the glue, showing up just enough at the right times to secure the win.

In other words, she brought a brand of killer instinct.

“Anna’s been that person all year, being older than most of her teammates,” Peñaflor said.

Since she is slightly older than her teammates, she brings experience and that sharpened sense one would only expect from a veteran.

Not only did she show her experience with her effort on the court, but with her words in the huddles.

“She’ll say something that the team really needed to hear, and that’ll kind of bring us back to where we need to be,” said Peñaflor.

Not only does she contribute on the court with her killer instinct and veteran seasoning, but her growth as a vocal leader and keeping the entire team in check, Ottavis has developed into a complete package.

Now with most of the season under the Renegades’ belt, the only thing standing between them and their goal—a playoff seeding—is a series of games.

The hardest thing in this situation, according to Peñaflor, is keeping one’s head up and staying consistent.

“Preparing for the end of the season is hard,” he said.

“It’s a constant battle working to get better without getting stagnant and doing the same things over and over.”

As the season edges to its end, the team is constantly at a standstill but is always working to get better.

Motivation is key when playing late in the season, as Peñaflor described.

However, this unique opportunity—being able to have...