

# Ohlone baseball team off to shaky start

By THOMAS PHY  
Staff writer

The Renegade baseball team went from a resounding high to a sobering low this weekend after splitting their first two games of the 2012 season.

In the season opener on Friday, Reedley College got off to a hot start on the road, scoring two runs in the first inning and taking a 5-1 early lead.

However the Renegades fought back with a four-run, eighth inning that led to a 7-5 victory.

"If you play all the way to the end you never know what's going to happen," Ohlone Head Coach Julian Russell said.

"Our guys kept believing and it worked out for us."

Ohlone starting pitcher Michael Rogers outing lasted only four innings.

He gave up six hits and four earned runs, but strong performances by Sheldon Sheshido, Scott Benton and Joel Deporte kept Ohlone close until their offense came to life late in the game.



JOHN HUGHES/MONITOR

Joel Deporte warms up Friday during the game in the bullpen.

"We had a couple hits [...] Garrett Everhart started it and then Dante Broome knocked a couple guys in," Russell said.

Reedley miscues led to more opportunities for Ohlone as multiple wild pitches set up the biggest hit

of the day, an eighth inning, two-run home run by outfielder Brandon Jossey.

"We had a fast runner on first and [the pitcher] threw over like six times so I knew he wasn't focused on me," said Jossey. "He just laid it

in there."

The ball ended up over the left center field fence and gave Ohlone their first lead of the game.

Joel Deporte's ninth inning save secured Ohlone their first win of the season.

The next afternoon proved to be far less dramatic, as Sierra College pounced on the Renegades Saturday early on and never let up, taking home an 11-0 victory on the road.

Sierra's offense got some help in their double digit win.

Ohlone committed three errors in the game, a bad sign for Russell, who preaches a defense wins championships mantra.

"We've had too many errors the last two games for my taste," said Russell.

"I'm a guy that believes in pitching and defense [...] that's how you win championships."

Russell expects Morrow to get the start in the Renegades next game against Santa Rosa Junior College.

Morrow had a rough outing in Saturday's loss to Sierra, giving up six earned runs in 1.1 innings pitched.

"He's gonna come back and have a strong outing for us," Russell said.

"He has really good stuff. He just needs to believe in it."

# Men's basketball deals with challenging year as players overcome fatigue and adversity

By NAVIN KRISHNAN  
Sports editor

The Renegades have had a fair season in what has been a challenging and eventful year for the men's basketball team.

Coming out of the gate blazing, the team swept its first tournament.

It showed that despite a complete makeover to their roster, they were able to make ends meet and eventually come together to do what John Peterson's teams do best: grind out games with toughness and defense.

Although at times they were faced with adversity like tight schedules and fatigue, they were able to overcome those challenges and maintain a grip on their trials.

A game that occurred last

week may best represent that adversity. The Renegades filed into the contest against Foothill College with a solid record, but it seemed that no numbers could help sustain the team as it sank into a 20-point deficit in the first half.

They acknowledged the challenge, but did not stop fighting. Scrapping and locking down on the defensive end, they reclaimed a lead and eventually won the game by a mere two points, at the buzzer.

Peterson recalls the victory against Foothill College as the best one this year. It was a testament to his team's character and maturity, showing they can grind themselves out of any situation. The team, however, does not give that victory to chance. They attribute that

**"I'm not surprised. We're one of the better defensive teams in the state."**

--John Peterson

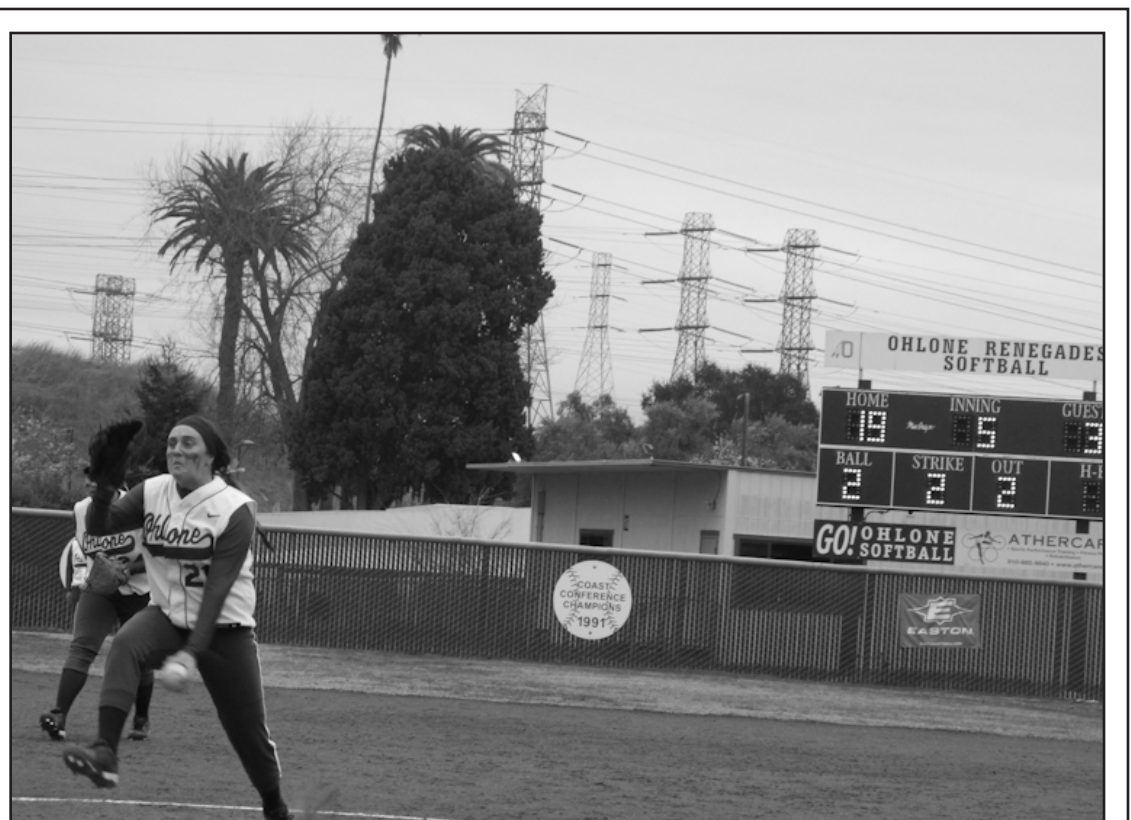
victory to their hard-nosed defense. "I'm not surprised," said Peterson. "We're one of the better defensive teams in the state."

"I think we're great," said freshman Warren Wright, who simply called this season "good." Wright acknowledges that the chemistry is flourish-

ing. "We bond pretty well."

That chemistry is sure to come in handy, as Peterson says he is comfortable starting five freshmen.

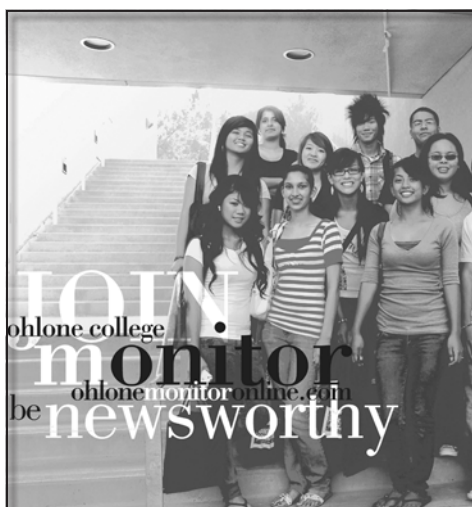
The team was able to win and lose games and fight for a post season position and have all but secured a number two seed in their conference.



## Women's softball team beats Diablo Valley College

JOHN HUGHES / MONITOR

The Ohlone women's softball team won its season opener at home Tuesday afternoon. They defeated Diablo Valley College 19 to 3. Ohlone pitcher No. 21, Katie Bihl, recorded the final out.



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