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

By NAVIN KRISHNAN
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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 team does 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. Scarping 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 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 flourishing, “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. 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.”

Ohlone baseball team off to shaky start

The Ohlone baseball team had a weak showing in their season opener at home Tuesday afternoon. They defeated Diablo Valley College 19 to 3. Ohlone pitcher No. 21, Katie Bihl, recorded the final out.