Renegade Revealed
Volleyball shining star: Lindsey Calabrese

By LOUIS LAVENTURE
Sports editor

Halfway through the 2012 season the Lady Renegades volleyball team finds itself at 10-2 with the playoffs on the horizon and feeling confident.

One of the main sources for the team's confidence is returning sophomore Lindsey Calabrese and her impressive play for Ohlone in the first 12 games.

Calabrese plays the tough defensive-minded Libero position.

The position demands extraordinary digging, passing and setting skills that not all players possess.

Calabrese is ranked eighth in the state in digs per game and also leads the Lady Renegades in passer rating, which Coach Jeremy Penaflor believes is a major factor in his team's success.

“So far, Lindsey by far leads our team in passer rating and digs, I think those have direct correlation as to why we are 10-2 so far,” said Penaflor.

The 19-year-old from San Jose has been mastering her craft since she started playing volleyball at the age of 12 for her sixth grade Valley Christian team.

“Coach told me that I got all-conference and it was an amazing feeling, like all my hard work was paying off,” Calabrese said.

Penaflor first met Calabrese at a tryout for his 16-and-under club team that her current Ohlone teammate Jennifer Covey also played for.

Calabrese also played Libero for that team and has gotten better and better over the years at the position that is tough because of its extensive involvement and pressure to perform.

“Lindsey is the rock for us in the back row, she is both a defensive and passing leader, meaning she digs the most balls when the other team is attacking and she passes the most balls when the other team is serving,” Penaflor said.

Not only does she usually have the most attempts, but she is also the most consistent and making those attempts successful.

When asked about how she deals with the amount of touches as well as the added pressure it brings with it, Calabrese showed the confidence that is very evident with this Lady Renegade team.

“I’m used to the pressure and I feel that I do well and even better sometimes when the pressure is on,” Calabrese said.

Playing for seven years in a tough West Catholic League and a number of club teams has all been in preparation to potentially take her game and team to the next level.

“I would like to transfer after this year and continue to play volleyball,” Calabrese said.

But right now, my focus is taking first place in conference, getting to the playoffs and playing as hard as we can to see how far we can go.”

Calabrese amassed over 400 digs last season for Ohlone.

She has set a personal goal for herself of reaching 1,000 digs before her Lady Renegade career is over.

Calabrese is majoring in speech. Her mother is a speech therapist for Santa Clara County.

These two factors combined give Calabrese a clear edge when it comes to communicating with teammates and their record reflects it.

The Lady Renegades next home game will be against Chabot College on Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Epler Gymnasium in Fremont.

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