**Renegade Revealed: Selina Samorano**

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Sports editor

Selina Samorano  

The ankles and the wrists are arguably the most important body parts when it comes to playing volleyball. Samorano stands out because Selina Samorano learned that the hard way last year when she severely sprained her ankle resulting in ligament damage.

“Selina never played club volleyball and came from a pretty simple system at Arroyo High School,” coach Jeremy Penafior said.

“The speed of the game at Ohlone was a lot faster, which she struggled with at first but was progressing very well before the injury.”

Ohlone was undefeated at the time of the injury to Samorano and were set to begin conference play.

“We lost a lot, especially defensively, when Selina went down,” Penafior said. “Her presence was huge in the middle for us and we definitely lost the same.”

Samorano never suffered an injury before in any sport she participated in, including softball, basketball and swimming.

“When I injured my ankle last year it was really hard for me because that was my first injury,” Samorano said. “I was learning a lot and we were doing so good when I got hurt so the timing of it was really bad.”

Samorano was able to return from the injury and to play at the end of the season despite not being completely healthy.

The Lady Renegades still had a great season finishing 17-3, its best record to date. Ohlone is on its way to shattering that record this season.

Ohlone is now 3-6-4 overall and 3-1 in conference.

Samorano’s presence in the middle has been a huge factor in the Lady Renegades success.

“She has been very influential because that was her middle and she will be missed a lot,” Team captain Celia Ochoa said. “She helps control the center and does a great job of it as well as being very supportive.”

Strother will also be missed especially on offense, where she was excellent scoring four goals and two assists on the season.

“Presley was our target forward who also helped make scoring opportunities,” Melissa Grey said. “She is one of the best players on the team and it will be tough without her because those are big shoes to fill.”

Ahern and Strother both scored goals in the 3-1 win over Cabrillo College before leaving the game due to the injury.

Ohlone also defeated Monterey Peninsula College on Oct. 16 by a score of 4-0 improving their record to 7-2-3 overall and 3-1-1 in conference.

“We have really high intensity practices that are really fast,” Ochoa said. “We practice flying to the ball and being the first one there to every ball and this has really stepped up.”

The defense has been stellar for Ohlone – even dominant at times – allowing only 10 goals all season. Goalkeepers Grey and Kaini Herley have been solid in net including the shutout from Grey over Monterey Peninsula College.

Ochoa, Samantha O’Brien, Madeleine Gray and Shalene Charles have anchored the defense all year by limiting chances for opposing offenses with high intensity and efficiency.

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