Showcase bound for pair of Ohlone sophomores

By LOUIS LAVENTURE
Sports editor

The Lady Renegades soccer team suffered a first round playoff loss to American River College Nov. 17 but Ohlone still has two reasons to be happy. Ohlone standouts Melissa Grey and Presley Strother were both invited to the annual Sophomore Showcase at Mount San Antonio College in Southern California.

The showcase is the last chance for sophomores looking to impress college coaches from all over in hopes of earning an athletic scholarship to a four-year college.

Grey has already made a name for herself this season. The Ohlone College goalkeeper was named the Coast Conference North Division goalkeeper of the year a very prestigious honor.

Grey was a vocal leader as well as a team captain on the 2012 Lady Renegades soccer team.

“It’s bittersweet to know that my time at Ohlone is coming to an end, but at the same time it’s exciting to know another door is just opening up for me to a four-year school,” Grey said.

Grey logged 1,035 minutes as goalkeeper for Ohlone in 2012, only allowing 10 goals for an average of less than one goal per contest.

That statistic is very impressive for any goalkeeper who played that many minutes.

Strother suffered an injury during the season that slowed her down, but she was still able to put together an impressive sophomore campaign and nab a coveted showcase roster spot.

Strother was strong on the field for Ohlone and coach Larry Heslin as she amassed four goals and two assists on the year.

“They are really hard workers who would rather be playing but are still proud of what they accomplished,” Heslin said. These past two seasons are the most successful I have ever had.”

All of the top soccer players from community colleges throughout the state will descend on the Mt. San Antonio campus during the weekend of the soccer final four.

Fall season over for baseball team

By LOUIS LAVENTURE
Sports editor

The 2012 fall scrimmage season has come to an end for the Ohlone College baseball team.

Fall is a time to work on fundamentals and get the incoming freshman acclimated to the system and style of play at Ohlone.

Coach Julian Russell knows all too well how the fall season goes.

“Every fall starts off slow before we build up our chemistry and learn our system,” Russell said. “Sophomores really stepped up a lot for us this fall and things went well.”

The Renegades will be looking to build on the success of finishing the 2011 season as runner-up to state champ Delta College.

A key contributor will be sophomore and returning outfielder LJ Kalawaia. Kalawaia was impressive in the fall for Ohlone as well as last season when he finished with a .330 batting average.

“LJ did great for us last year and he will probably play center or left field this year,” Russell said. “He can hit the ball and field it which makes him a D1 type of guy.”

Russell was referring to Division 1 college athletics and thinks that Kalawaia has a great chance of transferring if he puts together another impressive season.

Russell will have a handful of position battles on this year’s team with a core group of returners and an impressive group of incoming freshman looking to challenge the veterans for playing time.

Sophomore Sean Goodall is one of the players that will be battling for playing time this season. The outfielder did well in fall scrimmage and should be a factor for the Renegades in right defensively.

Russell is fully aware of the potential and capabilities of his Renegades this season.

“We have great team speed and athleticism this year so we are going to have to take advantage of that,” Russell said. “We will definitely be trying to put pressure on teams this year with our athletic ability.”

The Renegades should have a strong pitching staff this year, including Eric Gleese, Jackson Zarubin, Chris Harper and Gregory Spallas.