Ohlone wins 6-2, controls playoff destiny

Pitching and small ball lead to win against De Anza

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Sports editor

Ohlone got a much-needed outing Tuesday from starter Elias Bedolla to snap a two-game losing streak and put the Renegades in the driver's seat to clinch the North Coast Conference title today.

Elias Bedolla pitched well, threw seven innings and gave us a great effort, and a great outing like he always does," Head Coach Mark Curran said after the 6-2 win against De Anza. "He did a great job locating his pitches and getting first-pitch strikes."

Bedolla bounced back after losing his previous start against Monterey on April 6. He allowed two early runs but settled down and had a solid outing in a losing effort - Monterey's Dylan Thorp had the Renegade batters' number that day.

Out of Bedolla's 12 starts this season he has allowed two runs or fewer eight times. With the win over De Anza he has a 6-2 record with a 2.99 ERA.

Ohlone did what they did best: play small ball.

"Offensively, the guys did a good job grinding out at-bats and competing," Curran said.

He was pleased with the team's sacrifice flies, bunts and steals - which translated to runs scored in four different innings.

"We always stress being able to execute," Curran said. "It's part of playing good baseball. At this level you don't have players hitting the three-run home run consistently, so you have to do those small things to put pressure on the defense, and our guys do a good job at that.

The Renegades have had six successful steals on nine attempts, Brock Pradere had a team-high three steals - but left the game in the fifth inning after getting dinged up on his third steal.

"We like to put pressure on the defense," Curran said. "We're fortunate enough to have a few guys with some speed. We really coach them up on how to be good base runners." Josh Calmerin had another good outing, earning his third save of the season. Despite earning the save, Calmerin still serves as Curran's "Swiss Army Knife" out of the bullpen - pitching long relief one game and then closing the next.

He has made 19 appearances this season, pitching 46 innings with a team-low 1.37 ERA.

"He's just a gritty competitor," Curran said about Calmerin. He doesn't have overpowering stuff - most guys at this level do not. What separates him is that he has the ability to consistently throw strikes early in the count."

"He's also able to locate his pitches really well. He's a really tough kid; there isn't a situation that's too big for him. He just gets on the mound and pounds the heck out of the zone. He's a tough competitor and a great kid."

Ohlone plays their regular-season finale at 2 p.m. today against Cañada College. Cañada is 17-16 and is coming off a loss against Monterey on Tuesday.

The Renegades have had Cañada's number this season, winning their previous two matchups 6-4 and 2-0. A win would clinch the Coast Pacific division and home-field advantage for Ohlone - which is tied for first with Gavilan. The Renegades would fall to second place with a loss and a Gavilan win, but if both win, Ohlone owns the tiebreaker.

CCAA will announce playoff seedings on Sunday.

See standings, rankings and the Tweet of the Week on Page 7.

Head Coach Mark Curran

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