

BC's Thomas driven by passion for tennis



NATHAN WILSON / THE RIP

Renegades tennis player Josh Thomas jumps up in the air to hit the ball on March 22 during his singles match against L.A. Pierce College tennis player Royce Pasillas at Bakersfield College.

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

At first glance, it appeared to be a nice quiet day of tennis at the Pfister Tennis Complex at Bakersfield College on March 15 against Glendale City College. But if you were watching the match between Joshua Thomas of BC and Andre Ratavousian of Glendale, all you had to do was wait a little and it would come. "Come on!" yelled Thomas to himself while also pumping his fist to get going after losing the first set to Ratavousian 3-6.

He had seen this opponent before on Feb. 23 in Glendale and lost in straight sets.

On this occasion at home, Thomas would simply not accept a similar outcome and came back to win the match 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"That guy I played is good," he said.

"He beat me the first time 6-0, 6-1, so for me to beat that guy was very nice. That was a great win," Thomas said with a smile.

In his doubles match, Thomas teamed with Raji Rivera to get another victory (9-8, and 7-4 in the tie-breaker) for BC.

Thomas graduated from Tehachapi High School in 1993, and, while in Tehachapi, played four years of baseball.

His junior and senior years were with the varsity and, in his junior season, he won the Charlie Hustle award.

After graduating, he spent three years in the army and had various jobs, including construction work.

In 1998, he attended classes at BC for the first time.

Now in his second stint and a sophomore, at BC, his road to competitive tennis is one rarely traveled.

He basically learned the game about 13 years ago, played against some local competition for about a year, but injured his shoulder, had surgery and recovered in about six months.

After the recovery period, he went back to playing baseball in adult leagues, and was away

from tennis for several years until he got back into it again two years ago.

For most of his life, the sport that Thomas was most passionate about was baseball.

"I played baseball all my life. I went out for the team here like 13 years ago," he said.

"I talked to coach (Tim) Pain-ton. It was right about when cuts were about to be made and I asked him if I was going to make the team.

He said it depended on if some guy from division one was coming out for the team or not.

"So if he came, I was going to be cut, and if he didn't, I was going to make the team."

Not knowing for sure if he would make the squad led him into making a decision.

"So at that time, I had just gotten engaged and I had a job offer, so I had to take the job."

Thomas went on to discuss that his subsequent marriage turned to divorce five years later.

The next year he played some tennis in town, played in tournaments and sustained the aforementioned injuries, so he stopped playing after that.

He didn't play tennis again for about ten years.

"Ten years later, I actually ran into some guys from the racquet club and they were like, 'you should come to drills,'" he said.

"Three months later, I ended up going to drills and next thing you know, I started playing again, and that was about two years ago, so I've only got about three years total experience playing."

When he started playing again, he dedicated himself and became real passionate about it, as he began competing to put himself where he's at today, the third seeded player on the BC squad.

He also added why he is so passionate about playing.

"That's how I am in any sport. I would get fired up in any sport, I just have a lot of passion, just a will to win and a will to do well for myself," he said.

"I just have an inner drive and hunger for me to get better and

do well."

"You know, I'm not a sore loser because that's part of anything you play. You're going to lose, you can't win every time, but sometimes the losses do get to me.

"We've been losing in conference, this (Glendale) is our closest one so far. Last Wednesday, we played a couple of teams (Victor Valley, Reedley) that weren't in our conference and we won both those matches."

In the evening doubles match against Reedley, Thomas and Rivera were involved in the last match of the day with the schools tied at 4-4 going in to it.

"That was something else," said Thomas.

"I think we beat those guys 9-7 or something like that.

"I won all my matches (4) that day, so I was stoked about that." Today (March 15), I won my first conference match, I had to really battle cause that guy (Ratavousian) was good."

Every now and then, his fire can cause a reaction like the one against Reedley late in their doubles match.

A second serve was called out by his opponent, and Thomas took exception to it, saying, "Come on man, really? You had to see that serve. It was about twelve miles an hour. You can't be serious," and he went on to say a few more choice words.

"I can't help but show it sometimes. It's just being so competitive.

"For me to play my best, I have to get fired up," he said. "That's what gets me going and gets the best of me," Thomas explained.

"And sometimes, getting pumped up like that, I can get a little overboard, but it's just mental.

"Every sport there's a mental aspect to it, so you know, maybe me doing that gets in their head a little bit.

"Maybe they get a little intimidated. I am a little older (36) than those guys, and I'm not a small guy, so a little intimidation never hurt anybody."

BC tennis works on mental toughness to beat Santa Monica

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

On March 15 at the Pfister Tennis Complex at Bakersfield College, the men's tennis team played their most competitive match against a conference opponent to date, but lost 5-4 in a close match to Glendale College.

On the same day in Glendale, the women's squad lost 7-2.

In the men's singles matches, No. 3 Joshua Thomas (BC) defeated Andre Ratavousian (Glen.) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, No. 4 Aaron Hernandez (BC) beat Francisco Ochoa (Glen.) 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (9-7), No. 5 Joseph Theisen (BC) beat Chaz Hall (Glen.) 7-5, 6-4, and in the doubles, No. 3 Thomas/Raji Rivera (BC) defeated Rick Ivynian Eric Khanlarian (Glen.) 9-8 (7-4).

On the women's side, No. 5 singles Kassandra Beadle (BC) beat Katherine Akmakji (Glen.) 6-4, 6-4, and No. 3 doubles Kim Butler/Morgan Frazier (BC) defeated Brianna Hayes/Katherine Akmakji (Glen.) 8-4.

On March 16, the men's squad was blanked 9-0 by Santa Barbara City College, and the women's

team lost 8-1 at BC.

The only win for BC on the day was No. 5 Beadle defeating Hannah Erickson 6-4, 6-4.

The scheduled matches between BC and the Allan Hancock women on March 20 was canceled and considered a forfeit. As Allan Hancock did not field a women's team this year.

Reflecting back on the women's matches against SBCC, BC assistant coach Chuck Provenco offered the following when discussing the strength of the SBCC women's squad.

"I believe they are second ranked in conference right now. I think this year they've only lost one doubles match," he said.

"They played so well today, our girls battled, and a lot of the times they could not come up with the answers."

"Santa Barbara kind of had everything today, so I know we didn't play our best tennis, but we definitely showed a lot of heart

and fought as best we could."

Some of the things the women will be working on will be centered on the mental approach.

"We're going to start working on the mental game a little bit," he said.

"The girls are doing a really good job of starting their points.

They've all got great strokes, great movement on the court.

"We're starting to put together some of the tactical and strategic components,

but we've got to add now a little bit more mental fortitude."

"We kind of lose focus when the point gets a little longer, or we get down on ourselves and we lose points.

"So we're going to start looking at how to build up the mental game a bit."

The mental game for the BC women seemed to be much improved on March 22.

As they beat Santa Monica College 6-3 at their place, but the

men's squad was shut out 9-0 in BC by Los Angeles Pierce College.

The victorious women's matches were No. 3 Butler, No. 4 Haleigh Dilbeck, No. 5 Beadle, No. 6 Jyll Hernando in singles. Also, No. 2 Griffin/Dilbeck, and No. 3 Butler/Demler were victorious in the doubles.

No. 4 Dilbeck talked about her match and also discussed how she was able to turn it around not once, but twice during her match.

"She beat me in the first set, but in the second set I got really intense and beat her," she said.

And in the third set, she was up 5-2 and it was really hot for both of us. We were really tired. We were just struggling to keep going.

"I got a little bit angry that I was losing, and then I won five straight games and ended up winning the match."

"Honestly, I think I started focusing better and the adrenaline kicked in, and then I started playing smart, started thinking."

On the schedule for March 29, the men play at number-one seeded Ventura College, and the women face them at BC.



NATHAN WILSON / THE RIP

Bakersfield College's Jimmy Moran hits the ball back to his opponent Eduardo Garcia on March 22 during BC's tennis match against L.A. Pierce College at BC.

BC swimming fights through hell week to get ready for conference

By Meisha McMurray
Reporter

Bakersfield College swimming traveled to Los Angeles Pierce where they competed against both Pierce and Cuesta College and split the two matchups on March 23. They just finished a stretch of grueling practices

and swim meets known as hell week.

BC's men lost 131-65 against Cuesta, but defeated Pierce 65-41. However, the women also suffered a loss from Cuesta 95-68. They also came out on top against Pierce 68-63.

According to BC assistant coach Patrick Zuniga, the team

has been doing a lot of cutting back to get ready for conference. He feels that the meets are tune-ups to get the team prepared for the upcoming conference meets.

"I thought he was easier on them this year than he was last year," said Zuniga, talking about BC coach Charlie Pike and hell week.

"Agreeing with me will be the returning sophomores, while the freshman disagree," he said.

Against Pierce BC freshman Josh De La Rosa completed the 500 freestyle with a time of 4:51.66 minutes. He also finished second in the 200 individual medleys with a time of 2:03.2.

"It was the first time he swam

it," said Zuniga.

In the 50 freestyle, Mat Prasser finished with a time of 22.7. Also, Greg "Big Dog" Harrison got a personal best in the 200 individual medleys with a time of 2:18.92.

For the women, Sophomore Franchesca Wyatt placed second in the 500 freestyle with a time

of 5:49.

"I feel good at this point in the season. I hope within the next week we get faster," she said.

In the 200 individual medleys, Brandy Storms placed third with a finishing time of 2:30.5. BC's next meet will be March 30 at BC against L.A. Valley College and Ventura College.

10 inducted into BC Hall

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College hosted their 30th annual track and field and cross-country hall of fame induction ceremony on March 22 in the BC cafeteria. They inducted 10 former athletes as well as handing out two awards.

The 10 athletes inducted into the hall of fame were: Eldora DeMots, Bill Van Osdel, Richard "Dick" Wahl, Alvino Lujan, Chris Glover, Kara Ragland, Jeff Caneta, Mike Rexroth, Clarissa Rivera and Nick Cramer.

Michael Tivnon was awarded the "Life-Time of Service to Bakersfield College Athletics" plaque, and Gary Frank was awarded the "2012 Bill Heffernan Memorial Track and Field Official of the Year" plaque.

Bob Covey, former BC coach and current member of the hall of fame board of directors, commented on the ceremony.

"It was really good," he said. "This might be our last one since we're trying to go for an all-sports hall of fame, so I thought it was really nice. There were just under 200 people here, so I thought we were fortunate to have this kind of support."

"We don't expect to make too much money, but it's nice to get this kind of support."

He added that he enjoyed

seeing some of the former athletes that hadn't been at BC in a while.

"I really enjoyed seeing people like Dick Wahl and Alvino, who haven't been back here in a while," he said. "It was special for me to see every athlete, and I'm really glad that we were able to get everyone here."

"The committee was in charge of that and it was great that they got them to come here. It's important to honor good people, and they're good people. We spend too much time talking about the jerks, so it's good to honor the good ones."

Tivnon commented on how he felt getting the award and being at the ceremony.

"It's really special because my dad came here in the '30s, I came in the '60s and my kids came here in the '90s, so we owe a lot to this school. It's nice to be recognized for taking care of the guys, and it's nice that they're thanking me for that."

He added that he enjoyed the ceremony because he liked seeing all the old friends and their families. Tivnon graduated from BC in 1965 and received his Medical Doctorate in 1971 from the University of California, Irvine. He became a team doctor for BC in 1980.

Wahl commented on being inducted to the hall of fame.



NATHAN WILSON / THE RIP

Bob Covey, left, presents the 2012 Bill Heffernan Memorial Track and Field Official of the Year award to Gary Frank during the 30th Annual Bakersfield College Track and Field/Cross Country Alumni Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on March 22, which took place inside the BC cafeteria.

"It's a great honor to be treated this way, so I'm glad that so many people showed up," he said. "It's quite an honor and it's not something I expected. I'm just so appreciative that they remember all my achievements. It's wonderful to see old friends and see how the school looks now because I attended it when it was a co-university with BHS, so it's good to see all the advancements this school has made."

Wahl attended BC in 1952-53 and was on the track team both

years.

Wahl finished second in the shot put at the 1952 Metropolitan Conference, and then in 1953 Wahl broke the BC record in the shot put and the final record held for 13 years.

Rexroth explained what it meant to be inducted to the hall of fame.

"It's a great honor," he said. "It brings back great memories and it brings back how my coaches helped me develop into a good student athlete and all the life

lessons they taught me.

"It's good to see some familiar faces and it's good to have my family here during this day."

He added how BC was a good stepping-stone for him.

"I think coming here first helped me out a lot because I gained a lot of knowledge here, and that helped me out when I went to ASU [Arizona State University]."

"I hope they continue to have these ceremonies because I really want to come back to another."

Rexroth attended BC in 1998-99 and was BC's track and field team co-captain in 1999.

At the 1999 Western State Conference meet, Rexroth placed first in the discus throw and second place in the hammer throw.

He tied for third in the discus throw in the Southern California Championships and qualified for State in both the discus throw and hammer throw.

He was also the Western State Conference Athlete of the Year in 1999.

Softball keeps winning

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

College of the Canyons came to Bakersfield College on March 13 to face the Renegades softball team in a doubleheader. Both teams came into the game riding impressive winning streaks. COC had won 17 straight, and BC 10 straight. Both streaks came to a halt, as BC won the first game 11-3, and COC the second 11-6.

In the first game, BC got off to a slow start, and was down 3-0 after the first inning.

But that would be all Canyons would score, as BC punched in one run in the third, seven runs in the fourth, and three more runs in the fifth to end the game.

They collected 11 hits to score the 11 runs, and committed no errors in the process.

Kaitlin Toerner led the offensive attack after getting five RBI's on three hits (including a triple) in four at-bats, she was complemented by catcher Kara Frankhouser, who got three RBI's on two hits.

BC starting pitcher Julie Estep (W, 6-3) settled down after allowing the three runs in the first. She shut down the COC attack over the last four innings. She struck out three, while allowing one walk.

In the second game, the tide

turned, and it was Canyons that got off to a slow start, trailing 2-0 after the first inning.

But they came back to score one in the second, four in the third, two in the fifth, and four in the seventh. BC managed to score four runs in the seventh, but came up short as COC won the second game 11-6 and ended BC's 11 game winning streak.

BC used seven hits to collect their six runs, and committed three errors that allowed COC two unearned runs.

On the road against Glendale on March 15, the Renegades suffered their second loss in a row in a tough 3-2 defeat. Glendale pitching was solid, as their two runs allowed were both unearned.

It was back to winning ways for the Renegades, as they beat Santa Monica College 13-0 on March 22 in SMC, beat Taft College 11-7 in a morning start at BC on March 24, then came back and won an afternoon

match 18-2 against Santa Barbara City College.

"All three games, we were seeing the ball real well, hitting the ball real well. All three games we executed real well," said BC head coach Sandi Taylor.

Besides the hitting, Taylor also gave credit to the pitching.

"Our pitching was outstanding, the seven runs against Taft was the result of four errors, and I don't think we did as well as we could do defensively."

**—Sandi Taylor,
Softball coach**

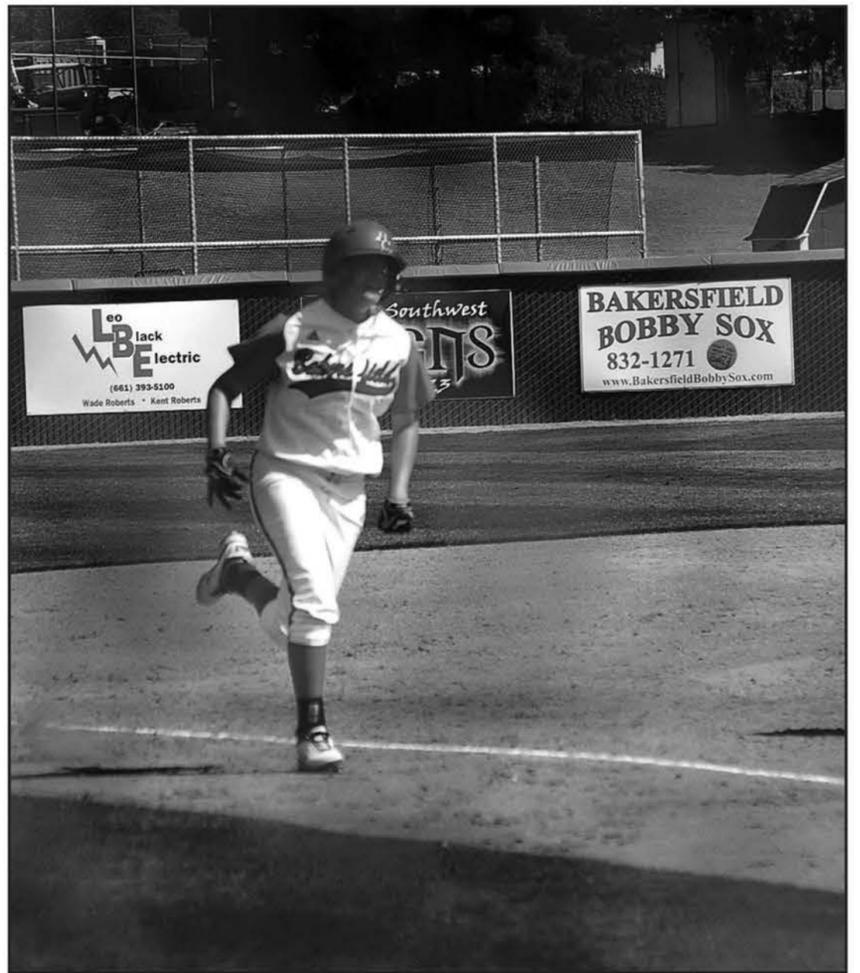
do defensively," she said.

"And in that game, we started our freshman pitcher Kelsey Best, who got her first collegiate win, so that was good.

She had been kind of a relief pitcher for us, so for her to get the start and come out with that win was real good.

She also, in the Santa Barbara game, got her first collegiate home run," she added.

The game against Riverside College on March 25 was postponed due to rain and will be played on April 21.



TEELA WALKER / THE RIP

Bakersfield College catcher Kara Frankhouser, runs home after hitting her second home run against Taft College on March 24 at Bakersfield College.

BC men's golf coming of age with strong performances

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College men's golf team responded to their sloppy start to the season in the North and South Cup Invitational, taking fourth place out of 10 teams on March 18-19.

Chabot College took first with a score of 343, Glendale College took second with 347 and Ventura College took third with 376, while BC had 377.

BC got good performances from Travis Millwee, who had a score of 75, and Jack Henneberry had 77.

BC coach Bill Kalivas commented on the team's perfor-

mance.

"I think we played better and had better course management throughout the tournament," he said.

"I think it's good that we've been able to work our way to the middle of the pack and hopefully we can keep it up."

He added that everyone played with a comfort zone and knew their shots.

"You have to know your shots and what shots you're most comfortable with because if you know that, it gives you a chance to score points," he said.

"I still think we need to improve on our course management because we've got to know

where to put the ball, and not just bombing the ball all around the course.

"It's important that they know where to put it, and they'll have a better chance to put some points."

He also added that he would like to see the team continue to shoot in the 70s.

"I would also like us to get in the top three or four in our conference," he said.

"I know it will be pretty hard to get first, but if we get top three in the conference that will be big since we're still a young team."

BC's next tournament will be at Saticoy against Ventura College on April 2.

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Track and field running to success

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Invitational on March 17 at Memorial Stadium was an impressive meet for the Renegades track and field contingent.

Both the men and women's squad fared well against their competition (Allan Hancock, Antelope Valley, Sequoias) despite dealing with surfaces hampered by the weather.

Because of the weather conditions, it was agreed upon by all coaches that the meet would not be scored.

For the men, in the 100-meter, Walter Hunt finished first with a time of 11.07 seconds, and Myren Moore took second with 11.13.

The 200 saw Moore take first (22.74), and Justin Evans placed second (23.04).

The 400 produced a 1-2-3 sweep, as Evans won it with 51.59, Triandous Hobson took second with 52.31, and Dashawn Meadows came in third 53.15.

In the 800, it was another sweep as John Purcell finished first with his season-best effort 2:01.48. Davis Loustalot second, and Misael Herrera third (2:13.28), with his season-best as well.

Chris Schwartz won the 1,500 and Keenan Colditz finished second.

In the 400 meter hurdles, only two competed (both from BC), and Shane O'Malley won it (1:01.66), and Salim Cleghorne came in second (1:10.15).

The BC team of Hobson, Loustalot, Meadows and Evans won the 1600 relay with a time of 3:30.93 minutes.

The high jump had Bevan Wemhoff finishing with a first place jump and he also finished third in the long jump.

Kyle Richmond took third in the triple jump.

Bert Flores won the shot put, the discus, and the hammer with a season best. David Madrid took third in the hammer.

On the women's side, Sarena Underwood ran a seasonal best and finished second in the 100 (13.20), Sarah Hinostro placed third.

Underwood also finished second in the 100 hurdles, and first in the pole vault.

In the 200, Rachel Evans got third, and took second in the 400.

Elizabeth Sanchez has finished second in the 800 (2:25.09), and Danielle Tidahl took third (2:36.52).

The 1,500 had Natalie Fernandez winning it.

In the 3,000 steeplechase, Seraya Hermosilla ran her seasonal best and finished on top with 13.35 seconds.



GREGORY D. COOK /THE RIP

Runners from Bakersfield College, College of the Sequoias and Allan Hancock College, compete in the men's 100-meter on March 17 during the Bakersfield Relays at Memorial Stadium.

In the 1600 relay, the team of Dial, Sanchez, Tidahl, Evans placed second.

Amanda Smith finished third in the shot put and third in the hammer. Amanda Mosby placed third in the discus, and she finished second in the hammer.

It was an overall productive day considering the circumstances, according to BC coach David Frickel.

"We streamlined the meet. We got rid of the 5,000, and we just tried to get through it as quickly as possible," he said.

"The weather kind of hampered us out there, so it was just one of those days you were there, but you really didn't want to be there."

"Given the conditions, with the weather and such, everything being underwater, I think those are good efforts by those kids that day."

On March 23 at Santa Barbara City College, BC competed in the Easter Relays against 10 other schools, and several of the athletes fared well.

For the men, Chris Schwartz was again the star, as he finished first in the 1,500 (3:55.64), and a season best effort and first place in the 5,000 (14:53.09).

In the 100-meter dash, Walter Hunt finished second with 10.95. The 4,000 distance medley team (Colditz/Cleghorne/Purcell/Langdeaux) also placed second with 10:48.74.

In the discus, Bert Flores took third (138'5") with a season-best mark.

On the women's side, Tejera Dial took first place in the triple jump with 37-8 in her best jump to date.

The 3200 meter relay team (Dial/Sanchez/Fernandez/Perez)



GREGORY D. COOK /THE RIP

Renegades runner Salim Cleghorne clears a hurdle during the men's 400-meter hurdles on March 17 during the Bakersfield Relays at Memorial Stadium.

placed third, and in the hammer throw, Breann Goodman also took third.

Frickel talked about some of the key performances of the day.

"[Chris] Schwartz narrowly missed the school record by just a couple tenths of a second in the 5,000, so that's his first one of the year, so I'm sure he's going to drop that at some point," he said.

"Tejera Dial had a very good jump in the triple jump. That was her best.

"I think she's in the top four in So Cal in the performance list in the triple jump.

"I think Breann Goodman had her second best throw in the hammer."

"It was a good overall performance, the kids picked up some awards. We put some good people in different events that they normally don't do.

"So I think the groups we put out there were very competitive."

"The weather was kind of cool

and overcast since it was right across the street from the beach. It was windy off and on throughout the course of the day cause you're right across the street from the beach, so it was cool all day.

"So that normally doesn't make for the most favorable of conditions when it's cooler," said Frickel.

The up-coming WSC inland Meet on March 30 will be the last scheduled meet held at Memorial Stadium in BC this season.

Column

My bracket ruined my life

RIPPING SPORTS | Taking on every sports issue.

It only took the first round of the NCAA men's tournament for brackets all around the country to be busted when two 15-seeded teams got two huge upsets over a pair of number two-seeded teams.

Sure, every year every person picks that one "Cinderella" team that will steal the show at the big dance and cause a sensation, but I doubt that anyone really expected to see Norfolk State University beat Missouri University and Duke University losing to Lehigh University in the first round.

With three of the four top seeds being eliminated, everyone has to be looking at the University of Kentucky as the favorite in the Final Four. The other Final Four teams are the surprising fourth-seeded Louisville squad and a pair of two seeds, Kansas and Ohio State. With my pick, the North Carolina Tarheels, out, and the fact that I don't like Kentucky or Ohio State, I would really like to see the underdog, Louisville, win it all.

Bounties

Recently, the NFL suspended New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton for the 2012 season for failing to stop and covering up a three-year bounty system.

As much as I don't like the idea of a team putting bounties on certain players of an opposing team, I'm sure that the Saints aren't the only team doing it.

I wouldn't be surprised if high school teams and collegiate teams do it as well. I also believe that the majority of the NFL teams do it, they just haven't been caught yet.

Two of the quarterbacks that they played during their championship run in 2009 never really recovered from dangerous hits against the Saints. This is something that isn't needed in the game because they're sending the wrong message to any kid out there that trying to severely hurt someone just to get the win is acceptable.

Suspending Payton was a smart decision by the NFL because they have to make sure everyone understands that this isn't right.

From a Colt to a Bronco

After going through Tebowmania this past season, many believed that the Denver Broncos would've kept Tim Tebow as their starting quarterback, but everything changed when the Indianapolis Colts released quarterback Peyton Manning.

Soon after, the Broncos put all of their attention to bringing a proven quarterback in the pocket. They signed Manning and traded Tebow to the New York Jets.

MMA

Mixed martial arts needs a new scoring system. Although the 10-9 system might work in MMA, it doesn't work in MMA. A perfect example of this is the bantamweight fight between Demetrious Johnson and Ian McCall. Although Johnson had the advantage in the standup, McCall had the advantage on the ground. This fight ended up being a majority draw and that's why I think they need to account for every aspect of MMA. They need to account for striking, wrestling, the clinch and jiu-jitsu so that the scoring system works for MMA.



Esteban Ramirez

Renegades move on from rough few games

Nine games into conference play, Bakersfield College's baseball team is second in the Western State Conference South division at 6-4 (15-7 overall) behind Glendale College. The team has 14 games left in the season to try to get back atop the division before the regional playoffs take place on May 4-5.

March 15
Glendale 6, BC 5

MVP
Glendale's Chris Stroh, who went 4-6 with two runs and one RBI.

Key moment
In the bottom of the ninth inning, Glendale's Ruben Padilla hit a single to bring home two runners, tying the game up at 5-5. Glendale would go on to win the game in extra innings on an unearned run by Stroh.

March 19
BC 12, L.A. Pierce 2

MVP
BC's shortstop Brent Peterson went 3-5 with two RBIs.

Key Moment
In the fifth inning, leading 2-0, the Renegades had one of their most productive innings

all season. They scored four runs on a sacrifice fly and three singles. They would later score four more runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, putting the game well out of reach for Pierce.

March 20
BC 7, West L.A. 4

MVP
BC's Brent Peterson went 2-2 with two walks and two runs.

Key Moment.
Down 3-1 in the top of the fifth inning, BC's offense came alive, scoring four off an error and a double by right fielder Jordan Turner. The Renegades would allow the Wildcats to score just one more run, and added a run of their own in the seventh to close out the contest.



GREGORY D. COOK /THE RIP

Renegades starting pitcher Tyler Painton winds up for a pitch during Bakersfield College's March 19 game against L.A. Pierce College.

March 24
Canyons 7, BC 4

MVP
Canyon's starting pitcher Cory Jones went five innings, allowing just three hits and one earned run in a duel of undefeated pitchers. BC starting pitcher Tyler Painton earned his first

loss of the season.

Key Moment

In the top of the eighth inning, BC reliever Ryan Stapp took the mound. Canyons would take advantage of Stapp, scoring three runs and putting the game out of BC's reach. The Renegades tried to mount a rally in the bottom of

the ninth, but Painton struck out looking to end the game.

March 27
**BC at Canyons
**At the time this publication was sent to the printer, this game had yet to be played. Check therip.com for the latest scores and updates.



OUR HOUSE IS A VERY VERY NICE HOUSE
Photos and story by Omar Oseguera



Bakersfield College student Henry Villatoro of On Parade drums on March 17 at The Killer Clam.

Bakersfield punk rock is alive and relevant even in 2012, nearly 40 years since Iggy and The Stooges showed the world what raw power is all about. Unlike most concerts, where bands perform on a stage, The Killer Clam is actually a house and the bands perform in the garage. To the average show attendee, this is an unusual sight, but to local punks, it is like home. Literally, some even live there.

"We all have kids. We all work, and there really isn't a safe place for people to just go, hang out, listen to music, and have our kids with us like any old barbecue," said Veronica Ramos, close friend of the house members and a frequent attendee of The Killer Clam shows. The Killer Clam has a turnout of 50 or more every show.

"It's like a family, sometimes. It won't seem like so many, but it's the same people that come every time that support," said Ramos.

At first glance, the house is like any ordinary house. Once you walk to the backyard, a new world unfolds as you are greeted with a surfboard reading "The Killer Clam," and a mini bar. Walking further down the backyard leads you to a garage painted in black, yellow, and white splatter. The center walls have the letters "TKC" written in white and yellow.

March 17 brought together local acts Love Lush, Whore Scent and On Parade, as well as CodeXRed, a straight-edge hardcore band from Reno, Nev.

Adam Schwartz, lead vocalist of On Parade and the host of the show, has been a supporter of The Killer Clam since it first opened.

"The Killer Clam is an all-ages show space run by punks for punks ... It's one of the last remaining venues in Bakersfield that exclusively books punk shows, and is a valuable asset as far as this town's small, yet thriving scene is concerned," said Schwartz. Schwartz, 21, has been at-

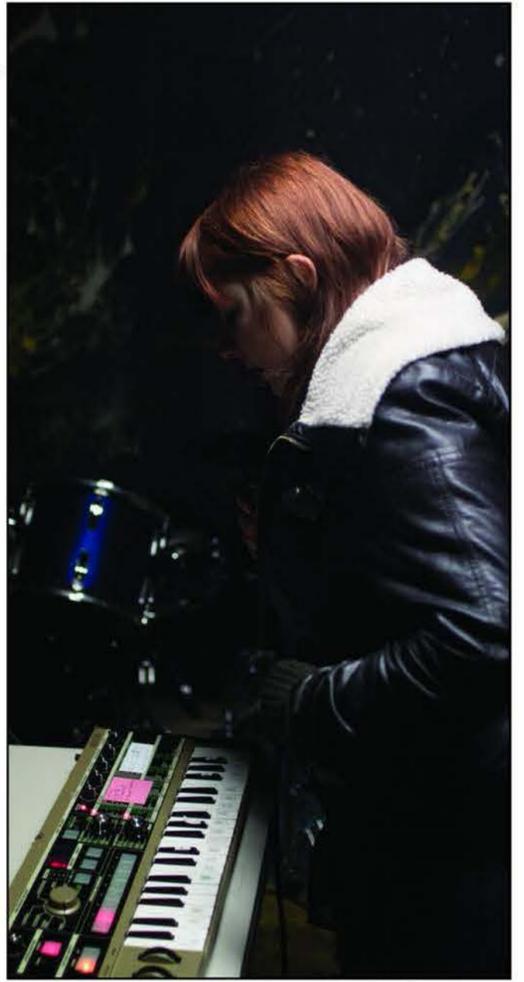
tending local punk shows since he was in high school.

Schwartz's band On Parade plays a sound reminiscent of 1980s hardcore punk. Paying Homage to bands like SS Decontrol, Negative Approach and Void, On Parade gives the new generation an experience of what punk rock may have been like in the early years.

For a small venue like The Killer Clam that is mainly kept alive by local punk rock bands, it is always exciting to the community when bands from outside of Bakersfield stop by and perform. CodeXRed from Reno, Nev., plays 1990s-era hardcore along the lines of Strife and No Warning. CodeXRed had been on a nine-day West Coast tour, The Killer Clam being one of their stops. "Kids went off and they had a good time. I had a good time," said Adam Farnsworth, bass player of CodeXRed.

Schwartz elaborated on The Killer Clam's contribution and importance to Bakersfield punk rock.

"Most people who live here seem to be unaware of that," said Schwartz. "Don't be afraid to show some support."



Kacie Wasser plays the synthesizer for local band Love Lush on March 17 at The Killer Clam.



Adam Schwartz, lead vocalist of On Parade, performs during a show at The Killer Clam, a punk venue within a house.



Left: Adam Schwartz, host of the March 17 show at The Killer Clam, performs with his band On Parade. Schwartz has been booking shows since he was in high school.

Right: Alex Haller, lead vocalist of CodeXRed, performs next to a local punk rocker during the show.

