

RAMS WIN FIRST GAME ON THEIR NEW FIELD

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Fresno City College was victorious on the field as the softball team won both their games against the College of the Sequoias Giants in their new complex. This represents significant progress in the right direction for women's athletics at FCC.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was on March 5, the original date was Feb. 24. The opening was a part of International Women's Week. Multiple speakers took to the podium from players to faculty.

This is a time of celebration for the school, district, and women's sports in general according to FCC President, Robert Pimentel.

"Today marks a significant moment as we gather for this special ribbon cutting," Pimentel said. "We celebrate the inauguration of a \$5 million athletic complex that promises them an enhanced experience for our student athletes."

Players and coaches, both past and present, gathered for the opening ceremony. FCC track and field, cheer, and women's soccer attended as speakers from the team, college, and district officials.

"We love you," State Center Community College District Chancellor, Carole Goldsmith, said.

Softball Head Coach Linda Garza, understands that with an achievement like this big things need to come with it.

"It's just a remarkable place to be. I'm lucky that I get to lead it...the things that we're able to do now and my goal is to win a state championship," Garza said.

To finally have a school and district be in support of building stadiums, complexes and fields is amazing and already a step in the right direction. Having the support of a community makes all the difference to players.

Kylie Nunes, sophomore softball player, knows there is much work that goes unseen for them to play.



FRESNO CITY COLLEGE SOFTBALL AND FACULTY POSE FOR A PICTURE BEFORE THE RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE NEW SOFTBALL COMPLEX ARE FRESNO CITY COLLEGE. PHOTO BY JOSIAH POYNTER.

"This is such a beautiful complex, and we are so honored to get to play on our own field," Nunes said. "There has been tons and tons of behind the scenes work being done here to make this possible, and we just want to thank everyone who has a part in it."

FCC softball is one of the winningest sports teams we have. Since being an official sport in 1983, softball has won 10 conference championships.

FCC has wanted to upgrade the soft ball field for years now according to the State Center Community College Facilities Master Plan 2019-2030.

"...including the replacement of the existing field house and much needed upgrades to the Womens Softball area," cited in the State Center Community College Facilities Master Plan 2019-2030.

Goldsmith remembers meeting with the FCC's Associate Dean of Athletics Derrick Johnson, during the pandemic with masks on talking about the potential of what is now the new complex.

"We were all out in this field, 10 feet apart with our masks...envisioning what could happen," Goldsmith said.

Softball went on to win both their games, 2-1 and 3-2, proving that the Garza era will bring something special while having a home to dominate in.

The Rams will take on the West Valley College Vikings at home on March 23 at 12 p.m.

WOMENS BASKETBALL TEAM DROPPED THE BALL

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Fresno City College's women's basketball team lost by four points against Laney College Eagles in the playoffs on Mar. 9, at the FCC gym.

The Rams had an impressive regular season, only losing four games prior to the postseason. They went into their home playoff game with an outstanding 25-4 record.

The energy was high. The crowd screamed as cut outs of player's heads rose from the stands.

Coming into the game the Rams averaged almost 85 points a game and going 12-0 in their conference.

Hoping to go into this game dominating like the Rams had all season would prove to be anything but easy.

Immediately, the Eagles proved they were here for a reason. They got out to a hot start against the stellar Rams.

With each passing quarter, the Rams tried keeping up but the Eagles had them right where they wanted them; going into halftime up 15 points with a score of 24-39.

As everyone walked around during half time, crowd members seemed pumped and held out hope for the team despite a disappointing first half.

During the third quarter, the Rams caught back up scoring 25 points, while the Eagles only scored 14. Their defense stepped up, frequently stealing the ball and scoring, an impressive, eight 3-pointers.

They ended the third quarter with a score of 49 to 53. The Rams played defense well and were knocking on the Eagles front door as the lead was now in a few possessions.

The crowd was getting loud and standing on their feet, nervously hoping that the Rams would make a comeback to win the playoff game.

As the crowd was yelling aggressively, cheering on the Rams with their hopes high. The Rams were fighting hard to get ahead of the Eagles.

As the Rams continued to try to put on an amazing



ARCHIVE: MADISON JOHNSON, #3, GOES IN FOR THE LAYUP AGAINST MADERA CITY COLLEGE. PHOTO BY CHRISTIANNA SCHIOTIS.

comeback, the crowd's heads moved side to side to keep up.

The defense constantly blocked shots as the offense returned the favor by scoring.

As the time started to run out during the fourth quarter, the players started to get in the zone - hyperfocusing on the plays at hand. The game would be decided in the final minutes.

The Rams played a great game, but it wasn't enough.

The Eagles played great offense, scoring a three, followed by an amazing defensive play by stealing the Ram's ball. They would score another three, securing their victory against the Rams.

Eagles fans were on their feet as the Rams gave up these points in the last minutes of the game.

The great turnaround from the Eagles was only because of the sloppy play from the Rams.

They looked like, because of their stellar record, the win could be handed to them. Instead the team that prepared to play all four quarters came out on top.

Despite a tough loss, the Rams held their heads up as they congratulated the Eagles on a tough but depressing victory.

The Rams lost by four points, ending the game 62 to 66.