# 20RIS MONDAY

## Gauchos Fold Against Irvine in Tourney

### **UCSB** Almost Catches UCI in the End

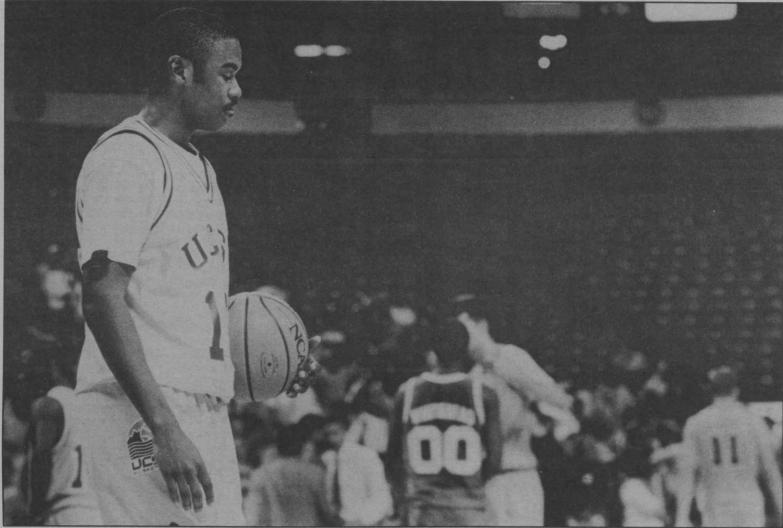
By Brian Pillsbury Staff Writer

LAS VEGAS - The Gauchos saved their worst for last at the Big West Tournament in Las Vegas, missing 18 of their first 19 shots on the way to a lack-luster 53-48 first round loss to UC Irvine.
UCSB ended the

1993-94 season at 13-17, its losingest season under Head Coach Jerry Pimm. The woes at the conference tournament continued for Santa Barbara, who during the 11-year tenure of Pimm have com-piled just five wins set against 13 losses. Despite the lack of success at the Big West Tournament, the Gauchos' start against the Anteaters set a new low.

"It was a nightmare, be-lieve me," Pimm said. "It was just a helpless feeling watching. Confidence is very fleeting, especially with a young team. It seems like in our last two games we lost a little confidence in our ability to shoot the ball."

In the first half, UCSB shot a disastrous .147 (5-of-34) from the field and scored only 14 points. For the game the Gauchos shot .239 against an Ante-



A dejected Phillip Tumer can only hold the ball and wonder after the 53-48 loss to UC Irvine in the Big West Tournament at Las Vegas. ater team that was last in the conference in field goal percentage defense.

"When it was all said and done, they got some shots that they just didn't make," UC Irvine Head Coach Rod Baker commented. For Irvine, the win and their trip all the way to the tournament final sugarcoated what was otherwise a difficult year for the

the opportunity to play another day after the win over UCSB.

In high spirits, he jokingly brushed aside a queslast-place Anteaters. tion from a reporter con-Baker, however, was just cerning whether or not he ren't playing them."

happy that his team had liked his team's chances against Utah State, the Anteaters' next opponent.

"It's a great matchup because we're playing them," he said. "It would be a shitty matchup if we we-

While Irvine wasn't setting the world on fire with their 9-for-23 shooting in the first half, they still managed to generate some offense, in stark contrast

See MEN, p.2A

## Lady Gauchos Denied the Three-peat by Pacific

Tigers' Stingy Defense Helps Beat UCSB, 72-65, in First Round Game

By Jason Masini Staff Writer

LAS VEGAS — At the end of the last two seasons, the UCSB women's basketball team tasted the sweet success of winning the Big West Tournament. This year's version of the story ended before it had a chance to get started.

The Gauchos had their season come to an abrupt end in the first round of the tournament, losing to Pacific 72-65, a team Santa Barbara beat twice during the regular season. The loss concluded a disappointing season for the Gauchos (14-13) who were the preseason pick to win their third straight Big West title.
With UCSB trailing

66-63 with 41 seconds remaining, second team All-Big West selection Iesha Smith had a chance to cut the lead with a one-and-one opportunity, but she missed the front end and Pacific's Karen Vesecky (18 points, six assists) made four free throws over the next 20 seconds to put the game out of reach.

Santa Barbara never

got into an offensive flow in the game and subsequently shot 35% from the field.

"They really bothered us with their matchup zone," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said. "We weren't able to break them down oneon-one and we weren't able to drive. But at halftime we said don't worry about offense, let's 'D' it up and put some pressure on them. We made it interesting for a while, but they were able to handle us later. Their point guards did a very nice job, especially after losing their starter [Paloma Moriana, who broke her arm in the last regular season game be-

fore the tournament]."
The Gauchos played very well in the opening minutes of the game, taking a 17-10 lead on two Kim Schielke free throws with 10:33 to go in the half. But the Tigers came back on a 17-4 run over the next six minutes to

take a 27-21 advantage. Santa Barbara answered by going on a 10-2 run with Christa Gannon (14 points, eight rebounds) scoring six straight UCSB points and giving the Gauchos a



Pacific guard Paloma Moriana tries to defend Gaucho sophomore Lauren Goldstine at the T&M.

31-29 lead with 2:21 left in the half.

But over the next two minutes Pacific's Shannon Reed, a 6-foot-2 backup center, singlehandedly turned the game around, releasing

for three breakaway layups and a six-foot, buzzer-beating jumper that capped off a 10-0 spurt and gave the Tigers their biggest lead of the game at 39-31.

"I was ready to play,"

Reed said. "It's been a while since I played well. From this box score, it looks like all I did was score and foul.'

However, UCSB did not give up. They hung around long enough for another run, which started when Vesecky got whistled for a technical foul for arguing with the official. That started a 7-0 blitz for the Gauchos that tied the game at 51-51 with 8:18 remaining.

A Kristine Grazzini lay-in with 5:36 to go gave Santa Barbara the only lead it would have in the second half. UOP's Lainie Bebber (game-high 19 points, eight rebounds) gave the Tigers back the lead the next time down the floor, sparking a 10-2 spurt. Two Gannon lay-ins cut the lead to three with 1:25 left, but that was as close as UCSB would

"I'm proud we hung in there," Pacific Head Coach Melissa DeMarchi said. "I think we were poised and had some key executions. We had a problem keeping them off the boards, so we tried to hit the boards hard and open up our transition game. It was also key that we were perfect from the line down the stretch."

BRIAN PILLSBURY

### **UCSB** and March: a **Troubling Experience**

o, what the heck happens to our team in the Big W e s t e s

That is the \$64,000 question that is on the mind of many Gaucho supporters, especially after this year's performance against UC Irvine at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

Like King Sisyphus oushing the rock up the hill — as the old Greek myth goes — the rock always falls back and dashes hopes of success. For the Gauchos, every time it looks like they have a shot in the tourney, the rock crashes on them.

UCSB still remains the only team in the conference never to have reached the final of the conference tournament. (Actually, Nevada also hasn't made the final, but they've only been in the Big West for two seasons so we'll cut 'em some slack.) What is so puzzling is that you'd think in the 11 seasons Jerry Pimm has been here, one of his teams

See GAUCHOS, p.2A

## MEN: Miserable First Half Breaks UCSB Hopes in Las Vegas

Continued from p.1A to UCSB. The Gauchos finally got on the score-board at the 17:50 mark when forward Wayne Butts put back a UCSB Scud. After Butts' shot, Santa Barbara couldn't buy a basket. The team went scoreless for nearly eight minutes before center Doug Muse managed to score from close range.

The horrible shooting seemed almost contagious as the Gauchos' top three offensive threats — Muse (4-for-12), Phillip Turner (3-for-12) and Mark Flick (1-for-13) — went ice cold. The rest of the team didn't make much of a contribution as they went 8-for-30.

"I have no idea why, said Muse who led UCSB with 11 points. "I took eight shots in the first half [and made one]. A couple of them were bad shots but a lot of them were good

ing in.

"It was that way for everyone. In and out. It just plays on your mind after a while."

Muse was the only Gaucho to hit double figures in scoring. Tecon Madden scored nine points while Turner had the next highest total with seven. Chris Brown led the Anteaters with 16 points while DeForrest Boyer added nine.

UCSB freshman forward Rob Ramaker, the team's top rebounder and Big West All-Freshman team selection, was a nonfactor as well. He missed all five of his shots in six minutes of play before having to leave the game when he tore his tibia muscle. Ramaker suffered the injury on a missed

"He had five rebounds

shots that just weren't goin six minutes," Pimm
ing in.
said. "It hurt us, obviously, not having him in there. He's big and strong and he would've loosened up and knocked in a few baskets."

It wasn't until midway through the second half when the Gauchos actually showed any sign of life. And the spark came from two players people might not have expected to see it from. Reserve center Bill Martineau helped snap UCSB out of the doldrums somewhat as he dove for loose balls, contested shots and grabbed a couple of offensive

And freshman guard Bakir Allen keyed a second half 10-0 charge — the Gauchos' only run of the game — as he drained a 19-footer and fought hard on the backboards, putting back a Gaucho miss.

There came a point in

the game when the scoreboard doesn't matter," Muse said. "Nothing matters. Just put the ball in the hole and play defense."

After missing his first nine three-point attempts, Flick finally hit from long range as his basket cut the Irvine lead to 37-35 with 6:44 left in the game. After an Irvine lay-in, Turner got UCSB back within two on a penetration scoop shot 28 seconds later. But after that, the Gauchos' hapless offense kicked in again.

Except for a three-pointer by Madden that trimmed the Irvine lead to three points with just over a minute left, UCSB managed to score only three free throws during the span. Todd Whitehead and Brown made sure the Anteaters didn't fold down the stretch as they each hit from three-point territory in the last five minutes of the game.

Gaucho turnovers in the end helped Irvine hammer in the last nails as Flick committed two turnovers in 15 seconds that led to Anteater free throws.

After Madden's threepointer, Turner came up with a steal. Madden tried another three and was fouled in the act of shooting. The officials said that he was standing on the three-point line and awarded him two foul shots instead of the three needed to tie. Madden sank both attempts, cutting the Irvine lead to 49-48 with 19 ticks left on the clock.

A quick foul by Turner on the inbounds play sent Brown to the line where he made both shots. Again needing a three to tie, UCSB got nothing when Turner's pass to Milling

UC IRVINE 53, UCSB 48

Halffme—UC Irvine 26, UCSB 14.

Three-point goals—UC Irvine 4-10 (Brown 3-8, Odsafher 0-1, Whitehead 1-1) UCSB 2-18 (Maden 1-5, Butto 0-1, Rick 1-12).
Blocked shots—UC Irvine 7 (Boyer 3, Battle 3, Channell) UCSB 5 (Muse 3, Madden, Milliams, Avie), Steals—UC Irvine 10 (Smith 2, Mumford 2, Odsafher, Bover, Brown, Whitshead, Wrilliams, Avie), UCSB 9 (Madden 3, Tumer, Milling, Allien, Rick, Murse, Marrineau, Baker).
Total fouts—UC Irvine 21, UCSB 21. Fouled out—none. Technical fouts—none. Turnovers—UC Irvine 23, UCSB 17. Team rebounds—UC Irvine 2, UCSB 11.

Attendance—319.

went out of bounds with 0:08 remaining. Brown converted a long lay-up as time expired and the Gauchos were again sent

packing back to Santa

Continued from p.1A could get hot, lucky, or both. And he's taken two teams to the NCAAs and three to the NIT.

But the Gauchos never get hot in the tournament and they sure as hell haven't had much luck (5-for-34 against UCI). It seems there are as many theories for why UCSB breaks down in the postseason as there are hookers and senior citizens in

One theory is that the Gauchos are distracted by

finals that are just around the corner. But if you're serious about basketball and going to the NCAAs - which the team is then a few tests don't really factor in. Besides, the Lady Gauchos have never had too much trouble focusing on basketball come tournament time.

Another explanation is that the UCSB's style of play — a deliberate, patient offensive set — just isn't conducive to winning in the postseason. Having played all season long in a system where there isn't much room for mental breakdowns, when they

play in a do-or-die situation such as the Big West Tournament, the Gauchos get tentative and think too much instead of just playing ball. When that happens, you usually end up choking.

When it comes down to a one-game season, it's all about instinct. Looking at this year's tournament, among the early losers were UCSB, Utah State and San Jose State. All play roughly the same way and all lost to teams they had defeated twice during the regular season. The winning teams were the two finalists, New Mexico

State and UC Irvine, and UNLV. These are clubs that play a more loose, uptempo, schoolyard style of

with that style, you don't have to think so much. (And for the Aggies and Rebels, that's a good thing because we wouldn't want them getting a headache.) However, this line of reasoning isn't without its flaws, either.

Pacific, a more deliberate type of team, defeated Long Beach State in the first round. The 49ers are a team that really likes to push it. And in the NCAA Tournament this year, a few of the non-"run-and-gun" teams did OK, as well.

Also, this doesn't necessarily mean that NMSU. UNLV and Irvine are good teams. The Aggies are pathetic in the half-court, with all five guys standing around, not setting screens and with no semblance of a game plan. Irvine? Well, they didn't finish in last place for

However, they got the job done in the postseason and that is the quickest way to earn respect and take the proverbial next step. And as for the Gauchos, it was another season of March Misery.

What was so frustrating with this time around, rebuilding year aside, was that UCSB had an excellent chance to make a run at the tournament title. The Gauchos were 7-1 against the teams in their bracket — the only loss coming on the road at Pacific. Granted, UCSB still had to go out there and win the games, but they had a golden opportunity.

And while Irvine came out loose, smiling and looking to have some fun, the Gauchos came out looking like they were at a funeral. There was no fire, no emotion. Even after scoring just 14 points in the first half, they were still in the game!
If UCSB had just an av-

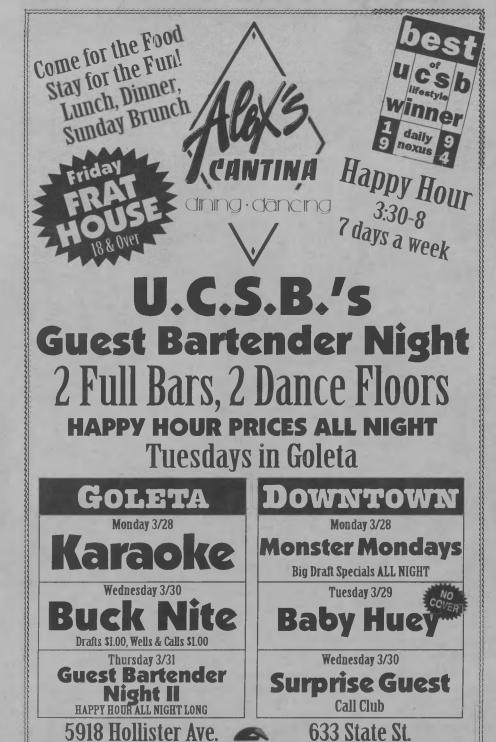
erage night shooting the ball, they would have won. It seemed like there was some sort of invisible lid on the basket. Amazing.

Being a UCSB fan wasn't the easiest thing to do, either. With the surprising loss by the Lady Gauchos and the men's loss, you risked bad jokes and stares when wearing your UCSB sweatshirt. One smart-ass Pacific fan came up with, "Not a-Muse-ing, huh?" Oh, I get it. And there was the "Oh, you guys lost already, didn't you?" from Ne-vada's Jimmy Moore and Scott Sabre.

The DeForrest Boyer (6-foot-10, 255 pounds) stare-down I got in the lobby of the hotel was enough to make me go up and say, "Nice game Dee," as nicely as I could. All in all, the tournament was enough to make one long for the start of April and hope for the best next

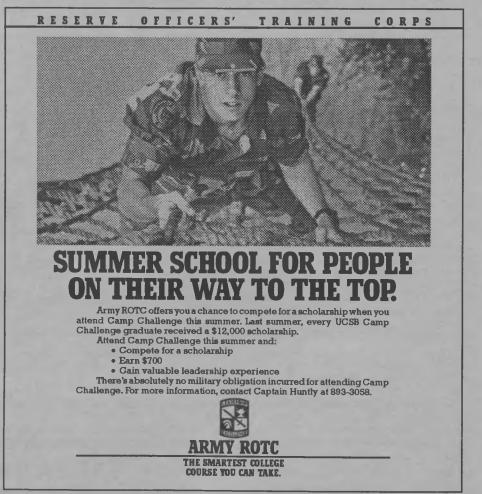
So, will the Gauchos be able to break the postseason hex that has bedevilled them year in and year out? Who knows. Whatever it is, adjustments need to be made or the Gauchos will be pushing that rock again next

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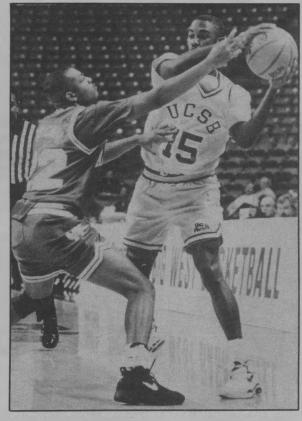
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# A POST SEASON BASKETBALL

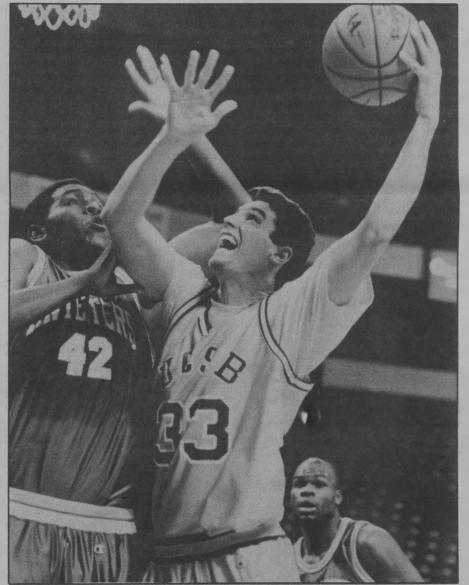


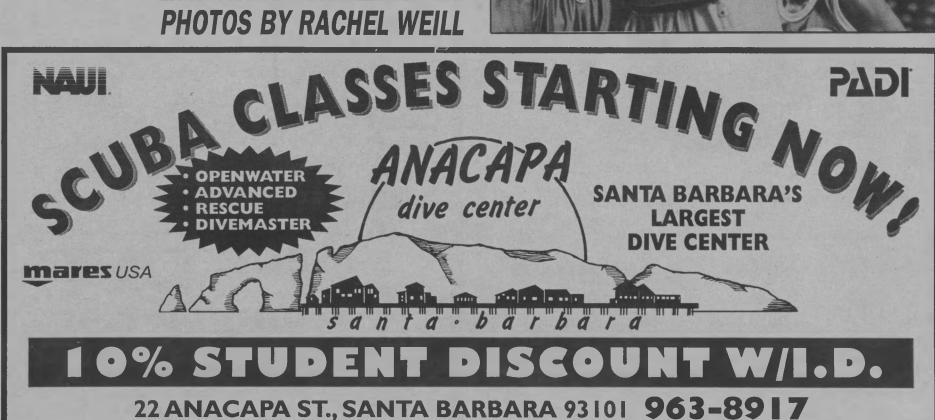


(Clockwise from far left) Senior Christa Gannon finished up her Gaucho career with 14 points and eight rebounds against UOP. Irvine's Chris Brown, who led all scorers with 16 points, gets the low-down defensively as he works against sophomore guard Phillip Turner. Rob Ramaker, who was named to the Big West All-Freshman team, puts up a shot over the outstretched arms of Anteater big man DeForrest Boyer. Gaucho junior guard Sasha Scardino feeds one of her teammates down on the blocks against the Tigers.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL WEILL





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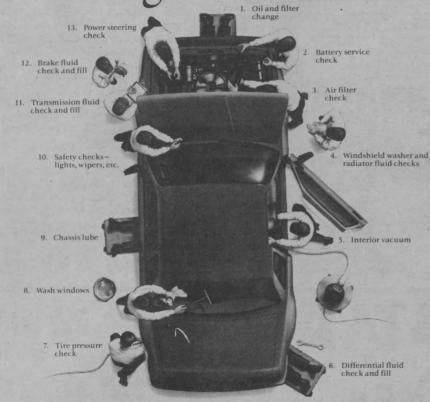
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