

Sports

Gauchos Crunch Cal Poly to Break Big West Win Record

■ UCSB Welcomes Presence of Freshman Guard Coleman

By ELIAV APPELBAUM
Staff Writer

Breaking records and posting wins in the Big West are the achievements that the UCSB women's basketball team seems to do best.

And if they keep this up, there's no telling where the vanquished conference opponents will end up after each slaughter involving the Gauchos.

After destroying Cal Poly 74-48 to improve to 8-6 and 2-0 in conference this past Saturday, the Gauchos won their 44th consecutive Big West game to break the conference record in smashing style. Redshirt freshman center Lindsay Taylor propelled Santa Barbara with her first career double-double, pouring in a game-high 19 points and snagging 12 rebounds. Freshman point guard Syretta Coleman also made her highly anticipated Gaucho debut by dishing out a game-high four assists.

"I know how great a player [Coleman] is after playing with her in high school," Taylor said. "She is another player that adds depth to our bench. She'll offer a lot of help with [sophomore] Debby [Caine] at the point. Syretta will relieve Debby's stress after having to play 40 minutes a night."

Junior forward Kayte Christensen scored 17 points and tore down 10 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season.

The Mustangs began the game with the first two points of the night, but could not withstand a 10-3 run by Santa Barbara. Cal Poly could not come closer than five points the rest of the evening, as UCSB whipped the Mustangs with a 14-5 run to end the first half cruising 38-26.

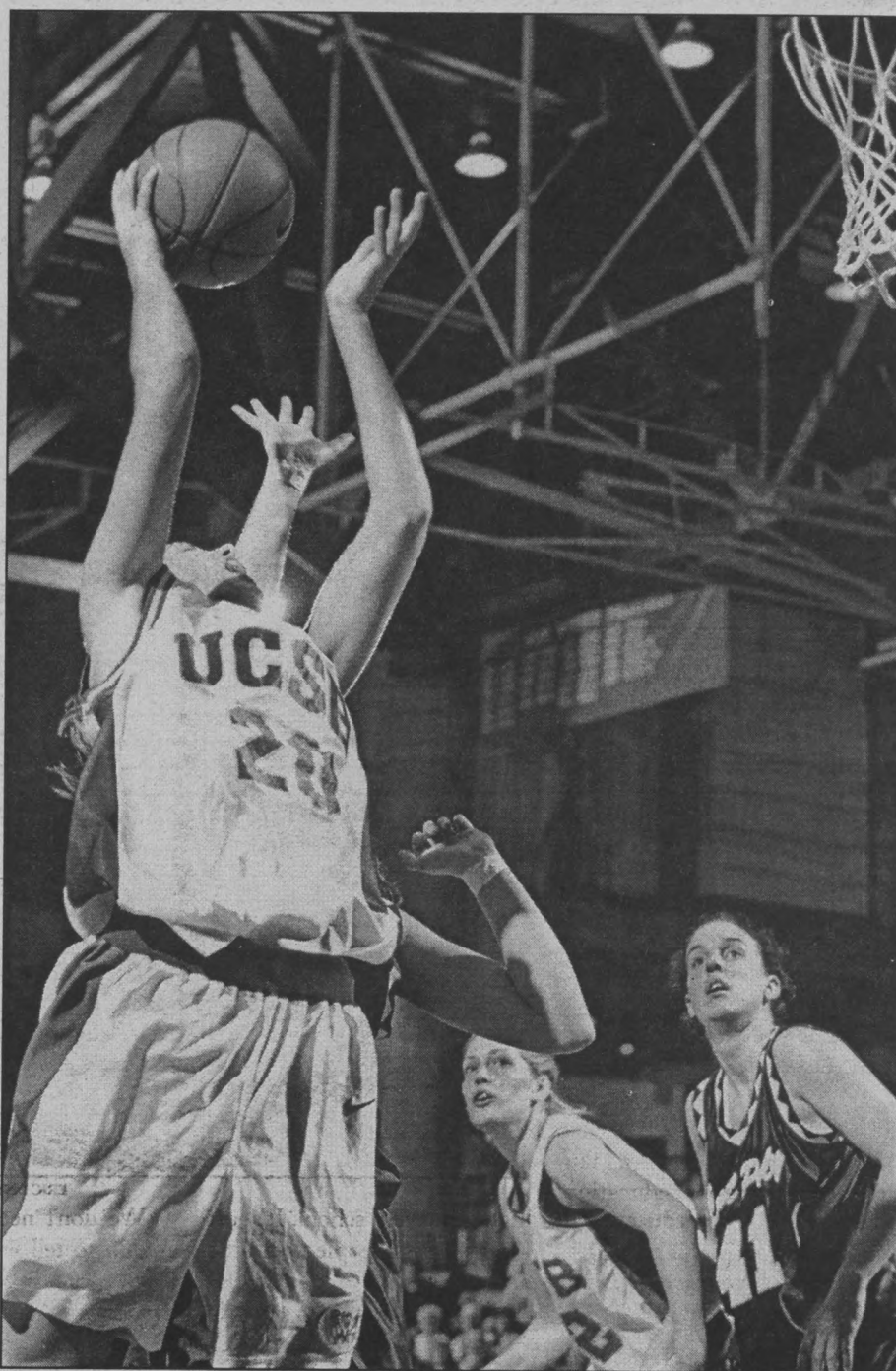
Sophomore guard Jess Hansen scored all 10 of her points in the opening half, and kept the game out of reach for Cal Poly by bombarding the opponent with three treys in a 1:16 span to bolster the first-half run.

The Gauchos shot .511

from the field in the game, and they improved on their already hot shooting in the first half with a solid .519 shooting percentage in the second half. UCSB kept the onslaught going, digging the Mustangs further into the ground. Freshman forward Jessica Combs hit a jump shot with 32 seconds left in the contest to finish the scoring, and gave Santa Barbara the biggest lead of the night.

The Gauchos proved their strength as a team amid the growing murmur from fellow Big West rivals that the team will struggle to maintain dominance in a conference eager to pounce on UCSB. Santa Barbara displayed Saturday night that it will not go down gently.

"We had practices before the game, which always help us to prepare," Taylor said. "We were ready for the game. Since we've been struggling in the early part of the season, the older players weren't used to the losing. Now we're ready to play and win."



TRUC BUI/DAILY NEXUS

Junior forward Kayte Christensen lunges forward to try and pump in another two points for the Gauchos during their 74-48 victory over Cal Poly on Saturday in the Thunderdome.

Santa Barbara Trashes Tritons in Conference Opener; Slugs Are Next to Be Slugged

By BRITTANY LANGAN
Staff Writer

While some students were busy dusting off kegs this past weekend, the UCSB men's volleyball team was doing a little dusting of its own.

On Saturday the Gauchos poured into the RIMAC Arena where they dusted off UC San Diego in a 30-20, 30-24, 30-24 victory, leaving the Tritons thirsty for more in the Mountain

Pacific Sports Federation season opener.

"We kept control of the match the whole time," junior outside hitter Andy Rivera said. "We came out knowing that we're only as good as the way we play. Even though we knew we weren't playing the strongest team, we knew we had to play strong."

The Gauchos (2-0 overall, 1-0 in the MPSF) got the job done in less than 45 minutes and there was not one time in the contest when Santa Barbara had all of its starters in at the same time.

"Our coach experimented with different lineups," freshman middle blocker Justin Adams said. "This lets the coaches see who can do what and what combination of players works. It also gives players a chance to prove themselves."

UCSB had a balanced attack with six players contributing six or more kills. Rivera led the team offensively with nine kills and seven blocks. He was also the defensive leader with 6 digs. Alex Lienert and junior middle blocker Anders Bengtsson were close behind in kills with 8 each.

"The biggest difference in our game is our middle blockers," said junior outside hitter Dave Kohl, who contributed 6 kills and 3 digs. "Anders and [sophomore middle blocker Brian [Nordberg] are the quickest middles we've had."

This season the Gauchos have a hefty roster of 28 members and have already beaten several tough teams in preseason competition, including Long Beach State and UCLA. However, Santa Barbara has high hopes for the regular season

and continues to look for ways to improve.

"The one thing we have to work on is our transition game," Kohl said. "Last year we had problems — we would get the ball and not know what to do with it. Having a good transition game can be the difference between winning and losing, and we've improved a lot on this."

The Gauchos will test UC Santa Cruz in their regular season home opener at the Thunderdome this Saturday at 7:05 p.m.

UCSB Succumbs to Anteaters on Road at End of Long Trip That Drains Team in Conference Play

By ELIAV APPELBAUM
Staff Writer

The UCSB men's basketball team was at the tail-end of its road trip last Saturday at Irvine, yet it could not pull out the stops needed to defeat a tested UC Irvine team.

The Gauchos (5-8, 2-1 in the Big West) fell to the Anteaters (11-2, 3-0) for their first loss in Big West competition before 3,084 spectators.

Sophomore forward Mark Hull led Santa Barbara with 15 points on 5-10 shooting from the field. Freshman forward Branduinn Fullove, junior forward Mike Vukovich and redshirt freshman guard Nick Jones all chipped in nine points. Freshman forward Casey Cook grabbed a team-high seven rebounds to go along with his seven points.

Though the Gauchos started relatively strong in the opening half, the grind of a four-day trip started to wear

the players down during the pivotal stretches of the game.

"The game was on a four-day road trip and we just got tired," freshman center J.J. Todd said. "I think we men-

Check Out the Men's Basketball Team vs. Long Beach State on Thursday Night in the Thunderdome

tally just broke down. We still have a lot of work to do; we get to play those guys again in a few weeks."

Sophomore point guard B.J. Ward agreed with his teammate about the perils of having a lead on the road against a solid basketball team that can explode at any time.

"We were playing cool, up by five, and we just got

tired," Ward said. "[Senior guard] LaRon [Bryant] was out. [Senior forward] Juliano [Jordani] has tendinitis in his knee, and [the road] just got to us. We were getting beat on the defensive end, and we weren't positioning where we should have been because we got tired."

Irvine also sought the ball at a higher percentage from the field than UCSB, making 52.8 percent of its shots, while the Gauchos could only muster their 56 points through 40.8 percent shooting, and 38.1 percent in the second half.

Anteater Jerry Green scored 23 points and passed out seven assists in Irvine's seventh consecutive victory. Teammate Adam Parada whipped in 16 points and grabbed 15 of his team's 41 rebounds. The Anteaters out-rebounded the Gauchos by 17 boards.

"We watched a film [Monday] of the game, and we definitely didn't rebound well," Vukovich said. "We didn't play with a sense of urgency that we need to play with. I think we know how to compete now in future games."



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Rules:

1. NO PHOTOCOPIED BALLOTS. 2. Ballots must be dropped off at the Daily Nexus Ad Office, underneath Storke Tower, by Friday, February 9 at 5pm. 3. The "Best Of" Issue will be published on Wednesday, February 28. 4. ONE ballot per person. 5. Ballots must be filled out with reasonable completeness. Ballots with less than half of the blanks filled will be considered votes for Pat Buchanan. 6. NOTE: The Nexus' "Best of UCSB" is intended to be a good-natured contest among business groups and others in the community. In other words, this is not a cutthroat competition whose results are somehow of lasting significance. So please do not take it as such. 7. No recounts! Decisions of Ballot referees are FINAL, Supreme Court rulings notwithstanding.

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9. Best Place to Dance
10. Best "Meat Market"
11. Best Beach
12. Best Bike Shop
13. Best Bookstore
14. Best Breakfast Place
15. Best Tanning Salon
16. Best Burger
17. Best Car Repair
18. Best Cheap Beer
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20. Best Class to Wake Up For
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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (Jan. 16). Advance in your career so you can play more. You already know how to be a workaholic. The pressure's on in January to do the impossible. Some of the rewards in February are status, not money. Your confidence improves in March, through your own good deeds. Rest in May so you can work overtime in June. Your partner's got the big picture in July. Your efforts could lead to a promotion around September. Don't take on new chores. A special visit to a sibling is renewing in November. The truth will set you free around December.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 5 - Gather information, and hold off on taking action. Your inner voice is confused. This may be frustrating; don't be the first one on the front lines. Be a strategist instead.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - First you have to make the money, then you get to spend it. That comes later in the week. You and your partner have big plans, but not enough resources yet. That can be remedied in time.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - You're feeling fine, but the workload's increasing. Be sure you're doing the job right. You're attracting attention, partially because you're so cute. If the attention becomes negative, tighten up your act.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You have a slow start, but that could be to your advantage. Problems could pop up. Your enthusiasm and success rate go up by the end of the day.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - Do the reading first; you'll need the information. You're running a tad behind schedule, so you'd better cram.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is an 8 - You're generally an intellectual type, but you're about to get more passionate as the day goes on. Why not set up a special date for tonight? Even if you're not in the mood now, you may be later.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 - Talking could get you into trouble. Nobody needs to know how much you make, or how much you know. Be polite, but non-committal.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - Your mind is wandering off in all directions this morning. Grab it and stuff it back into your skull so you can concentrate and win the next competition. Your chances are good.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 5 - Friends are full of helpful hints, but there seems to be something wrong. Use your own judgment before you follow directions. You may know more than they do.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - Negotiations early in the day are full of surprises. Make sure you get paid what you're worth; don't cut your rates out of guilt. Celebrate your victory with friends tonight.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - You might feel like racing off through the meadows, but that's not happening. You'd better be well prepared to account for yourself, or you'll look less than perfect.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - Travel is enticing, but can you get away? Can you afford to go? Who would you like to visit? A Tuesday night rendezvous might spark your whole week.

SILVER GREENS



Hey There!!

You. Yes you. You may not be aware that Valentine's Day is closer than you think. And you may not be aware of all the people who are depending on you. Your roomies, friends, moms, dads, sisters, brothers, enemies, significant others, teachers, dogs, cats, fish - everyone!

They're counting on you to keep up the UCSB tradition. Everyone wants a Nexus Valentine, even when they won't admit it.

"Nexus Valentines" is one of the most-read sections of the paper, the ingenuity and creativeness is amazing. All because we provide a border, but you provide the message and/or pictures, in your own handiwork. You don't need to be an artist to see your work in print!

There's a catch: you gotta get here and do it! So stop by and see our Valentine cherubs under Storke Tower in Nexus Advertising - if you don't make a Valentine, you might not get any either!

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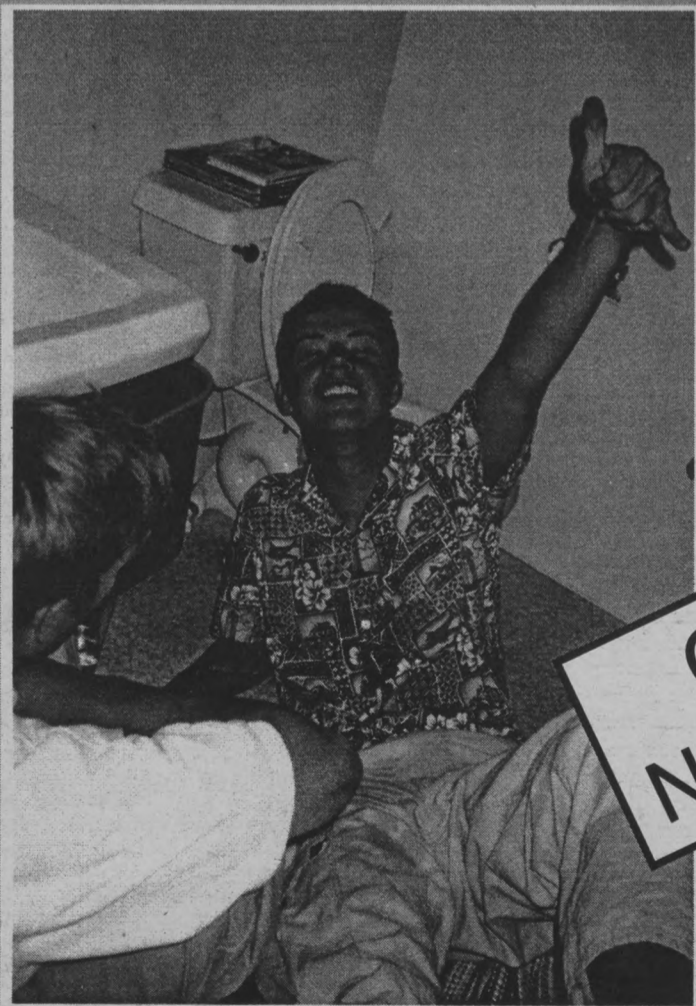
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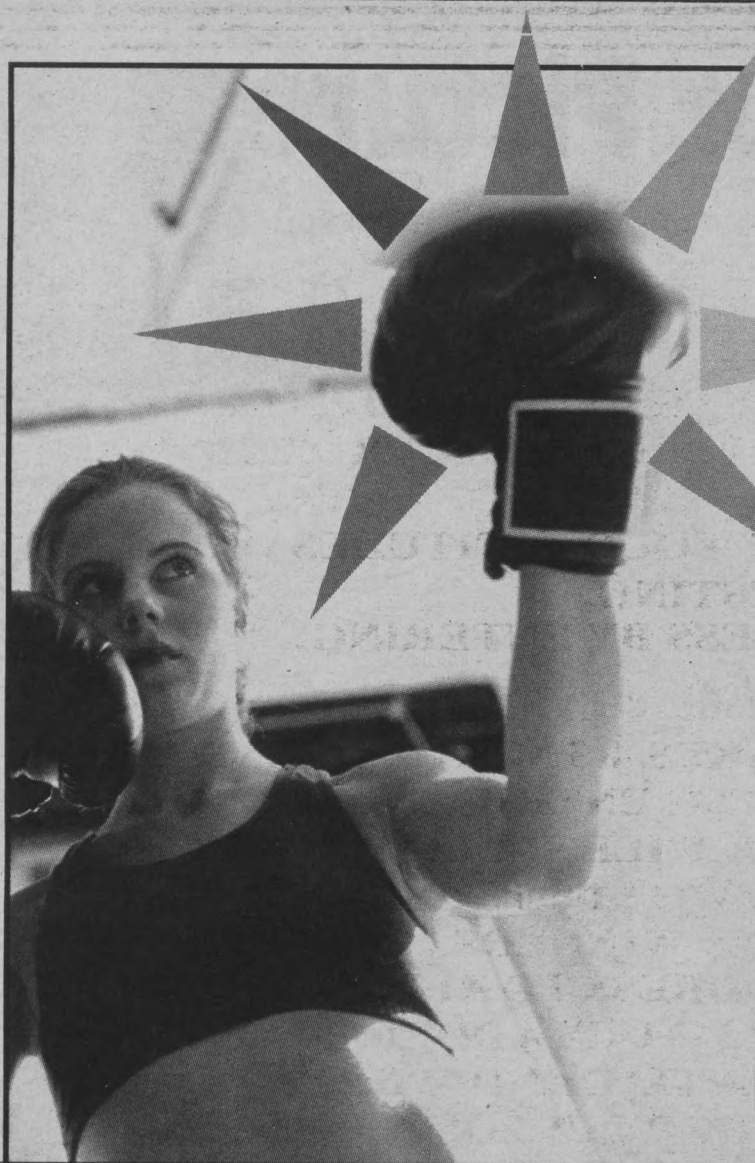
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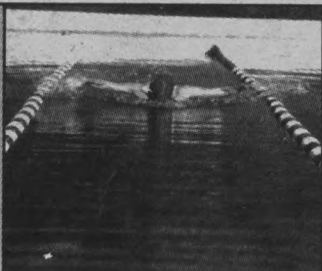
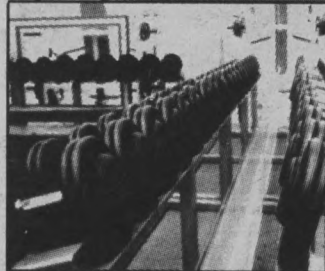
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