

GUNNIN' FOR

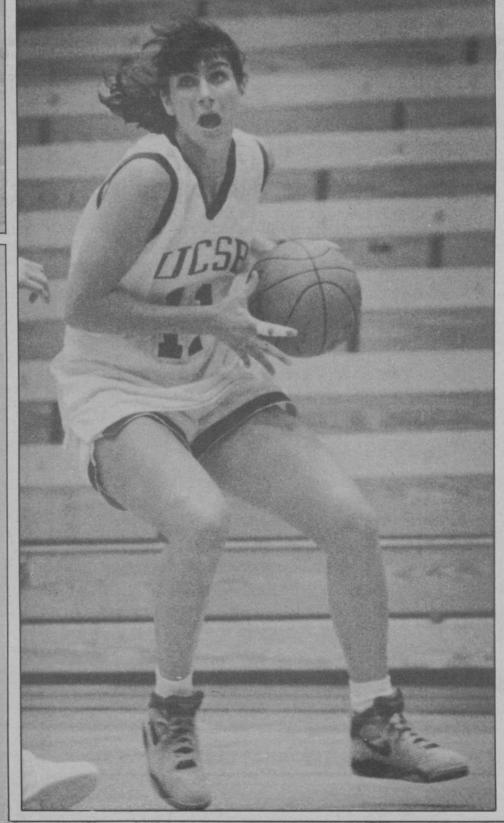
HOW THE WEST WAS WON...

UCSB has never held the top seed in the Big West Tournament in either men's or women's basketball, at least until 1992. The Lady Gauchos have already guaranteed themselves the top spot in this year's tournament, while the men are in position to do the same. Guided by Big West Player of the Year candidates Lucius Davis and Barbara Beainy, UCSB's basketball programs are in the process of making Gaucho history.

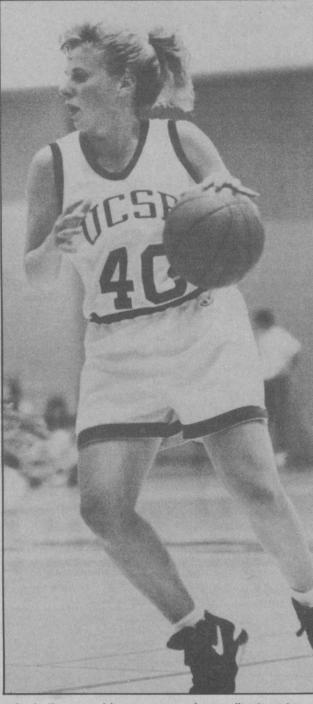
INSIDE

DAVIS STEPS UP	3A
MEN'S TOURNEY WOES	3A
BEAINY TAKES CHARGE	6A
WOMEN AIM HIGH	6A

CARRO







Much of the success of the UCSB men's and women's basketball teams this season can be credited to the strong play of their respective point guards, Ray Kelly (left) and Cori Close (right). Kelly is averaging a Big West leading 2.4 steals per game and six assists per game, while Close is dishing out an average of 6.1 assists per game.

Big West Tournament

Men's Schedule

Friday, March 13
First-Round Games
— 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Saturday, March 14 Semifinal Games — 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Sunday, March 15 Championship Game — 12:30 p.m.

Women's Schedule

Wednesday, March 11
First-Round Games
— 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Thursday, March 12 Semifinal Games — 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Saturday, March 14 Championship Game — 3 p.m.

STAFF BOX

Editors:

Andrew Paul Josh Elliott

Layout/Design:

Andrew Paul

Contributors:

Josh Elliott Scott McPherson Jonathan Okanes Andrew Paul

Graphics:

Melissa Lalum

Production:

Marty Goldberg Pat Breitenbach

GOLETA CHEVRON SERVICE

Auto Repair & Service Specialists

We are on the way to the Freeway



Your Official
SMOG CHECK /
Inspection and
Repair Station
Monday-Saturday
While you wait

WHY PAY FOR LESS?

- Attendents to service you at a self serve price
 - Faster in and out service
 - AM Beverage Cart includes:
 - -Gourmet Coffee
 - -Pastries
 - -Snapple Iced Teas
 - -Sparkling Water and Juices





SUPPLIES

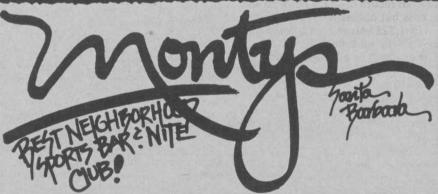


RYDER.

LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE
TRUCK RENTAL
685-1818

968-9696

6470 Hollister at Los Carneros Way



WATCH GAUCHO B-BALL & NCAA PLAYOFFS VIA SATELLITE ON OUR 6 TV SCREENS
-Free Snacks-

*Ask about Gaucho Booster Club Cards!

5114 Hollister Ave • Magnolia Center

VISA Mastercaro Cards • 967-9012

• Free Cab Rides Home!

Davis Has Gone From 'Zero' to 'Hero' During Four Years

By Josh Elliott Staff Writer

He stands alone atop the considerable mountain, looking down with a bemused curiousity at the hysteria built primarily around him and him alone.

Accepting the chilling chants of "Luuu..." that accompany his every on-court move, acknowledging the captivated crowd and bathing in its admiration, he is uniquely inspiring, as the Thunderdome's new symbol of homage — an "L" sign made en masse with thumb and forefinger would attest. Fist thrust high, head humbly yet dignifiedly bowed, he strides onto the court that he has made his canvas.

He is a phenomenon. A cult hero. And whether it be the rarity of truly great players here, or simply because he so uniquely gifted, he has won a place among the school's all-time greats. But beyond a mere great player, he stands before them a scholar, a leader, a person. Indeed, he has connected with the crowd, inviting all to enjoy what has been his most special, most charmed of seasons.

But he is also a man acutely aware of his roots, knowing full well just how far he has come on his way to greatness. For Lucius Davis, recognition, unlike his talent for the game of basketball, has not come easily.

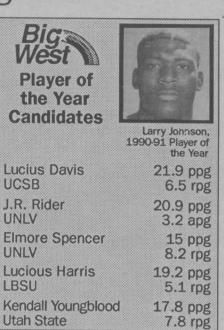
"The awards - well, they're OK," he says hesitatingly, pausing to choose his words carefully. "The greatest satisfaction for me is knowing where I am now after being the leading scorer on the team last year and getting nothing. I know where I came from, and how hard I worked to get here. The awards are great — don't get me wrong — but they'll always be in perspective. I know where I started from. I started from

basically 'zero." It seems almost amusing to look at Davis, and think he was once a 'zero,' if only in his mind. He has averaged 21.9 points and 6.5 rebounds a game this year, both team highs. His 547 points this season are just 17 shy of York Gross' all-time singleseason UCSB record of 564, a mark he will not just pass but obliterate on his present course. His 1,323 career points place him fifth on UCSB's all-time list.

He has emerged as a leading candidate for Big West Player of the Year, having tied UNLV past-great Larry Johnson's record of being named conference Player of the Week four times this year. Not too bad for an admitted "freshman nobody" just three

"I guess I was being groomed by the coaches over the long haul," he said. "I didn't play as much as I would've liked my freshman year, but I just tried to step up and work hard. I knew I'd have a chance at playing time as a sophomore, if I kept improving.'

Which he did, rising from the ranks of the unknown to play a key role in the Eric McArthur-Carrick DeHart-led NCAA Tournament team of 1989-90, and earn conference Sixth-Man-of-the-Year hon-



ors. It was during that season that Davis,

team leader, began to emerge, and it was a year he will never forget.

"Eric and Carrick were good, because they showed me what a leader is supposed to be like," he remembered. "They led that team, they knew it, and they made sure people knew it. It was a very good learning

As was the NCAA Tournament. "It was the funnest experience I've ever had," he said. "You're so relaxed, playing in the big arena. You know you're one of the best teams in the country, so you're not uptight, you just play. The environment is perfect, and it's your dream as a player. The tournament is just your dream."

And while last year's 14-15 team was a disappointment, it allowed Davis to continue to grow, both as a player and team leader. He averaged 16 points to lead the team (his 4.9 rebounds were second-best), and, more importantly, moved to the power forward spot. Davis, originally recruited as a swingman out of Northern California's Piedmont High, never doubted the change — indeed, he welcomed it. "I think the reason (the change) was so

successful was because I believed in it. The coaches told me about it, and it's been nothing but great," said Davis, who has vastly improved his post moves while retaining the quickness and shooting touch he developed as a small forward. "It's given me free rein on offense, and really expanded my

His game is now among the conference's finest, but his talent has never been the question. This year, it was no secret he would be asked to score points, a knack he obviously possessed from the start. The team, though, remained a question mark, and Davis was left to answer the questions.

"I think he has answered everybody's questions about his ability to lead, while staying focused on himself as a basketball

See DAVIS, p.7A

Senior forward and team captain Lucius Davis has welcomed the role as the Gauchos' leader on and off the floor with a splendid season. Davis, who needs just 18 points to break UCSB's single-season scoring record, is averaging a Big West leading 21.9 ppg.

Some of this week's specials

FRESH RED SNAPPER

12 PACK BEER NATURAL \$399+ CRV **MILWAUKEE'S** KEYSTONE\$499+ CRV

SHASTA SODA 99¢ POP **6 PACK CANS**

LARGE NAVEL ORANGES 29

NICE 'N SOFT **Toilet** Tissue

CHICKEN

Chunk Light

TUNA 6 oz.

4 Rolls

of the

SEA

79¢

FOR

\$-1

NEW ! FRESH BAKED GIANT BLUEBERRY 99¢ **MUFFINS**

DANNON Blended **FAT FREE** YOGURT FOR 6 oz.

SPECIALS GOOD THRU MAR. 11, 1992 We accept MasterCard, Visa and all ATM cards No charge on ATM purchases over \$10 939 Embarcadero delMar • 968-3597

Open daily 7 am - Midnight For over 30 years, the place to shop in 1.V.

Tourney Has Not Been Kind

UCSB Lone Big West Team to Have Never Reached Final

By Andrew Paul Staff Writer

The Big West Conference Tournament has not been kind to the UCSB men's basketball team over the years. Ever since the Gauchos entered the league tournament following the 1976-77 campaign, UCSB has never been a part of the final game.

Santa Barbara stands as the only school in the Big West Conference that has never appeared in the championship game of the tournament. On four occasions, the Gauchos advanced to the semifinal round, but have come up empty each time.

This year, however, UCSB will not only be considered by many as one of the favorites to reach the title game, but will also be given the best chance at winning it all. This is because for the first time in school history, the Gauchos could be the tournament's top seed.

With UNLV, currently 18-0 in Big West play, having been banned from the tourna-

Gauchos could be the big beneficiaries. Santa Barbara currently stands alone in second place in the league, and with wins in its final two games, at San Jose State on Thursday and at Pacific on Sunday, the Gauchos would secure that #1 seed.

If the tournament were to begin today, UCSB would face UC Irvine in the first round. The Anteaters are currently in ninth place in the conference, with San Jose State being the one team besides UNLV left out of tourney due to its last-place fin-ish. That may not be bad news for the Gauchos, who are 0-3 against the Spartans in tournament play.

Overall, UCSB is 4-10 in Big West Tournament play. The Gauchos' four wins have all come within the last five years, with the most recent being last year — an 80-76 victory over Utah State in the first round.

Following that win, the Gauchos faced the Runnin' Rebels, who absolutely demolished UCSB, 95-67. Fortunately for the Gauchos, they won't have to worry about ment due to various NCAA violations, the meeting Vegas again this time around.





Beainy's Decision to Remain at UCSB Has Paid Dividends

By Scott McPherson Staff Writer

In August of 1990, Barbara Beainy decided that the UCSB women's basketball program was not for her anymore. After two years at Santa Barbara, Beainy -UCSB's first prized recruit — was preparing to transfer to the University of San Francisco for her junior year.

"I didn't think I would reach my potential here as a basketball player because of our style of play," Beainy explained of the decision to leave UCSB. She described the tempo used by the Lady Gauchos as "more of a slowdown, walk it up court, three postplayers kind of style.'

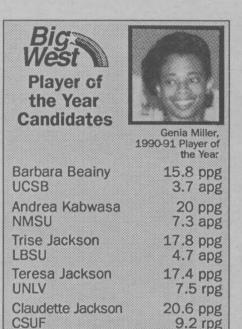
For the aggressive, driving Beainy, the slowdown method of play was just not compatible with her run-and-gun style. So she began attending classes at USF with the intent to transfer.

"We obviously had lots of discussions about it when she was making up her mind that she was going to leave," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said. "We certainly hoped that she would return, and we were very fortunate that right at the last second

she decided that she would.' Very fortunate indeed, as the 5'11" guard/forward from Burlingame saw better times ahead for the struggling Lady Gauchos and decided to stay put. In the year and a half since, the UCSB women's

basketball program has gone from middle of the road to leader of the pack, with Beainy a key factor in the turnaround. In this, the Lady Gauchos' first year as Big West Conference champions, Beainy currently leads the team in scoring with a career-best 15.8-point average. After sitting out the first six games of the year with an injury, Beainy went on a scoring rampage in mid-season that culminated in a UCSB-record 36-point performance Feb. 6 at Fresno State.

"In all of our end-game situations we all know who to get the ball to if there's a big

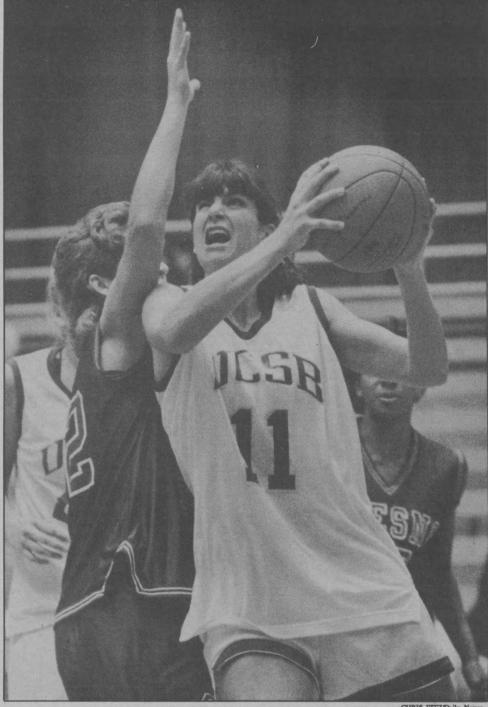


shot to take," French said of Beainy's scoring prowess. "We all want Barb to take it because she has tremendous confidence in her ability to knock the ball down. She wants the ball in those situations.'

As a student at Burlingame High School, Beainy competed in tennis, track and basketball. It was on the hardwood where she found her greatest success, leading her team to the 1988 state championship and setting a state record for wins in a season in the process. Beainy was named the Northern California Player of the Year as a senior, and was highly recruited by several colleges. Beainy, however, decided to attend UCSB — despite the 10-16 record the struggling Lady Gauchos turned in the year before her arrival.

"My high school team wasn't great when I got there," Beainy explained. "But we kept building up and we eventually got to the state championship, so I didn't think anything was impossible."

See BEAINY, p.7A



Senior forward Barbara Beainy has established herself as one of the most feared players in the Big West Conference when it comes to crunch time.

Thank-You UCSB for making SAM's the

BBBS

3 Years in a Row!



SUBS NOW!

Any Small Sub w/Coupon **Expires 3/13/92** **Any Medium Sub** w/Coupon **Expires 3/13/92**

Any Family Sub w/Coupon **Expires 3/13/92**

ENTER SAM'S NEW NAME CONTEST, AND BE THE ONE TO RE-NAME SAM'S. MANAGEMENT, JUST A NEW NAME!

Submit all Entries to Sam's to Go 6560 Pardall • 685-8895 Deadline: March 11, 1992

Lady Gauchos Have Climbed From Basement to Penthouse

By Jonathan Okanes Staff Writer

It wasn't exactly a presidential welcome. but Erika Kienast made good use of the congratulatory balloon she received after returning home Tuesday from Las Vegas, the site of the UCSB women's basketball team's 72-67 victory over UNLV Monday evening that clinched the Lady Gauchos' first-ever Big West Conference title.

"That represents how high our dreams are this season," Kienast said, letting her balloon go and watching it soar high into the overcast sky.

"I've been writing too many papers," she added with a laugh, explaining her unchar-

acteristic use of metaphor.

And laughing and smiling were certainly the predominant activities Tuesday afternoon as the Lady Gauchos returned home to find members of the UCSB women's soccer team and several members of the athletic department waiting outside the Events Center with signs and balloons of congratulations.

Kienast and forward Barbara Beainy, the only two four-year Gauchos on this season's roster, remember the days when they weren't smiling too much.

"I remember the game two years ago when we played (UNLV) and they just killed us," said Kienast, referring to a 78-33 blowout by the Lady Rebels in February of 1990. "I thought we could eventually sweep them, but not this easily.

UCSB has swept both of the traditional Big West powerhouses this season, UNLV and Long Beach State, including a vindicating 88-52 hammering of the 49ers at home back on Feb. 17. The Lady Gauchos have also notched their first-ever 20-win season at the Division I level with a current 21-4 mark.

It's certainly been a long road for the two four-year Gauchos, who, in 1988, came to a marginal UCSB program that went 10-16 and finished last in the Big West the year

before. Santa Barbara went 9-19 while improving to ninth place in the league in Kienast and Beainy's freshman year, and since then it's been nothing but steady improvement for UCSB Head Coach Mark French. The Lady Gauchos improved to 13-15, 8-10 (6th) in the Big West in 1989-90, and then had their first winning season ever last season when they went 17-12 and finished fourth in the league with a 10-8 conference mark.

And through it all, both Beainy and Kienast knew they would eventually work their way to the top.

"I knew sooner or later it would happen," Beainy said. "We weren't thinking about doing things like sweeping (UNLV and Long Beach St.), but we always knew we could get to this point."

Both Kienast and Beainy have had to fight through a lot in their four years, and even Monday evening, when just one more victory would fulfill a four-year dream, it seemed the cards were stacked against them. Santa Barbara fell victim to travelling and a string of tough games by coming out extremely lethargic against the Lady Rebels, who raced out to a 37-18 lead before a leak in UNLV's South Gym's roof resulted in a rain delay. But the Lady Gauchos' problems started long before

"Our baggage wasn't on the same flight as ours and then we were late for our practice time," Beainy said. "Then we get into the gym and the baskets were broken — it was the trip from hell."

"But there was a point when we were about eight points down and (Guard) Lisa (Crosskey) and I were at the free-throw line and we both just started cracking up— because we both knew we were going to win that game."

The result of all this is that UCSB will have the top seed in next week's Big West postseason tournament - not exactly the position that Kienast and Beainy are used

See WOMEN, p.7A

BEAINY: Cornerstone of Program

Continued from p.6A addition of Lisa Crosskey to Fellow senior Erika Kien- the backcourt, the ast remembered the young Beainy when both came to UCSB as freshmen.

program), she wasn't used to losing," Kienast said. "I remember the first team ing five going into the meeting we had, we were '89-'90 season. The team besetting our goals, trying to gan the year with a 12-4 rebe realistic about how many wins and how many losses we'd have, and she said, 'What kind of attitude is that? We're not going to lose a single game.' She was determined that we were going to turn the whole thing around and win right away.

Unfortunately, the wins did not come easily for Beainy, Kienast and company

"Don't even ask," Beainy said of her first season. "I think I tried to repress those memories and just try to forget about them."

While she didn't particularly enjoy the 9-19 record her team posted in '88-'89, Beainy looked at the losses as character builders.

"It was definitely a learning experience," she said. "I think it helped me deal with adversity a lot better than if I hadn't been a part of a losing team."

Beainy wasn't stuck with

emergence of Cori Close at the point guard position, and the strong play of Kien-"When Barb came in (the ast and Becky Brown up front gave the Lady Gauchos a formidable startcord, but hit the skids in mid-season and finished at 17-14. Beainy was named to the All-Big West second team, and finished the sea-

addition of Lisa Crosskey to

With the entire starting five returning this season, the team was expected to vie for conference supremacy. Instead of competing for the title, however, the Lady Gauchos ran away with it by winning 19 of their past 21 games, upping their conference mark to 14-2 with a 72-67 title-clinching win at UNLV Monday.

son by winning the final Big West player of the week

A leading candidate for Big West Player of the Year, Beainy broke the UCSB record of 353 career assists Feb. 16 and has climbed to number two on the program's all-time scoring list with 1,408 points.

Long Beach State Head Coach Glenn McDonald indicated that he saw Beainy's a losing team for long, as the presence as being largely re-

sponsible for the turnar-ound of the Lady Gaucho program.

"Oh, there's no doubt," he said. "Just her personality on the court makes a difference for (UCSB). She's a real competitor and she's very confident in herself. This year she's playing extremely well, and has proven that she's a great player."

French agreed with McDonald's assessment of Beainy

"I will remember Barb for as long as I continue to coach basketball because of her competitiveness," French said. "She's the fiercest competitor I've ever dealt with."

A sociology major, Beainy is currently leaning towards an emphasis on pre-law, but is also thinking

about a career in sports.
"I'm going to try to make a little money playing tennis," Beainy said of her post-college plans. "Once I graduate I'm just going to have to get seriously into it and play for hours a day."

Whether it's the basketball court or the tennis court, opponents better beware of Barbara Beainy an athlete that passed up a chance to join a winning program to make one instead.





Special Regular

ALTERED SHOT

RED SHOT

AD!!

THIS

BASEBALL CARDS WITH

ALTERED SHOT

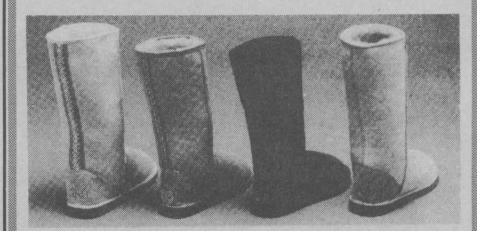
SHOT

ALTERED

OFF

10%

Adult Tall Original Sole \$99 \$129 **Adult Short Original Sole** \$85 \$109 Many styles to choose from: Infant/Youth/Adult



Sundance Ocean Sports

2026 Cliff Drive • 966-2474 On the Mesa in the Lucky's Shopping Center

WOMEN: The Champions Return

Continued from p.6A to. For once in the seniors' careers, everyone will be going after the Lady Gauchos Big West Tournaments instead of the Lady haven't been kind to UCSB Gauchos going after everybody else.

"My attitude is let them try to come after us," Beainy said. "I'm confident with our team — they can try to beat us but we're going to be Gauchos' first-ever Big

women's basketball teams through the years. In fact, when Santa Barbara de-feated Pacific last March in the quarterfinals of the 1991 tourney, it marked the Lady

ready. If someone beats us, then more power to them." West Tournament victory.

UCSB is hoping there will be more than just win #2 this time around.

> "I know we'll all be mentally prepared for the tour-nament," Beainy said. "They're going to have to beat us - we're not going to play not to lose. We're going to play our game."

DAVIS: Senior Takes Critical Role

Continued from p.3A player and a captain," said UCSB Head Coach Jerry Pimm of his 6'8", 210-pound senior. "His numbers are up — let's face it, he's had a great year. He's matured into a great leader and captain."

Davis has become the proverbial "go-to guy" for the Gauchos, a role he both expected and accepted heading into the year. Just as he downplays the spotlight that intensifies with his every move on the court, so, too, does he avoid the word "pressure" as part of his job

"I knew going in I'd have to step up as a leader — it's something I wanted," he said matter-of-factly. "I don't feel the pressure. I'm not really nervous before a game. I've tried to keep a steady mind, a peace of mind. I know what I have to

"It gets so he's almost bad for me. I'll have an open shot, but I'm looking for him," said junior forward Mike Meyer. "Sometimes I'll just start watching him on the court. I'm supposed to be going for the rebound, but I'll just watch - it's amazing how he gets some of his shots to go. You can't help but look for him -he's that kind of player. He's that kind of leader — a real steadying one for this team."

But perhaps the most steadying of influences has Thunderdome thousands w tourney." In a south any term .. See WOMEN, BYA

been the one he's had with him the entire way - his father, Rev. Lucius Davis, Sr. Lucius smiles appreciatively as his thoughts turn to his father, who until this season was Fresno State's all-time leading scorer. He seems to be playing this year, if only slightly, for him, and for the relationship between the two.

"He supports me now just as he always has, regardless if I'm 'Player of the Year' or the 12th man on the team," he said. "Knowing that has helped me. No matter if I do good or bad in school or whatever it is, he's still going to love me.

"He's always been my idol — I tell everybody that. Just the way he carries himself as a person, as a Baptist minister, as a player before. The accolades are great, but the best thing about them is that they'll make him proud of me. Knowing he's proud of me, that I've worked hard and done my best - that's what makes it all worth it."

Standing atop his mountain, Davis can afford to take time away from what seems his personal mission, a triumphant return to the postseason. This time included what essentially became "Lucius Davis Night" before UCSB's Feb. 26 win over New Mexico State, when he sang a moving rendition of the national an-



and then shared a tearful goodbye alongside his parents in his final home appearance.

Pimm now feels that Davis' life "has progressed to the point where he has control of it, and he under-stands what he can and cannot do. The best news of all, though, is that Lucius Davis knows who Lucius Davis is, both as a basketball player and a person."

Standing alone, Davis fi-nally looks beyond his mountain, reflecting upon his long and satisfying climb. "I want to finish right, going to the NCAAs. I want people to remember me and this year and this team, and have them say, 'Yeah, Lucius Davis — he them for the appreciative helped that team get to the

and finished last in the big West the year

ALL BASEBALL CARDS HITH THIS

AD!

ALTERED SHOT

ALTERED

S HOT 10%

HH

ALTERED SHOT ALTERED SHOT ALTERED SHOT

ALTERED Go Team U.S.A.!!

"ISLA VISTA'S FIRST SPORTS CARD SHOP"



Specializing in Basketball

Also carry Football, **Hockey and Baseball**

6565 TRIGO RD. #4 OPEN 7 DAYS 11-7

968-4721

ALTERED SHOT ALTERED SHOT ALTERED SHOT



while the getting back's good!



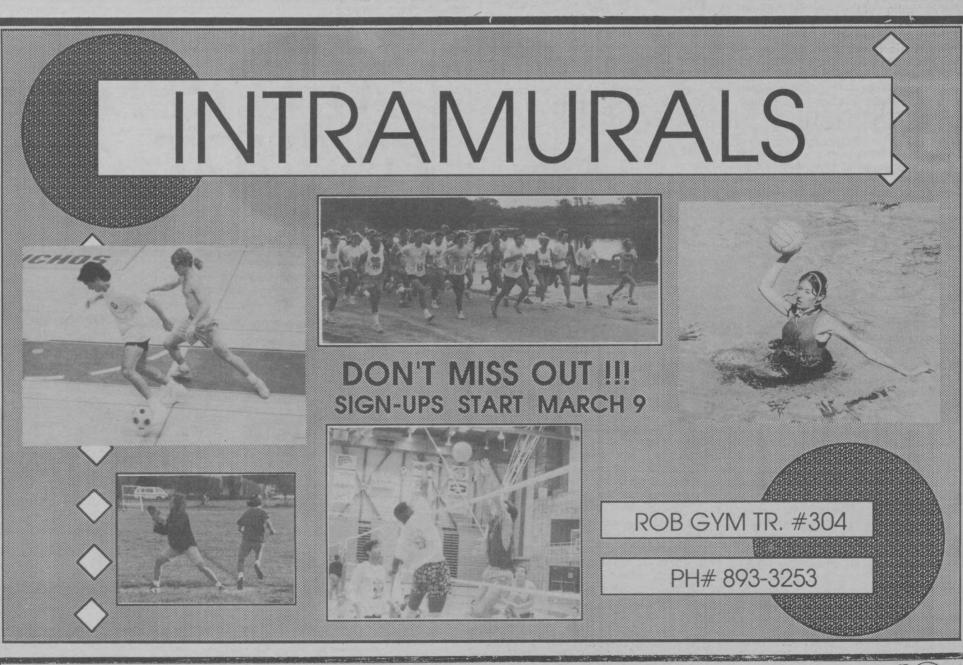
*Return fare — any day on any of 2 daily roundtrips between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, and 8 daily roundtrips between Los Angeles and San Diego, aboard Amtrak's "San Diegans" service. Relief from driving stress & relief from budget stress — this is as good as it gets!

Now take Amtrak's "San Diegans" to your destination for the regular fare, and your return trip is only \$7. Travel roundtrip between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles for just \$25, or between Santa Maria and San Diego for just \$46.

\$7 return fare is good any day aboard Amtrak, including special Amtrak bus connections serving such cities as San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria and Lompoc. See your travel agent or call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL for details.

Amtrak Stations: Ventura: Harbor Blvd. & Figueroa St.; Santa Barbara: 209 State St.; Lompoc: 433 North H Street; Santa Maria: US 101 at Main St.; Pismo Beach: 611 Five Cities Drive; San Luis Obispo: Railroad Avenue & Santa Rosa St.

Get in on Amtrak's One-Way Plus \$7 Return Fare.









INTRAMURALS WOULD LIKE TO THANK PACIFIC BEVERAGE FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF THIS PAGE

3111-0 1

