

SPORTS TUESDAY

Daily Nexus

May 28, 1996

Page 1A



ALAN JACOBY/Daily Nexus

THE WHIFF: UCSB junior right fielder Collin Weitzman goes down on strikes against Florida State's Chuck Howell in the first inning of Florida State's 10-1 victory at Stanford's Sunken Diamond. The loss ended the Gauchos' season.

Gauchos Fall to Seminoles in NCAA Playoffs; Loss Is Team's Eighth-Straight Regional Defeat

■ UCSB Eliminated From NAAs After Managing Just One Run Against #1 Seed Florida State

By Curtis Kaiser
Staff Writer

PALO ALTO — Missing: the Gaucho offense. ... Last seen: in a come-from-behind 10-9 win to close out the regular season at Cal State Fullerton. ... Current status: unknown.

The UCSB baseball team's batting lineup, a cast of sluggers that propelled the squad to a 32-16 regular season mark and a second-place tie in the Big West, suddenly disappeared when the postseason came along, scoring a total of just seven runs as the squad lost four straight playoff games to end the season.

On Saturday afternoon at Stanford University's Sunken Diamond, the #4-seeded Gauchos (32-20) took on the #1-seeded Flor-

ida State Seminoles (51-16) in a must-win game at the NCAA West Regional Tournament. UCSB was clearly no match for the powerful FSU squad, which downed Santa Barbara 10-1 en route to winning the tourney and advancing to the 50th annual College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

"We're disappointed with the way we played on the weekend," said UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema. "We didn't show the offense that we showed much of the year, and a lot of the credit goes to the pitchers we faced."

Having lost to #3 seed Mississippi State (38-22) 6-2 after blowing a 2-0 lead on Friday, UCSB had its back against the wall as it faced one of the nation's top teams.

See **SUNKEN**, p.3A

See **GAUCHOS**, p.2A

Daily Nexus Athlete of the Year Honorable Mention

Erin Patrick

SPORT: women's swimming

HOMETOWN: Pittsburgh, PA

YEAR: Senior

STATS:

Finished second in the Big West Championships for the 100 freestyle with a time of 51.36 seconds

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

The senior captain led Gaucho women's swimming in almost every meet this year by being competitive in four different individual events.

QUOTABLE: "Going into a race, I just want to beat the other swimmers. I have swam the race so many times, I know I can win. I just have to do it."



Okada Named All-American After Two NCAA Victories

By Steven Large
Staff Writer

The saying goes, "There is a first time for everything," and for UCSB senior Jean Okada, that held true in her second-round win at the NCAA individual championships, which fortunately could not have come at a better time.

Okada's 6-4, 6-3 stomping of the University of Florida's Bonnie Bleeker in Tallahassee, Fl., on Thursday gave the Gauchos' #1 singles player All-American status — the first women's tennis player at Santa Barbara ever to achieve that feat.

While the All-American title may be downplayed by the humble Okada, her ability to advance to the round of 16 in the championship — also the last tournament of her college career — shows that her timing was just right.

"This was probably my best year," Okada said. "I improved a little each year and there was never any digression."

Okada's straight-set defeat of Bleeker was a little surprising to some, after a less-than-crushing first-round victory against an injured Dana Peterson, also of Florida.

Bleeker is known for her intense attitude on the court, but her game was not at its peak when second-round action began.

"She wasn't playing her best," Okada said. "She had had a singles and a doubles match the day before, and I think that she was kind of worn-out."

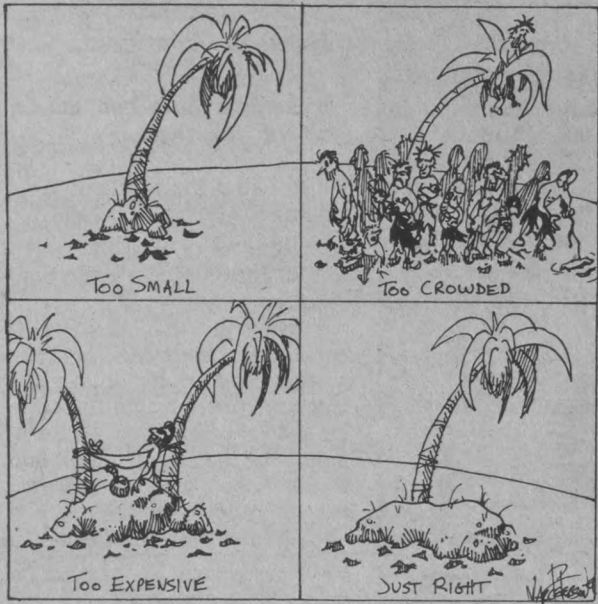


Jean Okada

See **OKADA**, p.2A

Comic Connection

A.Y.E. by Marc Peterson



Buyer's guide to desert islands.



GAUCHOS

Continued from p.1A
no one was used to playing in front of 1,000-plus fans (as was the case in the regionals).

The question that is raised from this year's games is what can UCSB do to return to the regionals within six years? There are a few easy answers, but actually getting results will be difficult.

The Gauchos have only half of the allotted scholarships NCAA regulations allow. Northeastern Illinois was the only other squad in the region without 13 full scholarships. Not coincidentally, the Golden Eagles and Santa Barbara were the first two teams eliminated.

The obvious solution is to give the team the remainder of the scholarships and let them hand out 13 full rides a year, but the truth is UCSB cannot afford to do that.

Currently on campus, there are numerous intercollegiate sports that do

not offer any scholarships to their athletes — all of which feel that they are worthy of at least one. The athletics budget is tight and community support is nearly nonexistent, so the hands of Athletic Director Dr. Gary Cunningham are tied.

The only true answer is that Santa Barbara must eliminate money from other programs, but the only way this can occur is by eliminating entire sports programs.

The 21 current intercollegiate athletic teams do nothing but drain money from the budget and put those programs that are on the verge of being nationally successful that much farther away.

If Santa Barbara wants to achieve glory in the athletic arena, it is time to rectify by thinning programs and then rebuilding when it can truly support them. Maybe then, other schools one year can return from the playoffs wanting to be like the Gauchos instead of UCSB dreaming about being like other teams.

OKADA

Continued from p.1A

Okada was a little spent herself, as were most of the contestants suffering from Florida's never-ending heat, which nearly eclipsed the century mark on several occasions throughout the week.

"I was still not playing my best," Okada said. "But I just stuck with my game and I guess I got lucky. It wasn't my best tournament."

But her luck did not carry into third-round action at the NAAs. Just 1½ hours after her win against Bleeker, Okada's match against UCLA's

Keri Phebus began.

And then it was over, as was her illustrious collegiate career.

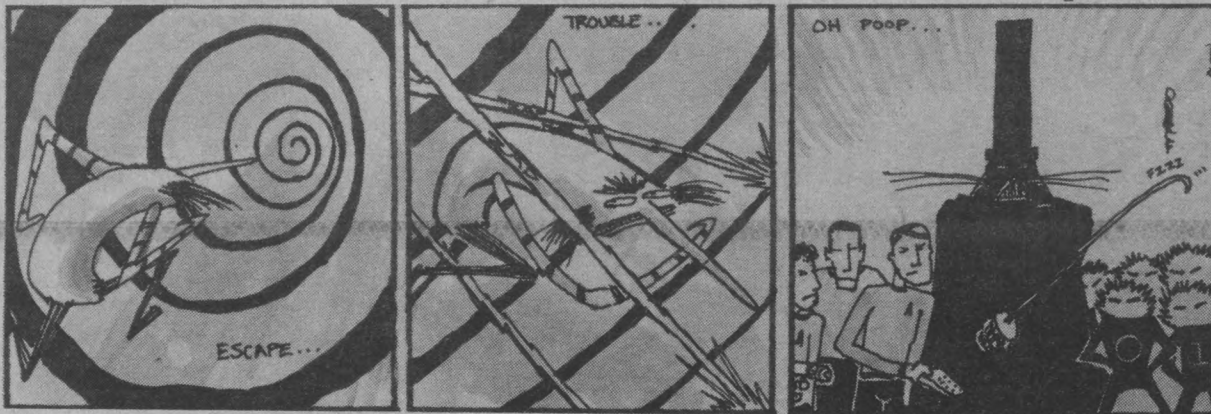
Okada, who was defeated by Phebus at the preseason Rolex Invitational earlier this year, lost to the #5 player in the country 6-2, 6-1.

"[Phebus] returns a lot of balls, so to win you can't make any unforced errors," Okada said. "I was really off. I wasn't aiming and I wasn't working my points well. I wasn't really playing well."

The NCAA Championships culminated Monday with Florida's Jill Craybas (4) defeating the University of Kansas' Kylie Hunt (1) 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

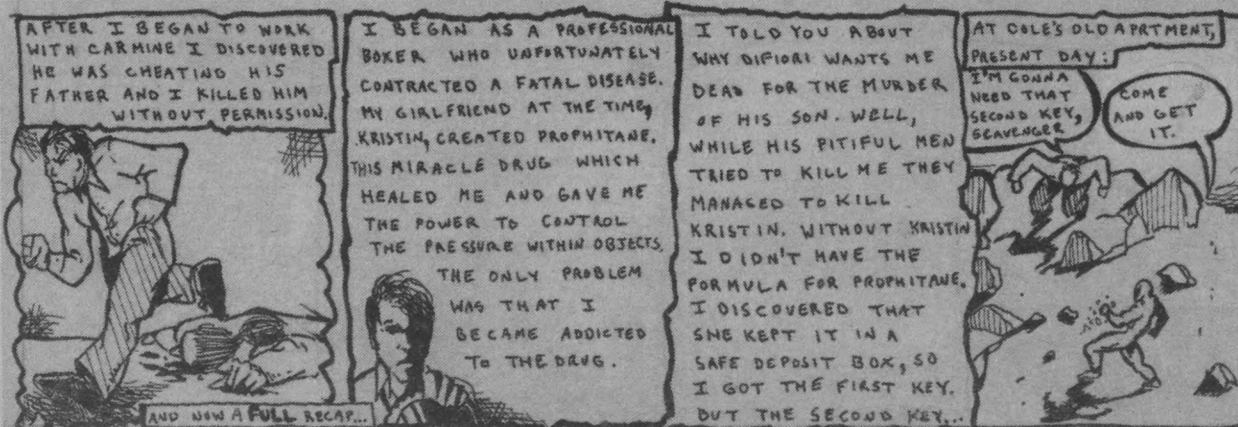
The (fur)lo

by Altoon



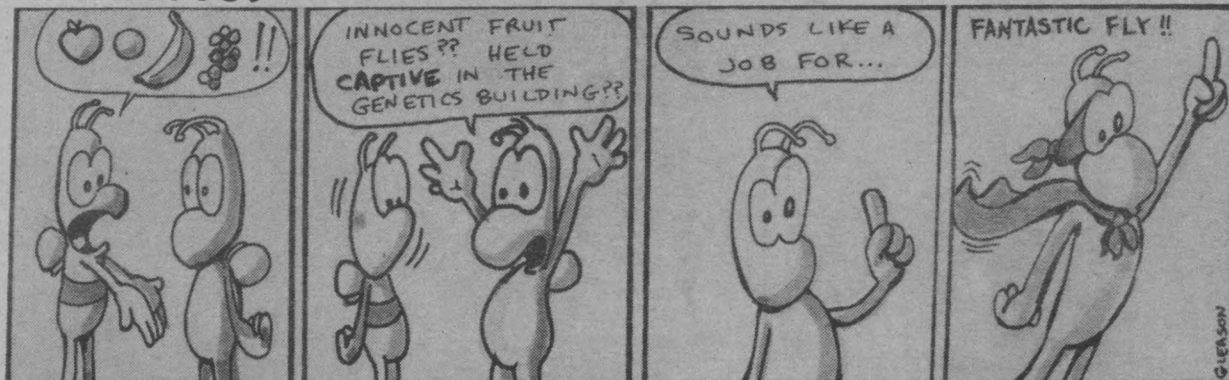
HABITUAL LIMBO

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SUNKEN

Continued from p.1A
 The Gauchos seemed to receive a small break when FSU Head Coach Mike Martin decided to save sophomore starting pitcher Randy Choate, the team's ace and nation's leader with 14 victories, for the next day's game. Instead of Choate, Martin went with junior starter/reliever Chuck Howell (9-2).
 The move paid off brilliantly, with the right-handed Howell hurling a stellar seven innings to earn his ninth win of the season against UCSB, and Choate earning the win on Saturday against Stanford.
 Howell, who had been used primarily as a reliever in the second half of the season, kept his philosophy simple.

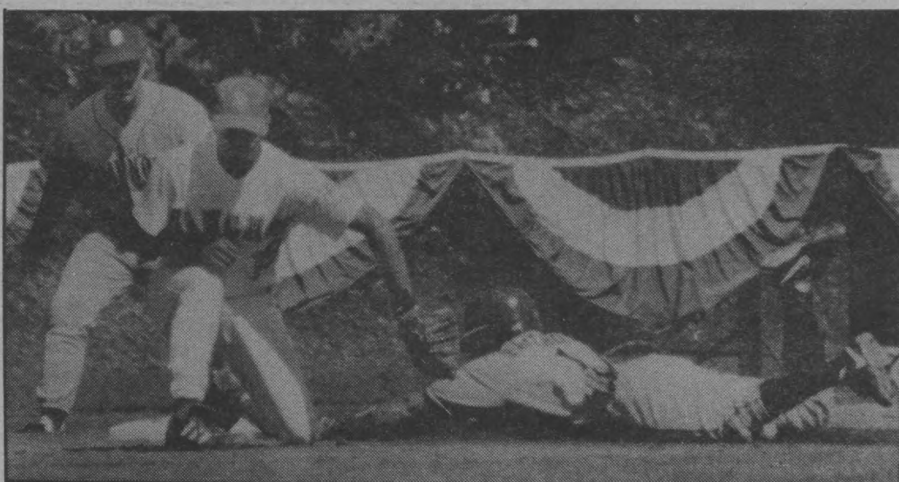
"I was just trying to get ahead of batters and get some groundballs," he said. "Basically, I was trying to move the ball in and out. I haven't thrown seven innings in a while, but my arm felt good today."
 "Chuck really stepped it up a notch. It was a big seven-inning lift for us," said Martin, the Atlantic Coast Conference's coach of the year. "We appreciate Chuck's guts."

Sophomore righty Seth Bean, UCSB's leader at nine victories, took the mound for the Gauchos, hoping to extend his squad's stay at Stanford.

Bean was sharp early, getting out of trouble in the first by inducing junior left fielder Jeremy Morris to ground into a double play and setting down the Seminoles in order in the second by striking out the side. However, FSU got to Bean in the third with an RBI triple by junior right fielder Steve Nedeaux and

a two-run blast to left field by sophomore center fielder J.D. Drew, his 19th of the season.
 "I threw a great pitch low and outside, and he made a good hit," Bean said. "I give him all the credit."
 Brontsema suggested that the Gauchos' three previous playoff losses — all close games — may have contributed to the team's shellacking on Saturday. The third-year skipper also made it clear that he felt the team's performance at the tournament was not indicative of its ability.
 "We're coming off three frustrating losses, and mentally we're not as sharp as we were the rest of the year," he said. "Our guys deserved to be here. We played some great teams and did some great things. Unfortunately, you

didn't see the things that got us here. Someone's got to go home and unfortunately we're one of the [teams who has to]."
 Junior Florida State third baseman Adam Faurot, who was one of six Seminoles to be named to the All-Tournament team, led FSU offensively with a four-hit performance, including four RBI and his fifth homer of the season. Morris, Drew, Nedeaux, Choate and senior designated hitter/starting pitcher Scooby Morgan, who posted two victories during the tournament, were also named to the squad.
 In explaining the Gauchos' lack of success at Stanford, Brontsema got straight to the point. "I think the fact of the matter is we've been outplayed," he said. "I could



ALAN JACOBY/Daily Nexus

YOU MAKE THE CALL: Florida State's Adam Faurot slides into third base, where UCSB's Lou Tapia attempts to apply the tag.

run excuses here left and right, but when it comes down to it, if you don't play well at this point in the season, you're not going to do well."

Senior center fielder Wynter Phoenix, who went 2-7 in the tournament, was disappointed with the result of his final game as a Gaucho, but

pleased to have had the playoff experience.

"I had a great time. I'm going to cherish these last couple days," he said.

FSU 10, UCSB 1

FSU	0	0	3	1	2	2	0	2	0	10	17	1
UCSB	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	7	3

Howell, Niles (6), Chavez (9) and Salazar.
 Bean, Uris (6), Salazar (8), Cain (9) and Lehr.
 E - Badaeux (20), Parker (21), Phoenix (9), Weitzman (3).
 2B - Morgan (7), Hardy (9), Lehr (4).
 3B - Faurot (3), Morgan (1).
 HR - Drew (19), Faurot (5).
 WP: Howell (9-2) LP: Bean (9-4).

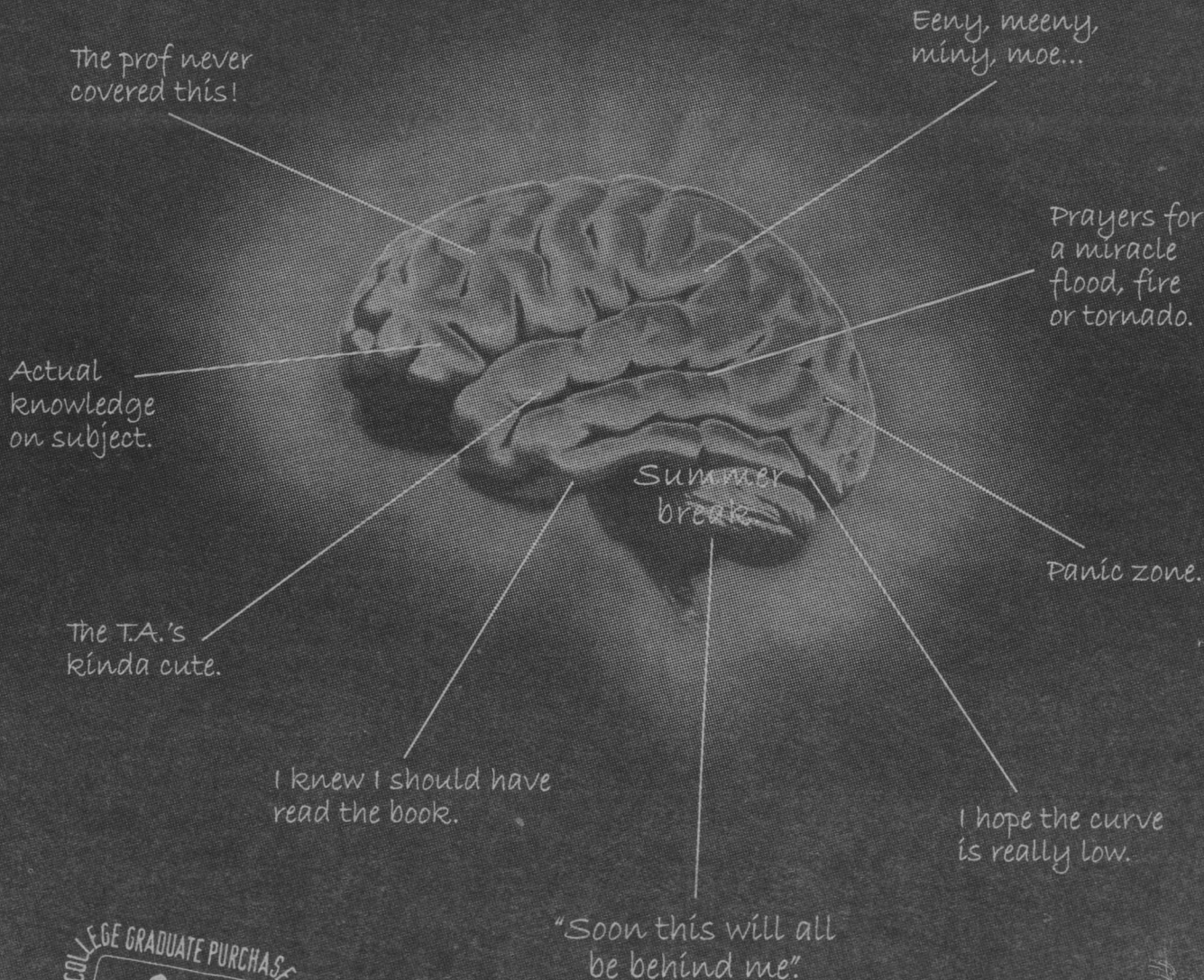
1996 NCAA Baseball West Regional Final Results

Thursday May 23	Friday May 24	Saturday May 25	Sunday May 26
Florida St. 16, NE Illinois 0	CSUN 18, NE Illinois 1 (NE Illinois Eliminated)	Florida St. 5, Stanford 4	
Mississippi St. 6, UCSB 2	Florida St. 10, UCSB 1 (UCSB Eliminated)	CSUN 20, Mississippi St. 19 (Mississippi St. Eliminated)	Florida St. 9, CSUN 2 (Championship)
Stanford 10, CSUN 5	Stanford 8, Mississippi St. 6	CSUN 4, Stanford 3 (Stanford Eliminated)	

All Games Played at Sunken Diamond, Stanford University

YIER SHI/Daily Nexus

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