

SPORTS MONDAY

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Page 1A

UCSB Soccer Team Is Stayin' Alive With a Conference Win

■ Santa Barbara Hands New Mexico a 1-0 Defeat at Harder

By Brett Lindstrom
Staff Writer

The UCSB men's soccer team may have been knocked down momentarily in its hunt for a playoff birth over the course of the weekend's play, but by no means was it knocked out.

The Gauchos (11-4-1 overall, 3-3 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) suffered a heartbreaking 2-1 overtime loss to UNLV at Johann Memorial Field in Las Vegas on Friday, but returned home to Harder Stadium on Sunday to defeat a pesky University of New Mexico team, 1-0.

The Runnin' Rebels' Brian Wilson scored the game-winning goal on a penalty shot after Santa Barbara senior defender Jeff Johnson was called on a controversial hand-ball in the penalty box in the seventh minute of overtime. Johnson and the rest

of the Gauchos immediately contested the call, insisting that the ball hit his shoulder, rather than the hand. Unfortunately, the referee stood firm on his call.

"Taking away all the excuses, I thought we played well enough to win, well enough that we should have gotten a better result than a loss," said UCSB Head Coach Mark Arya. "We created several good scoring opportunities that we just didn't quite get the handle on."

The Gauchos found the back of the net first in the 13th minute of play on a header goal from junior midfielder Ryan Schomberg.

"I played the ball out to Jeff Johnson and he beat his man on the wing and then crossed it," Schomberg said. "I came across the middle and headed it to the far post."

UNLV tied the score at one all early in the second half when Rebel James Mitchell launched a header past diving freshman Gauchos keeper Stewart Sanders.

UCSB entered the overtime period short-handed as sophomore forward Danny Mann received his second yellow card at the 88th minute. To make matters worse, the Gauchos lost another man minutes into overtime, when Johnson was given a red card for his intentional

hand-ball in the penalty box.

"There were definitely some questionable calls," Sanders said. "Since we were only playing with nine men in the overtime, we had to step it up to a higher level. We still had our chances, but just didn't finish."

UCSB coaches were concerned about how the Gauchos would handle the loss to UNLV.

"A loss like that is very devastating," Arya said, "partly because we know what ramifications it has for us as far as playoff potential, as well as guaranteeing us a spot in the top two in the MPSF."

"But the biggest thing, regardless of what it does to the standings, is what it does to you emotionally, when you know that you're playing well enough to win and you don't get that result. That in itself makes you question what you have to do to win. We felt that we were the better team — that makes it even more difficult, more hard to justify."

Santa Barbara bounced back into the playoff picture by handing the Lobos of New Mexico a 1-0 loss in a sluggish Sunday afternoon game.

"I thought we played well enough to win the match," Arya said. "We're dealing with a sick team right now, a lot of players



HEADS UP: Senior defender Steve Hennessey jumped up into play to head a ball away from a New Mexico forward in the Gauchos' 1-0 win over the Lobos.

had the flu. It showed in today's game where we had very low energy, very lackluster performance."

Although the Gauchos were without the services of several key players due to the previous game's ejections and the flu, they still managed to pull off

the victory. "In today's game, Jeff and Danny both would

See SPLIT, p.3A

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Standings

UCLA	7-0
UNLV	3-2-1
CSUN	3-2-1
UCSB	3-3
UNM	2-4
CSUF	2-4

*Includes only the top six teams in the MPSF

GaUCHO Spikers Take 11th Straight Victory With a Sweep of Fullerton

By Jenny Kok
Staff Writer

With its 11th straight win, the #11 UCSB women's volleyball team moved one step closer to its all-time winning streak record of 13 straight wins with a sweep of Cal State Fullerton Saturday night in the Events Center, 15-7, 15-7, 15-3.

Although the Gauchos (17-4 overall, 10-0 in the Big West) were heavily favored to beat the Titans (7-15, 0-10), Santa Barbara Head Coach Kathy Gregory couldn't have been happier about her team's latest victory.

"I know I say this all the time, but it is really hard to get motivated to play games you're supposed to win and play well," Gregory said. "We started off tentative, but we ended up playing very well. For this match, it was more important for us to play well than anything else because we have to be ready for Long Beach next weekend."

As Gregory indicated, the match didn't start off as well as UCSB would have liked it to. Because of strong serving by the Ti-

tans and weak passing by the Gauchos, Santa Barbara quickly fell to a 6-3 deficit in the opening game. After calling a timeout, the Gauchos rebounded and took control of the match.

UCSB continued to dominate throughout the match, but more importantly, in game three, four freshmen were the key to



Tammy Stiner

the win: setter Meri-de Boyer, outside hitters Erin McCown and Hilary Gunsaulus and middle blocker Katie Crawford. Now more than ever, the strength of the freshmen will be important for the Gauchos, who recently learned that sophomore outside hitter Jennifer Stroffe will be out for the remainder of the season with a knee injury.

"After seeing how well Meri-de set in that third game, I realized that she has a strong future ahead of her," Gregory said. "Katie and Hilary played well and Erin led our defense. It's hard to judge too well because we have to look at the level of competition, but as far as I can see, the freshmen showed a lot of potential."

"With Stroffe out, it looks like we will continue to start Hilary, and Katie will be ready to come in and play either on the outside or in the middle."

With 11 digs, McCown headed up the defense for the Gauchos, but as usual, three seniors, Tammy Stiner, Kim Keys and Jennifer Kaylor, led the offense and blocking. Keys pounded out a game-high 14 kills at a .385 hitting percentage — while making five blocks, including one solo. Kaylor, second-ranked in hitting percentage in the Big West, continued to show incredible accuracy, tallying nine kills at .692.

With perhaps the strongest all-around performance, Stiner hammered out 10 kills at .563,

See SWEEP, p.3A

Playoff Hopes All but Die With 2 MPSF Losses to Pepperdine and LBSU on Road

By Brian Berger
Staff Writer

The #13 UCSB men's water polo team watched its road to the playoffs grow longer this weekend as the squad dropped two Mountain Pacific Sports Federation matches. Santa Barbara fell to Pepperdine, 9-8, Friday and then were stopped by Long Beach State on Saturday, 13-11.

Friday's contest in Malibu was a battle between evenly matched schools until the very end. The #6 Waves (8-7 overall, 2-3 in MPSF) jumped on the board first, taking a 2-0 lead after the first period.

The Gauchos (6-13 overall, 1-5 in MPSF) answered back in the second quarter scoring three, including senior driver Kevin Eggert's two-point goal. However, Pepperdine was also able to put three shots in the UCSB cage and led 5-3 heading into the second half.

Both teams struggled offensively in the third quarter with the Waves scoring only two points to Santa Barbara's one. Trailing 7-4 with just 6:19 remaining in the contest, the Gauchos began to mount a comeback as junior driver Tyler Rameson netted a shot behind Pepperdine goalkeeper Vatche Shirjian — trimming the Wave lead to just two. Less than a minute later UCSB tied the score at 7-7, when freshman two-meter man Donny Hooper connected on a two-point shot — his fifth goal of the year.

Pepperdine quickly broke the tie when senior driver Sean Lane scored at the 5:15 mark. However, Santa Barbara answered back with a goal by sopho-

more two-meter man Eric Scholten with just 62 seconds remaining.

As tension grew between the teams so did the controversy. Pepperdine regained possession with 28 seconds on the clock and began to work the ball against the Gauchos defense. As the players from both squads battled for position, the two Gauchos seniors, driver Adam Estabrook and Eggert were both ejected on a disputable call, giving the Waves a six-on-four advantage with five seconds to play. Pepperdine was able to capitalize on the penalty as Brian Sciutto scored, clinching the victory.

"The game was going to overtime," said UCSB Head Coach Joe O'Brien. "The players didn't do anything [wrong]. It's very disappointing."

Saturday, UCSB tried to rebound against #7 Long Beach State. The 49ers used their size advantage and excellent goaltending on their way to a 13-11 win.

"Long Beach plays around their hole man, and that's not our style of play," Scholten said.

Santa Barbara did score the first goal of the contest and led 1-0. The lead was short, however, as Long Beach (7-8 overall, 2-4 in MPSF) tallied three first-period points and took the lead for good.


On the other side of the ball, the Gauchos offense was once again firing at full power as UCSB was able to score in double digits for the ninth time this season. Eggert was able to add to his team-high scoring total as he notched five goals — giving him 48 points so far this year. Also scoring for Santa Barbara was Estabrook (3), Scholten (2) and Rameson.

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SPLIT

Continued from p.1A
 have been a very strong impact, but on the flip side of things, [freshman forward] Ryan Saunders came in and did a wonderful job for us," Arya said. "Brent Edwards also stepped up his game. The players who normally don't see much playing time actually did a tremendous job for us."

Once again, Schomberg

scored the only goal for the Gauchos on a one-time volley directly in front of the Lobos net at the 33-minute mark of the first half. Credit the assist to freshman midfielder Edwards.

"Schomberg has been having a great stretch for us," Arya said. "He's turning into a very steady, very predominant player on our team."

Schomberg has tallied three goals and one assist in the last three games for the Gauchos.

Although the loss to Re-

bels puts a damper on the Gauchos' playoff hopes, there is still a chance of making postseason play. In order to capture second place outright in MPSF conference standings — behind first-place clincher UCLA — UCSB must win its final game against Cal State Northridge, while UNLV must lose its last game.

The Gauchos play the Matadors on Friday at Harder Stadium at 7:00 p.m. to try and keep their playoff hopes alive.

SWEEP

Continued from p.1A
 tallied eight digs and put up a game-high seven blocks. As well as being sixth in the conference for hitting percentage, Stiner

is second-ranked in blocks per game.

For the Titans, junior transfer outside hitter Heather Basset led the offense with 12 kills at .242 and headed the defense with nine digs. CSUF made no blocks.

"We had all week to rest so I think we came in ready to play," Keys said. "Kathy expected a lot out of us and we were able to give it to her. We worked on our weaknesses and are now geared to practice hard for Long Beach State next weekend."



SCOTT LOKEN/Daily Nexus

HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES: Junior forward Ryan Schomberg (left) volleyed in the game's only goal past the UNM goaltender in the 33rd minute of play.

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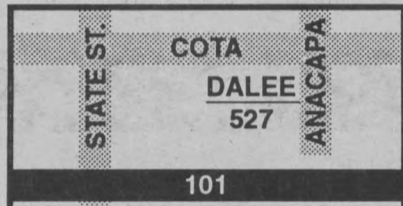


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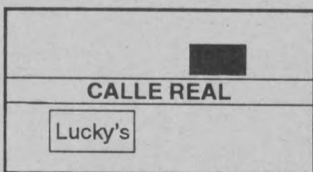
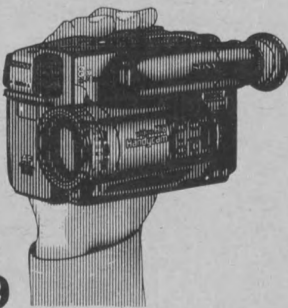
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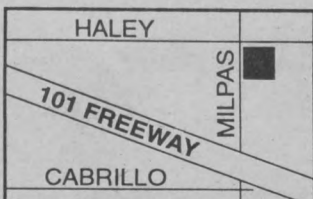
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