The UCSB softball team finally picked up some wins this weekend against Big West rival Long Beach State. LBSU, on the other hand, was playing solid softball and had won five of its last six games. The Gauchos have now won 15 of their last 18 games, and are off to their best start since 1994.

"Any time you win a series on the road it’s a big thing," senior shortstop Jeff Bannon said. "Especially when it’s in conference against someone like Northridge."

The Gauchos sent senior pitcher Kyle Ogle to the mound in the bottom of the sixth inning, before rebounding to take the last two games of the series and send the 49ers home as losers. UCSB lost game one 4-0, but Δelta, the second day of the series proved to be a different story, as the Gauchos (14-26, 2-9) started game three with a bang, literally. Trinidad launched a two-run home run, giving UCSB a 2-0 lead. The only factor that saved UCSB from losing its seventh straight game was a huge sixth-inning rally, in which the Gauchos scored three runs.

Leading into the rubber match, Santa Barbara found a new sense of confidence as a result of the previous victory.

"I was definitely thinking that we could win [the second game]," Trinidad said. "I think we actually thought that we could win."

The Gauchos didn't only win game three on Saturday, with the Gauchos finally getting on the board in the sixth inning, scoring five runs, four of them coming on senior third baseman Dave Moldor’s grand slam. Junior outfielder Andy Campanella walked to lead off the inning, before sophomore center fielder Skip Schumaker was also issued a free pass. Sophomore right fielder Ryan Spillborge then reached base with a bunt single, with Campanella scoring on a wild throw from the Northridge pitcher. Senior second baseman Chad Peshke then walked, loading the bases for the Molidor bomb.

The 7-5 deficit was as close as UCSB would come, and Northridge notched a run in the bottom of the sixth, before exploding for 10 runs in the eighth inning to claim a lead it would never relinquish.

So it is always nice to take two off of Long Beach."

"We were kind of in a rut, and this weekend things just fell together. We were hitting the ball well, so it is always nice to take two off of Long Beach."

UCSB will be back in action Wednesday at 1 p.m. against Rice.

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**NFA Draft Day Lacks Thrills, Brings Fans to Verge of Tears**

**Matt Heitner**

There is nothing quite like the NFL Draft. Fans from across the country attend the event or watch it on the tube, eagerly waiting to see the newest addition to their favorite team. But then a funny thing happens. The fans sit and wait, knowing nothing about what is actually going on behind the scene.

The second day of the draft is when teams reach a ludicrous level, as the final four rounds are completed. Mercifully, teams are no longer given 15 minutes to make their selection, but that's because by this time the talent is so depleted that picking a player usually amounts to guesswork.

Now, there have been many outstanding players to come out of the late rounds, most notably Terrell Davis, Olandis Gary and Shannon Sharpe (all chosen by the Denver Broncos), but for the most part, the fans have to wait for the selection to be made and are left to sit and wait, knowing nothing about who the next player will be.

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notched three more runs in the eighth inning and one in the ninth to finish the barrage.

The runs came from many different sources Saturday, and leading the way for UCSB once again was Molidor, who blasted two round trippers on the day. The Gauchos also received home runs from Spilborghs and Campanella, both of them solo shots. Peshke got in the mix as well, driving in Bannon and junior third baseman Tyler Von Schell chipped in with two hits apiece, with Von Schell adding two RBIs on the day.

Sophomore pitcher Jim Bullard picked up the win for UCSB in his most impressive performance of the season. Bullard pitched seven strong innings, while giving up only three earned runs and striking out five.

"Bullard did a really good job of setting the tone on Saturday," Peshke said. "He was throwing a lot of strikes and getting hitters out really quickly. If one guy got on, on the next pitch there was usually a double play. He got lots of ground balls. Personally, I think it was his best start of the year.

UCSB will take the field next on Friday, facing off against Sacramento State in a three-game Big West series. The Gauchos know that every game counts in conference play, and that they will have to be focused to come away with a series victory.

"We go into every series looking to take two out of three," Von Schell said. "It's hard to go up to Sacramento and win series; it's always tough to play up there. It would be nice to get the sweep, but two out of three is our goal."
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