# Sports MONDAY

Α Whole New Season

### MATT HURST

Ahh, October. Baseball's regular season is over, and now it's time for heroes and goats to be made.

Everything that has happened in the past 162 games is meaningless, except to the sports writers and media members that vote on the hardware to be handed out.

It's a brand new season, and whoever is hot is the favorite. There's one more game left to be played, and after questioning the three-division, four-team playoff system when it was first implemented, the once-lost baseball excitement has been restored. Cincinnati and New York for one spot. One game, nine innings to make or break you. This happened last season too, with San Francisco and the Cubbies. And it happened in 1995 between the Angels and the Mariners. I like it, and it's good for the game.

One-game playoffs were a lost game. Only a memory of the sounds of "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!" after Bobby Thomson hit his "shot heard 'round the world" off of the Dodgers' Ralph Branca to win a one-game playoff is how postseasons are remembered.

October has also become a month where players have gotten reputations. Mr. October ring a bell? How about Jim Leyritz? That guy is mediocre at best, but let

## **#1** Tigers Trounced **By Gaucho Spikers**

BY MARVIN GAPULTOS Staff Writer

Studying. said that athletes didn't do it was wrong. After a heartbreaking four-game loss to #5 Long Beach State last Thursday, the #9 UCSB women's volleyball team came home and did its homework in preparation for its match against the #1 team in the nation - the University of the Pacific — on Saturday night. A long bus ride to Stockton provided the Gauchos with a prime opportunity for an anti-Tiger cram session.

"The loss to Long Beach was devastating," senior outside hitter Roberta Gehlke said. "After that, we knew exactly what we had to do against Pacific. We studied them and watched and analyzed videotapes of them the entire sevenhour bus ride up there. We took away their strengths and exposed their weaknesses. We were ready for everything they did."

Ready indeed. Santa



**Roberta Gehlke** 

Barbara (12-2 overall, 3-1 in the Big West) not only beat the then-undefeated Tigers, but took out Whoever Pacific in a 15-10, 15-6, 15-8 sweep at the Spanos Center. This was the first loss for the Tigers (12-1, 3-1) since giving up a fivegame decision to Stanford on Oct. 20 last year.

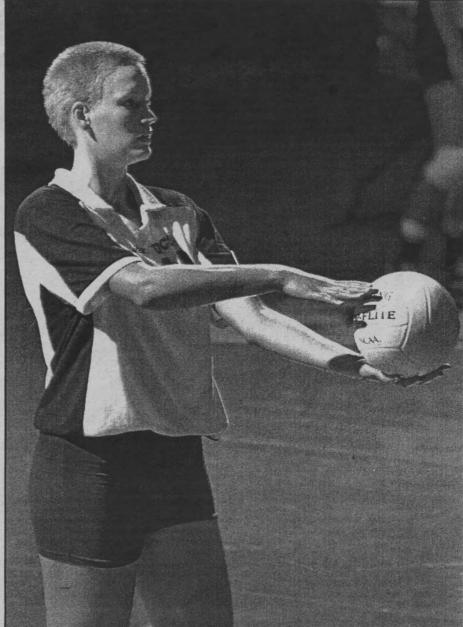
Santa Barbara was lead by Gehlke, who had match bests of 27 kills and 20 digs while hitting at a .420 clip. This was Gehlke's second 20-kill, 20-dig performance this week, as she posted 38 kills and 22 digs against Long Beach. However, the Huntington Beach native was not alone in the Gaucho victory.

"Everyone on our team phenomenal," played Gehlke said. "There was a completely different attitude out there and everyone just stepped up their games."

Sophomore middle blocker Jutta Weissenborn chipped in with 12 kills with a .375 hitting percentage. Weissenborn also had a match-high four service aces, an area that UCSB Head Coach Kathy Gregory believed to be crucial

"We knew if we served them tough and dug a lot of balls, we could take them out of their offense," Gregory said. "Serving is something we didn't do well against Long Beach." Santa Barbara also out-

hit Pacific .343-.207 on the evening. Opposite Gehlke, the Tigers have a



JASON SCHOCK/ DAILY NEXUS GET YOUR SERVE ON: Sophomore middle blocker Jutta Weissenborn helped the UCSB women's volleyball team defeat #1 University of the Pacific as she served a game-high of four service aces.

senior All-American outside hitter of their own in Elsa Stegemann. Stegemann recorded 20 kills and seven digs in Pacific's defeat.

"Robi outplayed one of the nation's best players and showed why she's one of the top three players in the country," Gregory said of Gehlke.

the Tigers, Santa Barbara out-dug them as well, 67-49. Weissenborn notched nine digs while sophomore setter Brooke Rundle contributed 10. Sophomore Brieanna Lampe, who had eight kills in her first start at middle blocker, and sophomore defensive specialist Desiree Rook selves as a team."

Along with out-hitting notched eight digs each.

"[The victory] was so uplifting because we've come so close to beating ranked teams like Florida (#6) and Long Beach," Rundle said. "But to go in and beat the #1 undefeated team, that just gives us so much confidence in our-

### **UCSB Men's Soccer Team Spears #20 San Jose Spartans**

BY ZACK O'NEILL Staff Writer

more midfielder Steven Sosa said. "He said to work as hard as we could, because our size was wearing them down. So we went out in the second

me tell you one thing: If he's on your team in October, you better put him on the field. Kirk Gibson is remembered for his one at bat in the 1988 World Series. Bill Buckner is remembered as a human wicket to all baseball fans. Don Larsen stands alone in history after his perfecto in '56. Everyone knows about Babe Ruth and the called shot. Joe Carter hitting a homer to end a Series and essentially Mitch Williams' career in 1991 was fantastic. Don't forget the Yankees last year, either. The best team ever? Of course, check the books.

October is the month of baseball that memories are made. This is where every game counts.

Matt Hurst is the Daily Nexus editor in chief.

The UCSB men's soccer team avoided entering league play with a two-game losing streak by defeating the Spartans of #20 San Jose State 1-0 at Harder Stadium on Saturday night. The victory avenged last season's 3-0 loss to SJSU (3-4-2), boosting the team's overall record to 7-3.

Before Saturday's game, Gaucho Head Coach Tim Vom Steeg stressed that the importance of the game was twofold. First, a matchup

with a program of San Jose State's caliber offered Vom Steeg a chance to gauge the strength of his own team. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the game would test the character of a Gaucho team that had to compete without its main scorer, Thiago Martins, who was sidelined with a one-game suspension as a result of a red card on Sept. 26 versus Irvine.

"We're going to have some tough games against nationally ranked teams," said Vom Steeg before the game. "This season, when we struggle it's because teams are playing harder than us, and that's not something you want to do against a top-25 team. [The loss of Martins on]Sunday set us back a bit, but without him we can test **Chris Schwandt** 

#### where the team is really at."

In the first half of Saturday's game, neither team clearly dominated the other for the first 45 minutes, but it was the Spartans who dictated much of the action, controlling the ball and spending most of their time in Gaucho territory. However, no player from either side managed to get a good look at the goal and the game went into halftime as a scoreless tie.

"At halftime, [Vom Steeg] told us they were getting tired," sopho-

half and went as hard as we could.

In the second half of the contest, UCSB came out much more controlled and focused, and as the half wore on the Gauchos wore down San Jose, slowly taking the game's momentum away from them with crisp passes and superior ball control.

With 34:27 left in the half, sophomore forward Jaime Ambriz freed himself of the Spartan defenders and angled a shot from the right of the penalty hash that easily found the back of the net, well beyond the reach

of SJSU goalkeeper Gilbert Vega.

After the Gauchos had the lead, the Spartans were finished off by the strength of the defense, which earned its third shutout of the year in the 1-0 victory. The UCSB defense has allowed only 1.3 goals a game, and has been one of the team's strong points, according to junior midfielder Chris Schwandt.

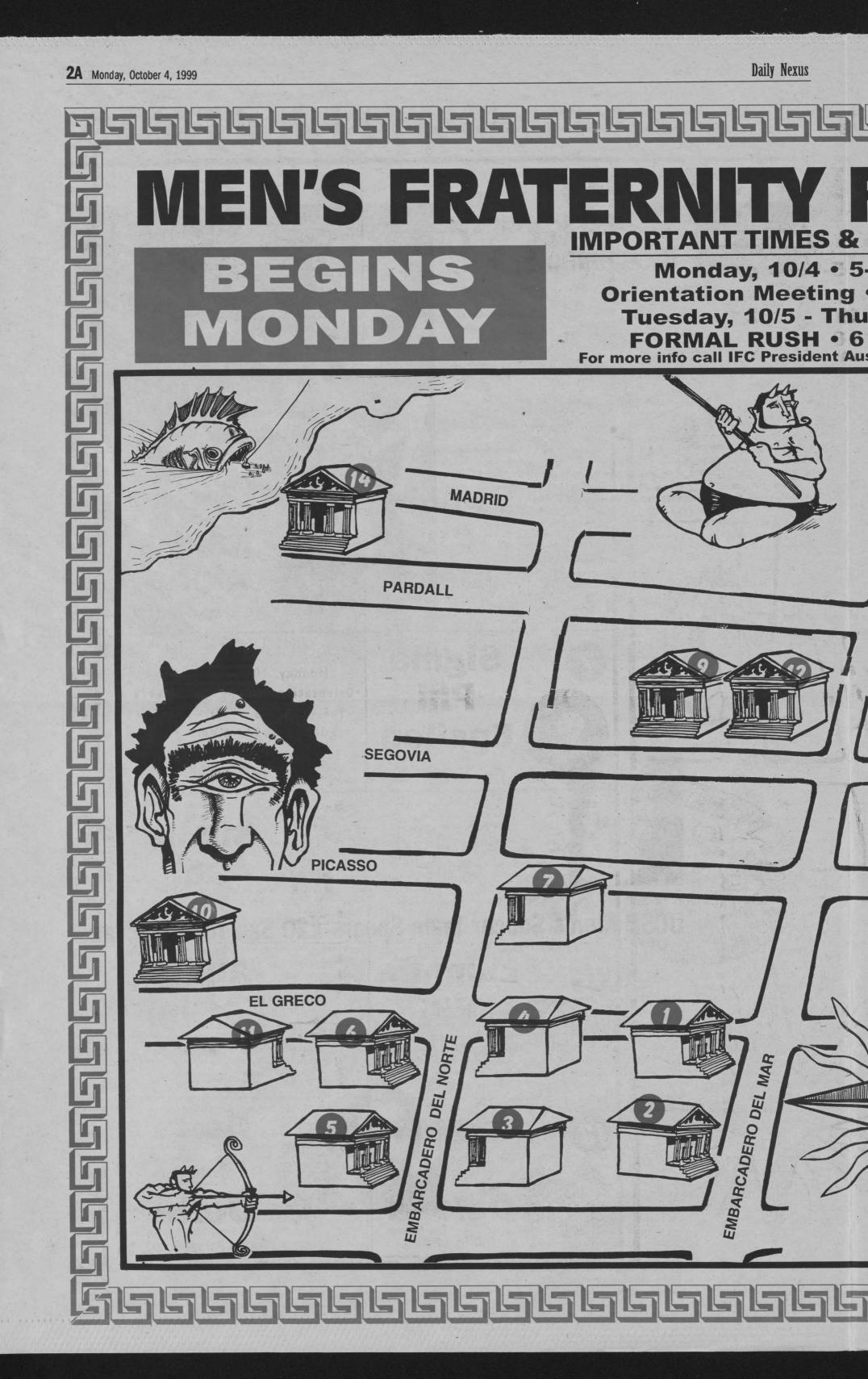
"Our defense has been solid all year," Schwandt said. "We just have a winning attitude now that's been brought here by the new players and our new coach."

UCSB will not have much time to savor its victory, however. The Gauchos must now prepare for a weekend road trip through Southern California, where their Mountain Pacific Sports Federation league schedule

begins with games against two powerhouse programs, Cal State Fullerton and UCLA.

"Ideally, you play tough teams like Fullerton and UCLA early in the season," Vom Steeg said. "It was good for the team to get some wins against softer competition, but now it gets tougher. I'm asking players to step up. We know that if we can put two good halves together, we can win any of the games that we play."





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