

Sports *TUESDAY*



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

FREE FOR ALL: Senior Tawnée Cooper and junior Nicole Greathouse scramble for a loose ball in the UCSB women's basketball team's first weekend of Big West conference play.

UCSB Poses Little Threat to NMSU

BY MARVIN GAPULTOS
Staff Writer

A nationally televised men's basketball game on ESPN2 Saturday night brought out all the crazies to cheer on the home team. Unfortunately for the UCSB men's basketball team, the game wasn't at the Thunderdome.

8,315 fans filled the Pan American Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and helped the New Mexico State Aggies (11-3 overall, 2-0 in the Big West Conference) to a 76-61 victory over the Gauchos (4-9, 0-2). The Aggies, who are undefeated at home this season, were fueled by a first-half 21-2 run and never looked back.

"I think we were ready to play," UCSB Head Coach Bob Williams said. "New Mexico is just a well-oiled team hitting on all cylinders. They have four players returning from a team that went to the NCAA tournament [last year]. It's going to be very tough for us to beat them on their home court."

Aggie guards Eric Channing and Billy Keys kept the New Mexico machine running all night, as they poured in 26 and 21 points, respectively. In particular, the duo shot the lights out in the first half. Channing went 6-7 from the floor with 16 points while Keys finished the first half 6-9 from the floor with 14 points.

"For about 30 minutes, we played about as well as you could play," NMSU

Head Coach Lou Henson said. "We played solid defense."

However, Santa Barbara put some runs of its own together in the second half of action, capitalizing on a 12-0 run to close to 44-32. Keys stopped the Gaucho run with a three-pointer. The Gauchos' momentum was slowed even more when Williams was called for a technical foul after a sideline skirmish with the Aggies' Mikko Noopila. Williams took exception when Noopila had knocked the ball out of his hands after it had rolled to him out of bounds. Another bucket by Keys pushed NMSU's lead to 53-32.

New Mexico continued to distance itself from UCSB as it lead 64-40 with just 8:49 left to play. But the Gauchos refused to give up and outscored the Aggies 21-16 to cut the lead to just nine at 70-61. Freshman forward Mark Hull and junior forward Adama Ndiaye led Santa Barbara with 10 points apiece. Ndiaye also pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds. Senior guard Derrick Allen chipped in with six points and 10 boards. However, the Gauchos just could not muster enough points to overcome the Aggies' high-powered offense.

"We made some nice runs in the second half," Williams said. "We were scrappy and played with a little more guts. We got some great play from Adama and Hull. It was a much better performance than the first half."

The Gauchos will host Utah State this Thursday at the Thunderdome at 7 p.m.

Gauchos Coast to Easy Wins in League Openers at T-Dome

BY MATT HURST
Staff Writer

The state of Idaho is best known for its plethora of potatoes, and it was the #17 UCSB women's basketball team that dished up two helpings of spuds this past weekend.

The Gauchos opened Big West play at the Thunderdome, defending their current seven-game win streak, 16-game home winning streak and three straight Big West championships. After the games vs. Boise State on Friday

and Idaho on Sunday, Santa Barbara extended the first two streaks to a nine-game winning streak and 18 straight at the 'Dome, and it appears that the Gauchos (13-3 overall, 2-0 in the Big West) are well on their way to their fourth-consecutive Big West title.

"We're just getting better," junior Rachelle Rogers said after Friday's game. "Everyone else [in the Big West] is getting better, and so are we."

The Gauchos trounced BSU on Friday night, 99-72, with the help of some thievery. UCSB picked the Broncos' pockets 17 times en route to the 29 turnovers Boise (8-7, 1-1) handed out. Santa Barbara hit 51.4 percent of its shots led by junior Erin Buescher's 19. Buescher also grabbed 10 rebounds on her way to her 35th double-double.

"Erin is gradually get-

ting her shooting touch back and climbing all over the offensive boards," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said.

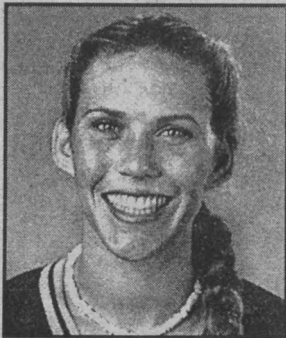
Senior Stacy Cline-smith also recorded a double-double, but it was her 12 assists and 12 points that gave her the double digits.

"It's easy being a point guard when you have such great teammates," Cline-smith said. "Anybody can put it in for us."

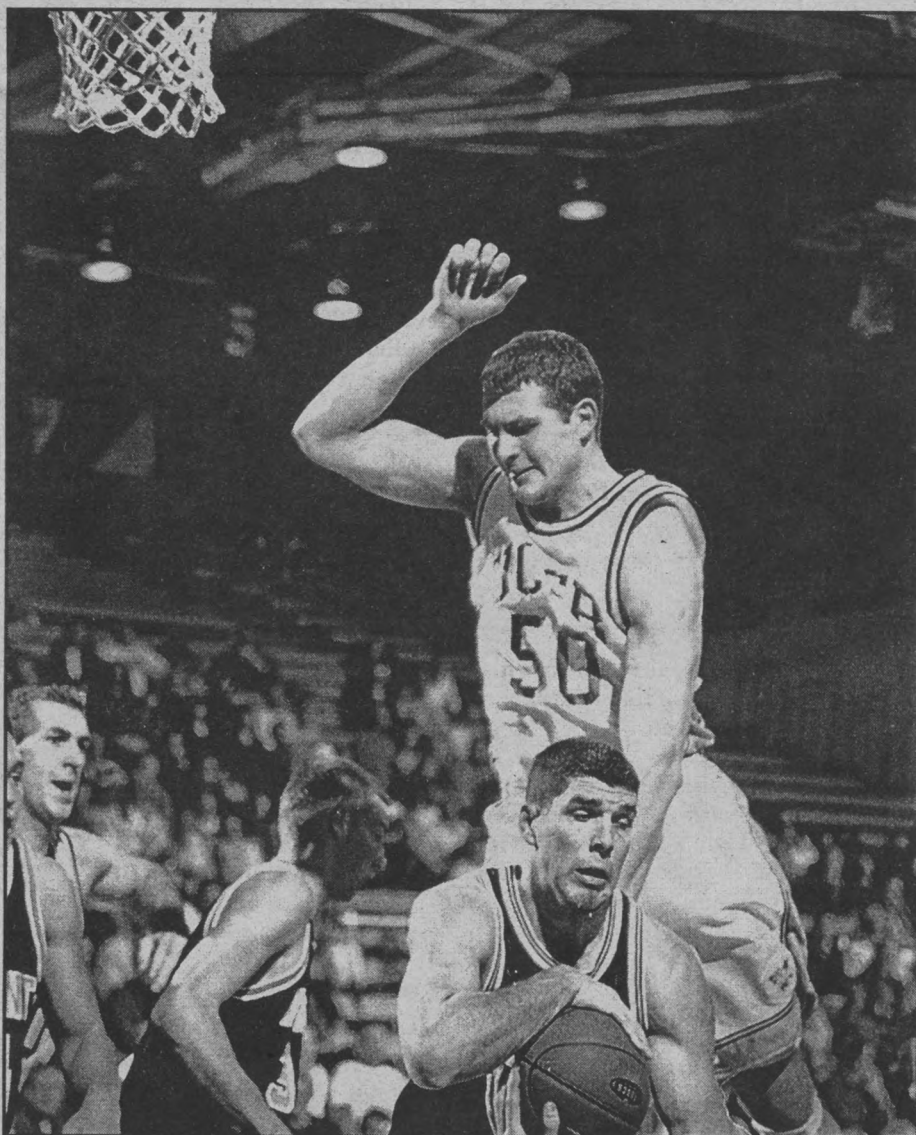
And most everybody did. Senior Tawnée Cooper, who scored 20 points in last Sunday's 89-59 thrashing of Loyola Marymount, scored 17, and freshman Jess Hansen scored a career-high 14 points, 12 coming on her four three-pointers, while Rogers added 11 points of her own.

"They're an incredibly tough team to stop with

See IDAHO, p.3A



Erin Buescher



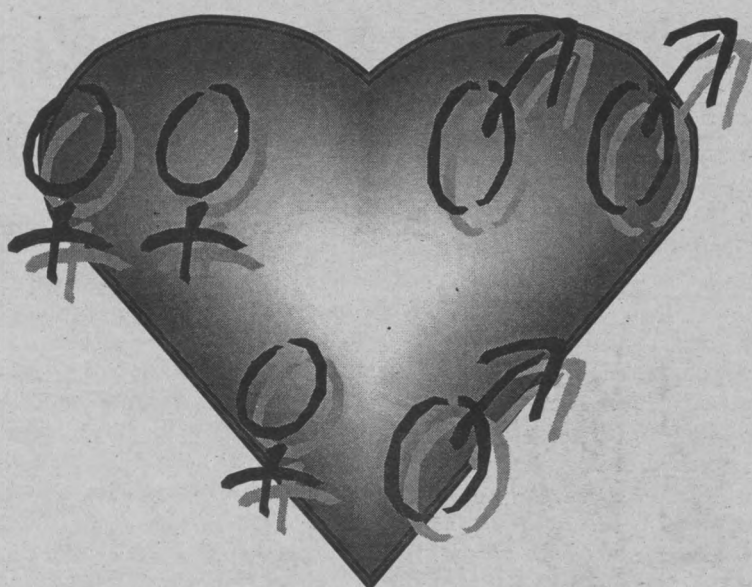
JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

WHERE'S MY SADDLE? Junior forward Juliano Jordani gets aggressive under the hoop, but it was New Mexico State that was all over the UCSB men's basketball team Saturday night.

Sporting Events Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
No events scheduled	Women's tennis @ USC 1:30 p.m. Men's volleyball @ UC Irvine 7 p.m.	No events scheduled	Women's basketball @ North Texas 5 p.m. Men's basketball vs. Utah State Thunderdome 7 p.m.	Men's volleyball vs. Manitoba Thunderdome 7 p.m.	Women's tennis vs. UC Davis 1 p.m. Women's swimming vs. UNLV/San Diego 2 p.m. Men's basketball vs. Nevada Thunderdome 7 p.m. Women's gymnastics vs. Boise State 7 p.m.	No events scheduled

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Leopards Skinned by Santa Barbara in First Official Match of the Season

BY BRITTANY LANGAN
Staff Writer

When it rains, it pours.

The UCSB men's volleyball team drenched the University of La Verne with a storm of spikes and kills Saturday night in the Thunderdome. In their first official game of the season, the Gauchos (1-0 overall) poured all over the Leopards' hopes of winning, beating them in three games 15-5, 15-4, and 15-5.

"We had [La Verne] the whole time," sophomore setter Britt Galang said. "It was our first game of the season and we didn't know how everyone was going to react with the crowd. After the first few plays we settled down and had a really good game."

"In the beginning we hit two balls out of bounds," senior middle blocker Andy Tomkinson added. "We were a little over-enthusiastic. It took us a moment to relax and get into the groove of the game but once we did it was confidence-building and we did great."

The Gauchos began their season in front of a crowd of 343 at the Thunderdome, and easily disposed of the visiting Leopards in only 90 minutes.

"It was a good opening match for us," UCSB Head Coach Ken Preston said. "It's a good lead-in when we go on the road Tuesday for our first conference match against Irvine."

On Saturday, senior opposite Kevin Collins led the team with 22 kills and a

hitting percentage of .558. Along with Collins, sophomore outside hitter Andy Rivera held his own with 13 kills and a hitting percentage of .375, and led the team in defensive digs with seven.

"Andy had a good game," junior libero Shane Johnston said. "He passed steadily and was hitting really well. He had a good all around game."

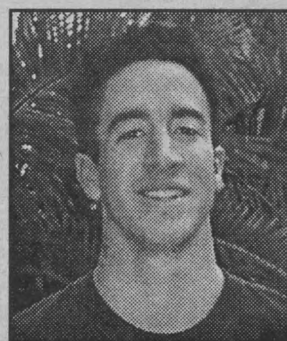
The Gauchos overpowered the Leopards in almost every aspect except serving, where they made 17 serving errors. Santa Barbara sliced up La Verne in kills, 68-35, defensive digs with 33-26 and blocks with 18-6 to compensate for their shortcomings on the serve.

"Our middle blockers hit very well," said Galang, referring to junior Wes Badorek and Tomkinson. "They were up on every ball, up on every play, and they had a high hitting percentage."

Last weekend in tournament play, the Gauchos blew past La Verne 15-1, 15-7, and 15-5, in addition to beating Cal Baptist and Arizona. But UCSB couldn't keep up with Stanford and lost to the Cardinal 15-3, 15-2, and 15-12, earning a fifth-place finish.

"Our season is going good," Tomkinson said. "We are playing at a good level; our enthusiasm is up. The players and coaches are optimistic about the season. We are going in with a good attitude and we're excited about it, our team can accomplish a lot this year."

See V-BALL, p.3A



Andy Tomkinson

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V-BALL

Continued from p. 1A

Santa Barbara is pitted against UC Irvine on Tuesday in its first Mountain Pacific Sports Federation league game. The Gauchos tested the waters earlier this year against the Anteaters and slid past them in close volleyball play.

"Irvine is our first big game,"

Tomkinson said. "We haven't faced much opposition so far this season, and they are another team that plays at a high level. It will be a good test for us."

"We have the same game plan (on Tuesday) as we did against La Verne," Galang added. "We have to make sure everyone is involved and see that passers are getting good passes in."

IDAHO

Continued from p. 1A

their combination of three-point shooters and their inside game," BSU Head Coach Trisha Stevens said. "I thought we did a nice job on their inside game ... but give Jess Hansen a three, and she's going to knock it down."

Senior Stephanie Block led the Broncos with 24 points, but it wasn't enough, although Boise out-rebounded UCSB 41-40, and outscored Santa Barbara 20-8 at one point in the first half.

"We got out-rebounded and they shot 47 percent from the floor," French said. "I thought Boise pushed the ball harder than we did. ... They're figuring us out ... I'm glad Block's a senior."

UCSB kept on rolling through the Idaho schools when, on Sunday, Idaho came to the Thunderdome, fresh off a 71-59 victory over Cal Poly on Friday. But, the Gauchos could care less as they ran up the score on the Vandals in the first half, scoring 66 points for a new school record. The old record was 61 vs. Cal Poly in 1998. At the half, the score was 66-25.

But, while the Thunderdome crowd was wondering just how high the Gauchos could fly, they were shot down by Idaho, who outscored them 41-18 in the final 14 plus minutes. Even though Santa Barbara won easily 95-69, the lapse of the second half could be something to worry about.

"That was certainly one of the best halves we've put together," French said

about the first 20 minutes of play. "Idaho's a pretty good team. They showed that in the second half. A lot of teams would have rolled over."

The Vandals (8-7, 1-1) had nowhere to go but up after their miserable half, where at one point, they were down 29-2. But a part of that was that senior scoring sensation Alli Nieman was on the bench with three fouls for most of the first half. She returned in round two to contribute 15 of UI's final 25 points.

Once again Buescher led the Gauchos with 20 points and also dished six dimes. UCSB had five players score in double figures, with senior Kristi Rohr and Cooper each putting in 12, sophomore Kayte Christensen contributing 11 and junior Nicole Greathouse adding 10. Freshman Debby Caine, — whose counterpart Jess Hansen scored her career-high the previous game — showed she could light it up with her career-high of eight points. Clinesmith also dished six assists to give her 18 in two conference games.

But, after the huge win, it left French and his coaching staff shaking their heads trying to figure out how to get a full 40 minutes from their team.

"This isn't a new issue for us," the 13-year coach said. "We've tried everything. We've tried screaming and yelling at half-time. ... The team has to figure out pretty much on their own how to be really good when the only reason to be really good is that they want to be really good."

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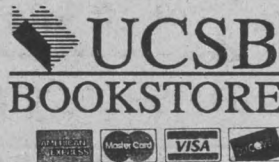


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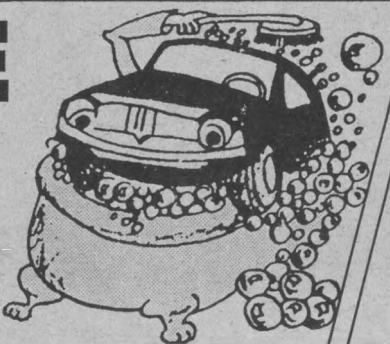
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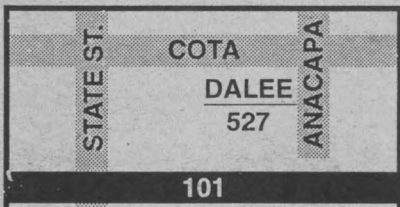


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