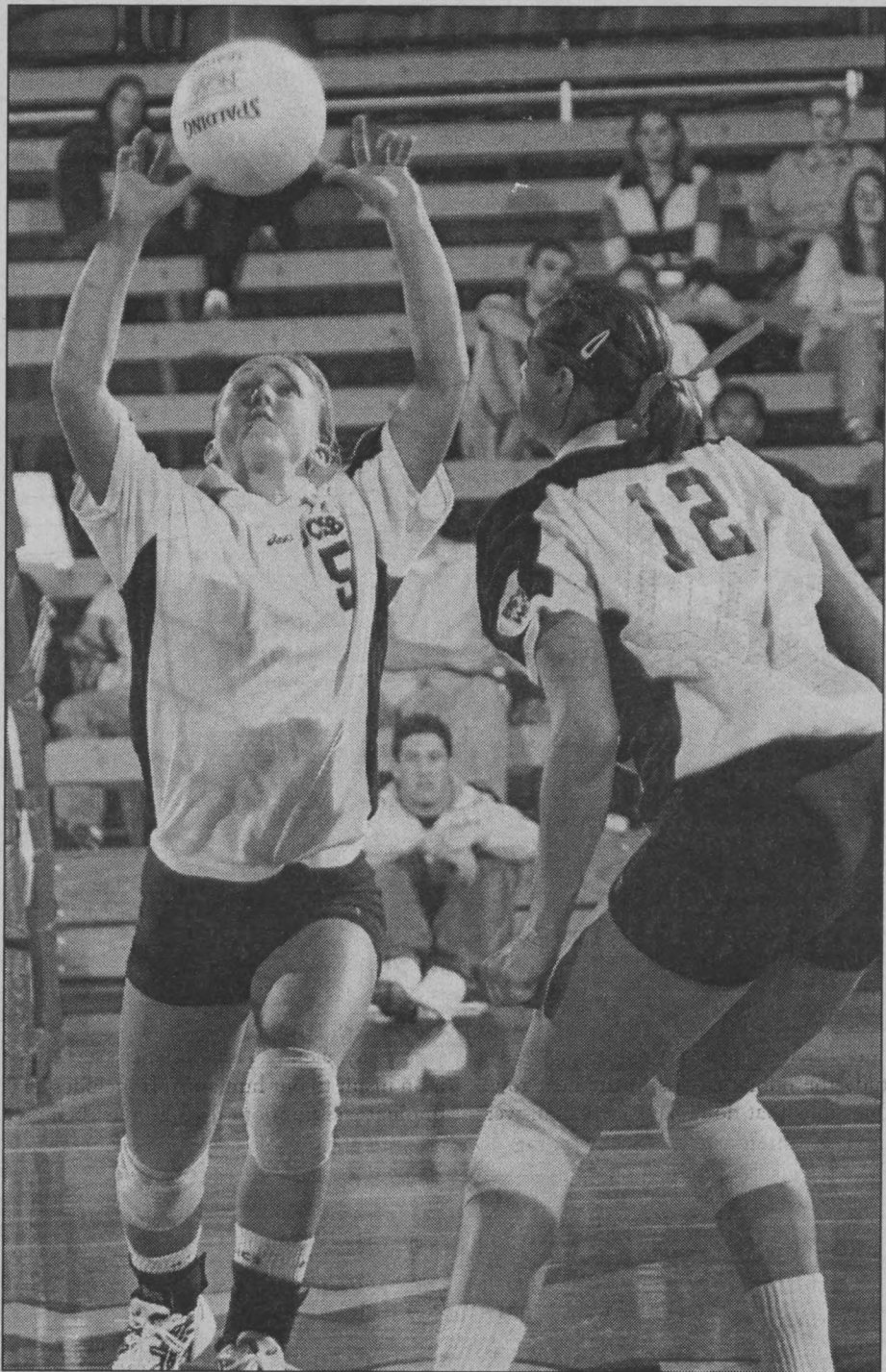


Sports **MONDAY**

GaUCHO Women Trample Anteaters, Forget the Titans



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

Number Five Is Alive: Junior setter Brooke Rundle contributes to the women's two recent victories, moving the volleyball team closer to this year's Big West title.

By **KEITH BUSAM**
Staff Writer

This past weekend, against Big West cellar dwellers UC Irvine and Cal State Fullerton, Santa Barbara women's volleyball fans finally had a chance to see what ugly volleyball looks like.

But it wasn't the Gauchos (22-6 overall, 13-2 in the Big West) who were ugly, for they were able to sweep both the Anteaters and the Titans in three games.

"These are two matches that we are really happy to put behind us," sophomore outside hitter Brooke Niles said after Saturday night's victory. "I know it sounds corny, but anytime you can get a win in league it is big. We only have one more league match left, and if we win and [University of the] Pacific loses, then we win the Big West. That would be huge."

Even with their sights set on the Tigers, UCSB needed to play well to get past Irvine on Friday night to have any hope of winning a league title. Without the services of freshman outside hitter Erica Menzel, Santa Barbara knew it could ill afford a slip up against a team they should beat.

"We knew what we had to do, and we did it," UCSB Head Coach Kathy Gregory said. "They were a great defensive team, but their setting wasn't that good, and we played well. Missy [Blackshire] was great for us, but tonight belonged to Danielle [Bauer]."

Blackshire, who transferred from Washington State this season, has not seen much court time. In the third game she was subbed in and made several key plays resulting in GaUCHO points. Sophomore middle blocker Bauer also bolstered the attack for Santa Barbara with 14 kills and a team-high 16 digs.

It wasn't just Blackshire and Bauer playing well against Irvine (8-16, 1-12). Everyone got into the act for the Gauchos, including outside hitters Courtney Guerra and Brianna Lampe.

Both players had nine kills with no errors for the match. With those two playing well, along with Niles and Menzel, when she returns from her injury, UCSB will have four very good outside hitters in their arsenal for the upcoming NCAA Tournament.

The result of the all-around performance by the Gauchos was a 15-2, 15-8, 15-6 romp of the Anteaters.

Although Saturday night's match was against a different team, it may as well have been a replay of the Irvine match. With the exception of a better setter and a better offense, the match against Cal State Fullerton (9-18, 3-10) was almost identical to that of the previous evening. Santa Barbara dictated the flow of the game and won in three straight sets.

"We had some big leads, and we gave them up," Gregory said, "but I am glad that we won. We need to stop letting teams back into games with offensive errors, and if we can do that, we will be just fine in the tournament."

One of the keys to victory was the serving and defense of freshman Casey McFarland, who had three service aces and made a number of clutch digs in the back court. With her explosive play off of the bench and everyone else playing smart volleyball, UCSB rolled to a 15-6, 15-8, 15-10 sweep.

"I like the way that this team is going right now," junior All-American setter Brooke Rundle said. "We have a lot of confidence, and we are just playing really well."

Gregory reiterated Rundle's sentiments. "Our middles are playing exceptionally, both on offense and defense. So now, our defensive specialists have to play better to get into the games. And we have four good outside hitters and a good setter. ... It is just a great situation for me to be in as a coach. Whoever I put in is going to play well. This team is looking stronger now than it has all season, and this is when we need to peak, heading into the tournament."

'Free' Agents?

Do I hear \$200 million, a corporate jet and Chavez Ravine for my kid's birthday party?

The free agent market officially declared open season on baseball over the weekend, which means as much to most major league teams as a vote in Florida. Baseball insiders predict that shortstop Alex Rodriguez will shatter this year's market by signing a \$200 million deal, a price tag that most teams' gold cards simply won't approve.

Only the Yankees, Dodgers, Mets, Red Sox, Braves and Orioles even dare consider such a splurge. Years of salary inflation have dramatically changed the face of baseball to the point that the pool of teams in the majors has evolved into two extremes: those with shallow bank accounts, and those with deep pockets.

Small-market franchises run their teams prudently and carefully; they fix their problems by developing players, making trades and firing incompetent personnel. In contrast, big market franchises expect that merely throwing money at

problems will fix everything.

Last year, it was Shawn Green at \$84 million. The year before, it was Kevin Brown at \$100 million. (The Dodgers signed both players, and *still* didn't make the playoffs.)

The problem of salary inflation has plagued baseball since the dawn of free agency and has been the root of player strikes that have deeply bruised the sport. The problem is not the players; Alex Rodriguez will not be holding a pistol to Yankees' boss George Steinbrenner's head when he receives a \$220 million offer from the World Champions.

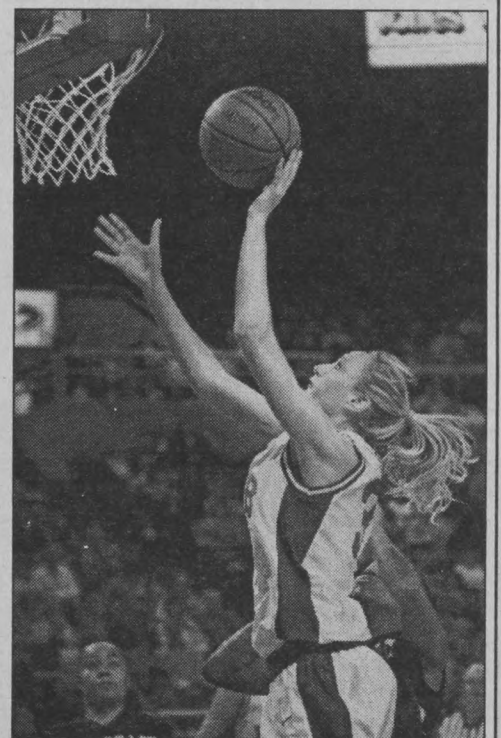
Teams like the Dodgers and Diamondbacks, who are naïve enough to believe that a high payroll translates to a trophy, are the source of the problem. Small-market teams can only stand helpless and watch as these teams throw their Monopoly money at players and inflate salaries every year.

Countless people have said that baseball has changed from a sport to a business. Big market franchises must realize that to win at the sport, you have to run a good business.

Jerry Beers is the Daily Nexus training editor and makes the league minimum.

For Love or Basketball, Check Out the Gauchos

If you miss the international rivalry of the Olympics, check out guard Rachele Rogers (pictured) and the UCSB women's basketball team tonight at 7 in the Thunderdome as they take on the Chinese National Team in their final exhibition game. The GaUCHO ladies (aka the returning Big West champs) powered through last season with a 26-game winning streak. Led by Head Coach Mark French, Santa Barbara hopes to secure its sixth consecutive Big West title.



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Women's Basketball vs. Chinese National Team 7 p.m. Thunderdome | Men's Basketball vs. California All-Stars 7 p.m. Thunderdome | No events scheduled | No events scheduled | Women's Volleyball @ Cal Poly SLO 7 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Louisville @ Lincoln, Nebraska 7:35 p.m. | Men's Water Polo vs. UC Irvine 1 p.m. Campus Pool | Men's Basketball @ Pepperdine 1 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Nebraska/Oakland @ Lincoln, Nebraska TBA |

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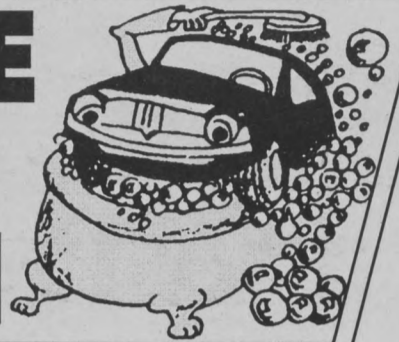
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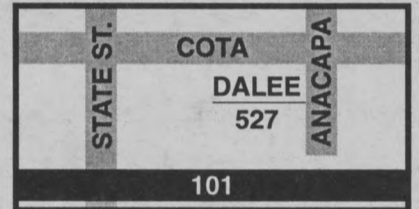


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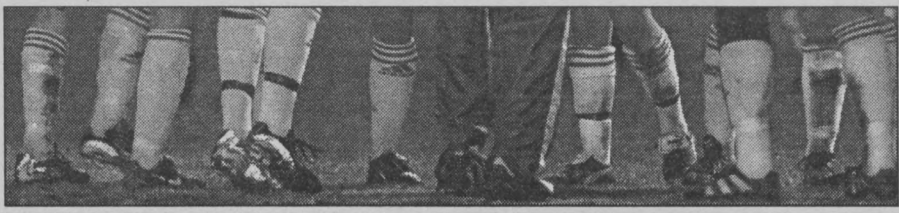
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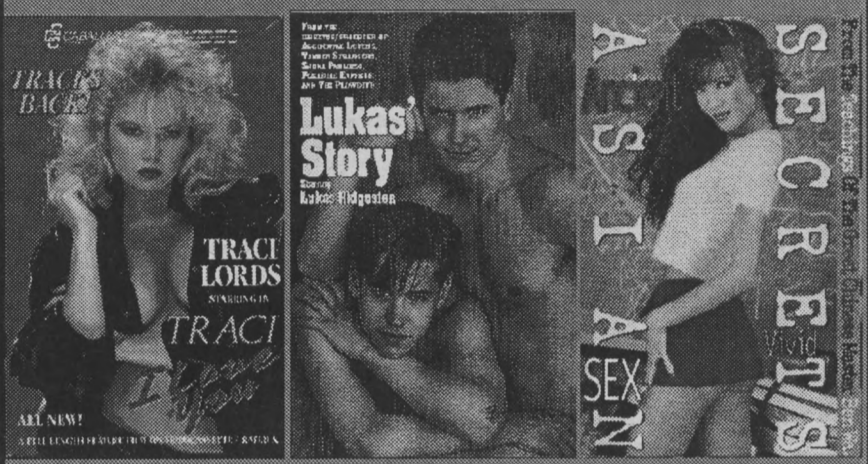
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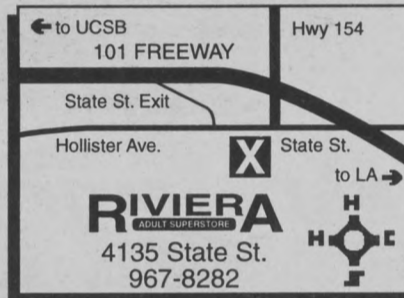
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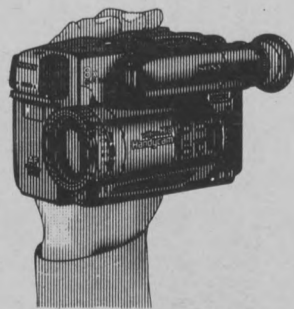
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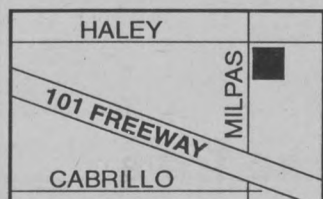
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Men's Home Schedule

| | | | |
|------|-------|--------------------|------|
| Tue | 11/14 | Cal All-Stars | 7:00 |
| Tue | 11/21 | U of San Francisco | 7:00 |
| Sat | 12/2 | Westmont | 7:00 |
| Wed | 12/6 | San Diego State | 7:00 |
| Sat | 12/9 | USC | 7:00 |
| Sat | 12/30 | Loyola Marymount | 7:00 |
| Thur | 1/4 | Boise State | 7:00 |
| Thur | 1/18 | Long Beach State# | 9:00 |
| Thur | 1/25 | UC Irvine% | 5:30 |
| Sat | 1/27 | Fullerton | 7:00 |
| Thur | 2/8 | Idaho | 7:00 |
| Sat | 2/10 | Cal Poly | 7:00 |
| Thur | 2/15 | Utah State | 7:00 |
| Sat | 2/17 | UC Riverside | 7:00 |
| Sat | 2/24 | Pacific# | 3:00 |

ESPN % Fox Sports 2

GAUCHO LOCO INFORMATION!

1. Find the Gaucho Loco table at *EVERY* Men's and Women's Basketball home game near the student entrance to sign up or get your card stamped.
 2. Remember that the table closes precisely at *7:05 pm*, five minutes after the start of the game.
 3. Those of you that have not signed up this year, join the club for only \$5, and get your card stamped at each event you attend, and here's what you could win!
 - The OFFICIAL Gaucho Loco tshirt
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 - Bus trips to UCLA and Cal Poly
 - Free movie rentals
 - Harbor cruise at the end of the season
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The Cheerleading squad and the UCSB Pep Band are back and better than ever, and they are always looking for new members. Both groups get the chance to entertain thousands of fans at Men's and Women's Basketball home games, as well as a trip to the Big West Tournament in March. Call 893-8380 if you are interested!

READ MIE!

Ticket Distribution Info

Tickets for all Men's home Basketball games will be distributed on the day of or the day before each game. For instance, Thursday night game tickets will be distributed on Thursday, and Saturday night games will be distributed Friday.

Ticket distribution will be held in front of the UCen from 12-1:30 p.m., or until tickets are all gone.

Each student can receive (2) tickets to each game with their valid Access card.

Note: You DO NOT have to get your tickets during ticket distribution. You can always walk up to the door and get in for free, but by getting your tickets early you will guarantee yourself a seat.

Ticket distribution is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for the games against; USC, Long Beach State, UC Irvine, Cal Poly, and Pacific.

Women's Home Schedule

| | | | |
|------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Mon | 11/13 | Kilsyth | 7:00 |
| Sun | 11/26 | Arizona | 2:00 |
| Sun | 12/17 | Northwestern | 2:00 |
| Thur | 12/28 | Virginia | 7:00 |
| Sun | 12/31 | Kansas | 2:00 |
| Wed | 1/3 | UNLV | 7:00 |
| Sat | 1/13 | Cal Poly | 7:00 |
| Fri | 1/26 | Boise State | 7:00 |
| Sun | 1/28 | Idaho | 12:00 |
| Wed | 2/14 | UC Irvine | 7:00 |
| Wed | 2/21 | Fullerton | 7:00 |
| Thur | 3/1 | Pacific | 7:00 |
| Sat | 3/3 | Long Beach State | 7:00 |

NATIONAL TV RETURNS TO THE DOME!

Yes, ESPN is BACK! This year Gaucho Basketball is on National TV 6 times this season! Here is the schedule of the games.

| | | | |
|-------|-------|------------------|-------------|
| Home: | | | |
| Sat | 1/18 | Long Beach State | ESPN 9:00p |
| Thur | 1/25 | UC Irvine | FSW2 5:30p |
| Sat | 2/24 | Pacific | ESPN2 3:00p |
| Away: | | | |
| Sun | 11/19 | @ Pepperdine | FSW2 3:00 |
| Wed | 11/29 | @ UCLA | FSW2 7:30 |
| Thur | 2/1 | @ Long Beach | FSW2 7:30 |