

SPORTS MONDAY

Daily Nexus

March 30, 1992

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POSTSEASON BASKETBALL

Women Lose to Stanford, Win Respect in NCAAs

Lady Gauchos Beaten by #3 Cardinal 82-73 In Second Round of Tourney

By Scott McPherson
Staff Writer

STANFORD — It was the ultimate opportunity for respect: the UCSB women's basketball team, which despite its outstanding season had been consistently snubbed in the national rankings, found itself in the second round of the NCAA tournament pitted against Stanford — ranked third in the nation. Not only would UCSB have to face its toughest opponent of the year, but the March 21 game would be played in Stanford's home gymnasium, where the Cardinal had won 75 of its previous 77 games.

The challenge proved to be too much for 25th-ranked UCSB, as Stanford was able to win 82-73 before more than 7,100 fans at Palo Alto and hand the Lady Gauchos their exit from the tournament. However, by giving heavily favored Stanford a tough game, the underdogs from Santa Barbara made their point: they belonged in the top-25, in the NCAA tournament and among the best teams in the country.

They got their respect.

Although Stanford (26-3), the top seed in the western region, was expected by most to cruise over ninth-seeded UCSB (27-5), the Lady Gauchos had something else in mind.

"I don't think any of us were intimidated by Stanford at all," UCSB's Barbara Beainy said. "We really thought we were going to win coming into this game."

Stanford was able to jump out in front 13-4 after five minutes, but just when it seemed the Cardinal would run away with the game, UCSB responded by narrowing the score to 14-11. For the remainder of the first half, the Lady Gauchos stayed within a few points of the lead despite early foul trouble for UCSB's starters. Beainy sank a 16-foot jumper with 56 seconds remaining in the first half to pull her team within five, but Stanford scored five points in the remaining seconds to take a 42-32 halftime advantage.

UCSB Head Coach Mark French indicated that he wasn't worried about being down by 10 points at the half, since his team had been able to overcome large deficits over the course of the year.

"We've been in some pretty scary situations," French said. "I wasn't really concerned about (our team) coming back, but I was concerned about our depth."

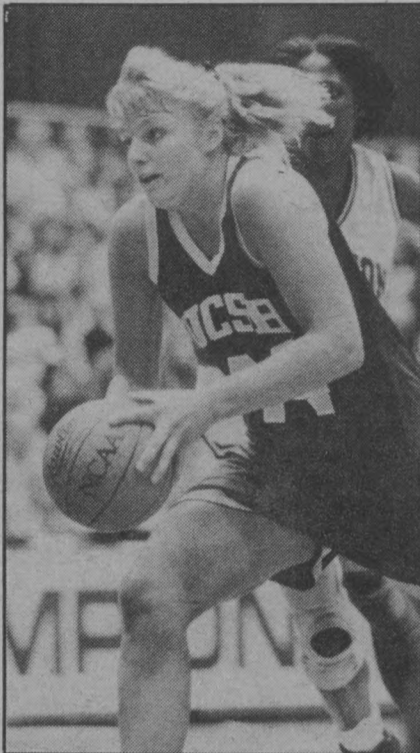
Depth was indeed a problem for the Lady Gauchos, who because of injuries had only eight players dressed for the game. The early foul trouble UCSB experienced also forced French to limit his substitutions.

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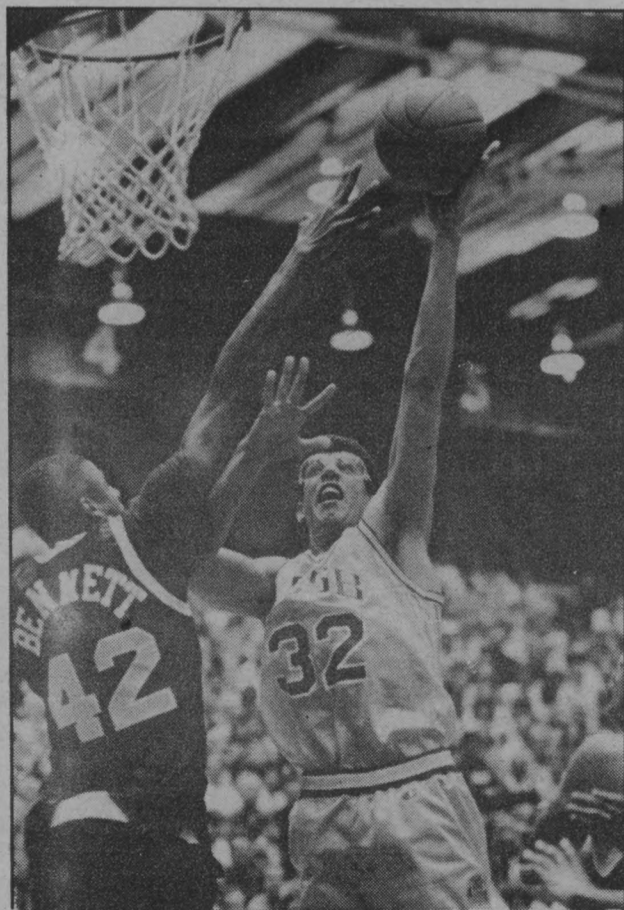


Stellar performances by junior Cori Close, above, and seniors Erika Kienast, right, and Barbara Beainy, below, helped lead the Lady Gauchos past the University of Houston in their first-round NCAA championship game.

DAVID ROSEN/Daily Nexus



Men's Basketball Season Ends After First Round Loss in NIT



CHRIS FITZ/Daily Nexus

Big West Freshman of the Year Doug Muse throws up a baby hook against ASU freshman phenom Mario Bennett.

By Josh Elliott
Staff Writer

The chance at redemption seemed too good to be true for the UCSB men's basketball team March 15, when the Gauchos received word that their season would live on past their ignominious 88-67 loss to UC Irvine in the first round of the Big West Tournament two days earlier.

The team learned that they had been selected to go up against the Arizona State Sun Devils in the 32-team National Invitation Tournament, giving them a chance to reprieve themselves from the Irvine debacle. To top it off, the game would be played in front of the home folks, something that had been viewed as a virtual impossibility due to the relatively small size of the 6,000-seat Thunderdome.

But what would have been a chance for the Gauchos to regain respect both for themselves and the Big West Conference — a win over the Pac-10's ASU could serve no better purpose — instead fizzled into a fire sale of sorts, as the Gauchos gave away the game, and their season, to the Sun Devils down the stretch, losing 71-65 before a near-capacity Thunderdome crowd of 5,769.

Unable to find Big West Player of the Year Lucius Davis in the game's final minutes, and unable to deal with ASU's full-court press in the waning moments, UCSB saw a late lead vanish into the six-

point final deficit.

The loss brought to a close Santa Barbara's year with a 20-9 record, but also served a painful reminder of a season that almost was.

Senior forward and team captain Davis ended his Gaucho career with 26 points and six rebounds, but it came in one more home game than he wished to play. His desire for an NCAA Tournament berth undone after the Irvine upset, he had hoped for a strong run in the NIT.

"Basically, we self-destructed," Davis said. "Not to take anything away from Arizona State, because they're a very, very good basketball team. But they put their press on us and we self-destructed. We simply didn't handle it very well. We've been handling the press well all year, but not tonight. They basically took the game away from us."

ASU Head Coach Bill Frieder was equally impressed with his team. "We're a building program — I mean, we're young — and we beat a veteran team on their floor. It was a good, good victory from our standpoint."

The Gauchos, on the strength of 17 first-half points from Davis were able to forge a 32-29 halftime lead, and then traded baskets with the Sun Devils for the majority of the second half.

With 7:43 remaining, however, Davis intercepted a pass, fed point guard Ray Kelly, and sent the crowd into a frenzy with a monster dunk that gave the

See LOSS, p.2A

Swimming

Peoples Wins Big at NCAA Final Meet

By Ross French
Staff Writer

Upon entering the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships at Indianapolis, many people questioned the identity of UCSB junior Glenn Peoples. UCLA coach Don Ballatore quickly quelled the questioning, though as he told everyone within earshot, "He's Glenn Peoples from Santa Barbara, and he's damn fast."

In the end, it was Peoples himself who made his identity known, earning All-American honors in the 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard backstroke.

Friday, Peoples finished second in the 400 with a time of 3:46.35, only 34 hundredths of a second behind Southern Methodist's Jeff Vance. According to Head Coach Gregg Wilson, the race was neck and neck until the final turn, where Vance "came out as if he was shot out of a cannon," breaking into a lead over Peoples.

"If he (Peoples) had had 10 more yards he would have caught him," Wilson said. "He just didn't get the turn. ... He was one turn off of the perfect swim."

"The crowd certainly got their money's worth, though," he added.

The time shattered Peoples' own record of 3:50.42, and was the fifth fastest time ever recorded in collegiate swimming. The second-place finish also marked the highest individual UCSB placement in any NCAA championship sporting event since Don Roth won the 100-yard freestyle at the 1966 national championships.

Peoples set another school record on Saturday in his qualification for the 200. His time of 1:58.31, eclipsed the previous mark of 1:59 set by UCSB Olympian Richard Schroeder in 1985. In the finals, Peoples finished seventh overall with a time of 1:58.45. Senior Greg Latta finished 19th with a time of 2:01.24.

Latta earned Honorable Mention All-American honors with a 16th-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley, but finished a disappointing 24th in the 100-yard breast stroke. Senior Kurt Chambliss finished 18th in the 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 15:23.66, topping the time he recorded the two previous years.

In the diving competition, senior Pat Kaufmann finished 35th in the three-meter and 32nd in the one-meter events.

Big West Tournament

Women Take the Title, Men Ousted by UCI in Opener

Women's Tournament

First Round: UCSB 86 — Cal St. Fullerton 59

The UCSB women's basketball team opened the Big West conference tournament on March 11 at the Long Beach Sports Arena against Cal State Fullerton. UCSB, the top seed in the tournament, stomped Fullerton 86-59 to advance to the second round. Four Lady Gauchos scored in double figures, led by Lisa Crosskey's 19 points. Becky Brown tallied 18 points while grabbing a team-high 11 rebounds, while Barbara Beainy added 14 points and Erika Kienast chipped in 13.

Second Round: UCSB 80 — University of Hawaii 75

The Lady Gauchos overcame a five-point halftime deficit to defeat 21st-ranked Hawaii 80-75 in the tournament semifinals on March 12, earning UCSB its first-ever spot in the finals. The Lady Gauchos went up for good on a 21-6 run with 11 minutes remaining, eclipsing a seven-point Hawaii lead. Kienast was the game's dominant player, registering game-highs with 15 rebounds and 26 points, including 14 of 16 shooting from the free-throw line. Brown scored 16 and added nine rebounds for UCSB. Crosskey added 10 points.

Final: UCSB 68 — Long Beach St. 60

The Lady Gauchos completed their tremendous run through the conference tournament by defeating reigning champion Long Beach State 68-60 in the March 14 final, scoring UCSB's first-ever postseason basketball title and earning an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

Long Beach established a nine-point lead midway through the first half, but the Lady Gauchos came back to take a 35-29 advantage at halftime. UCSB struggled offensively in the second, but led once again by Kienast, the Lady Gauchos were able to hold on for their third victory of the season over the 49ers.

Kienast led all players with 22 points and 14 rebounds, garnering the tournament's MVP award. Beainy poured in 18 points, while Brown — named to the All-Tournament team — grabbed 10 rebounds to go with her six points.

The win upped UCSB's record to 26-4 overall, 19-2 on the year against Big West opponents.

Men's Tournament

First Round: UC Irvine 88 — UCSB 67

Entering the Big West Tournament as the top-seeded team for the first time in school history was looked upon as perhaps an omen of things to come, most notably a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

And in the end, the seeding was an omen — of the biggest upset in the history of the tournament.

Facing a 6-21 UC Irvine team that it had beaten twice during the regular season, the Gauchos were the victims of a huge 88-67 upset by the Anteaters, and now remain the only Big West team never to have advanced to the tournament's championship game.

Senior forward Lucius Davis led the Gauchos with a season-high 30 points, but it was not enough. After scraping its way to a 34-32 halftime advantage, Santa Barbara fell apart in the second half, as they were outscored 16-4 in the first 4:20 after the break and could never recover.

After cutting it to 56-52 with 10:34 left, the Gauchos went cold, and were outscored 32-15 the rest of the way. Jeff Von Lutzow led the way for UCI with 21 points and nine rebounds, while Gerald McDonald had 24 points and five assists.

By Scott McPherson & Josh Elliott

Gaucha Hoopsters, Coaches Awarded Postseason Honors

The UCSB men's and women's basketball programs dominated the postseason Big West Conference awards, taking five of the six major honors named March 11.

Lucius Davis was named Big West Player of the Year after leading both his team and the conference with 21.8 points a game in the regular season. The senior forward also averaged 6.3 rebounds per game, shot 57 percent from the field and 75 percent from the free-throw line.

Gaucha Head Coach Jerry Pimm shared Coach of the Year honors with Nevada-Las Vegas' Jerry Tarkanian. Pimm, in his ninth year at UCSB, guided his team to a 20-7 overall mark and a second-place Big West finish with a 13-5 conference record.

Thunderdome crowd favorite Doug Muse was named the conference's Freshman of the Year. The backup center averaged 5.4 points and 1.4 blocks per game.

Senior forward Barbara Beainy was chosen as the Big West Women's Player of the Year. Beainy averaged 16.2 ppg, while averaging 5.7 rebounds and 3.7 assists a game.

Women's Head Coach Mark French was named the Big West Coach of the Year after guiding his team to a 23-4 overall mark. Under the fifth-year head coach, the Lady Gauchos won their first-ever conference regular season title with a 16-2 Big West mark and won a school-record 26 games.

In addition, senior Gaucha forward Erika Kienast was named the Big West Tournament Most Valuable Player. Kienast scored 61 points for the Gauchos in the three games at the Long Beach Sports Arena.

—Scott McPherson



DAVID ROSEN/Daily Nexus

Junior Becky Brown, right, tries to make Barbara Beainy laugh during a postgame interview following the Lady Gauchos 68-60 victory over Long Beach State in the Big West Championship final.

RESPECT

Continued from p.1A

"I was getting tired," said Beainy, who played the entire game until she fouled out in the final minute. "It would have been nice to get a minute of rest here or there."

The Lady Gauchos were able to cut away at the Stanford lead early in the second half, and when Erika Kienast sank a pair of free throws with 13 minutes remaining, UCSB moved within a point, 49-48. But Stanford then responded with a 17-4 run, and when Becky Brown fouled out with over 11 minutes remaining in the second half, it seemed that all the momentum was going against UCSB.

The Lady Gauchos would simply not go away, however, and when Cori Close converted from three-point range with 3:26 left in

the game, UCSB reduced the Stanford advantage to 71-68. Minutes later though, the Cardinal had reopened a nine-point edge and Kienast fouled out of the game with 23 points.

Lisa Crosskey drilled a three-pointer with 37 seconds on the clock to make the score 79-73 and give the Lady Gauchos one last glimmer of hope. However, the Gauchos were forced to foul the Cardinal in an attempt to catch up, and in doing so, lost both Close and Beainy with five fouls. The disqualifications forced UCSB to go with only four players on the court in the final minute of the game.

Beainy ended the evening with 19 points and eight rebounds, while Crosskey scored 16 and Close added 10 points. Stanford was led by PAC-10 Player of the Year Val Whiting, who tallied 18 points and 17

rebounds.

The strong showing by UCSB impressed many in attendance, including Stanford Head Coach Tara VanDerveer.

"When we went on some runs in the second half they didn't give up," VanDerveer said. "It's a real credit not only to their team but their conference as well."

"We made several nice comebacks," French said after the game. "We played with a lot of heart, a lot of emotion."

UCSB earned the right to face Stanford by defeating 22nd-ranked University of Houston 80-69 on March 18. The game, the first NCAA tournament appearance for the Lady Gauchos, was played before a UCSB Events Center crowd of over 1,800.

Crosskey got the Lady Gauchos going early against the eighth-seeded Cougars, as the senior guard scored

16 of her game-high 22 points in the first half. UCSB led by as much as 16 points in the first period, and headed into halftime leading 41-30. Houston was able to bounce back in the second half, finally narrowing the lead to four points with 55 seconds remaining. Close then put on a free throwing clinic, as the junior guard went to the line four times in the game's final minute and sank all eight shots to wrap up the win.

Close ended the evening with 18 points — including 11 free throws in as many attempts — to go with her six assists. Kienast scored 14 points while grabbing 10 rebounds, and Beainy added 15 points, six boards and four assists. Senior forward LaShawn Johnson — one of four Houston players to score in double figures — led her team with 18 points.

LOSS

Continued from p.1A

Gauchos their last lead at 51-47. As it turned out, it was also their last stand.

Frieder answered by reinserting sophomore Dwayne Fontana into the game to spearhead the full-court, trapping press that would lead to the Gauchos' demise. In the next 2:08, the Gauchos committed five turnovers in their next six possessions, and missed their only shot attempt. The Sun Devils capitalized with a 10-0 streak from a pair of baskets and six free throws for a 57-51 lead.

"The substitution of Fon-

tana back into the game and the change in the press were the keys," said Frieder, whose team improved to 19-13 with the win. "We got them out of their game. I think they got a little tired and ran out of gas."

UCSB came back to cut the lead to 61-60 after two drives by Kelly, who tied the school record with his 13 assists, and a three-pointer by junior Idris Jones, who finished with 13 points. Two free throws by freshman Doug Muse tied the game with 1:44 remaining at 62-62, but ASU promptly ran away from the Gauchos. ASU freshman Mario Bennett converted a lob play, and after an ASU steal and

basket made it 66-62, Bennett iced the game by blocking Kelly's shot and feeding Fontana for a breakaway dunk.

UCSB Head Coach Jerry Pimm was noticeably upset after the game.

"We didn't do a lot of smart things tonight," said Pimm of his team, which committed 18 turnovers on the night. "Unfortunately, it's been us that had been doing the good, smart, intelligent things late in games this year."

Bennett caused an uproar after Fontana's dunk by taunting the crowd while running back on defense, but said he was simply returning a favor.

"Wherever I go, I love for crowds to get on me like that," he said. "It gets me hyped up, and it gets the team hyped up. I like talking mess."

Sun Devil point guard Lynn Collins, who finished with seven assists, also noticed the Thunderdome crowd. "This place is harder to play than just about any other place, (like) UCLA or Arizona," he said. "The crowd out here is hard. I put this crowd at the top."

Bennett led the Sun Devils with 16 points, five rebounds and three blocked shots. Stevin Smith had 18 points and a game-high eight steals, while Fontana added 12 points and 10 boards.

SPORTS SLATE

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPORT	OPPONENT	DAY	TIME	SITE
Baseball	Chapman	Tues.	2:30 p.m.	Campus Diamond
M. Volleyball	UC Irvine	Tues.	7 p.m.	Rob Gym
Softball	Hawaii	Tues., Wed.	2:30 p.m.	Dwight Murphy Field
Baseball	Chapman	Wed.	7 p.m.	Orange
M. Volleyball	Pepperdine	Wed.	7:05 p.m.	Rob Gym
Baseball	Westmont	Fri.	2:30 p.m.	Campus Diamond
M. Volleyball	Loyola	Fri.	7:30 p.m.	Westchester

Triple Play: SJSU Sweeps Weekend

Gauchos Outslugged 9-6, 9-6 and 7-3

By Jonathan Okanes
Staff Writer

A stray pig made its way into the Campus Diamond facility Sunday afternoon. Maybe it was attracted by the smell of the Gauchos' performance.

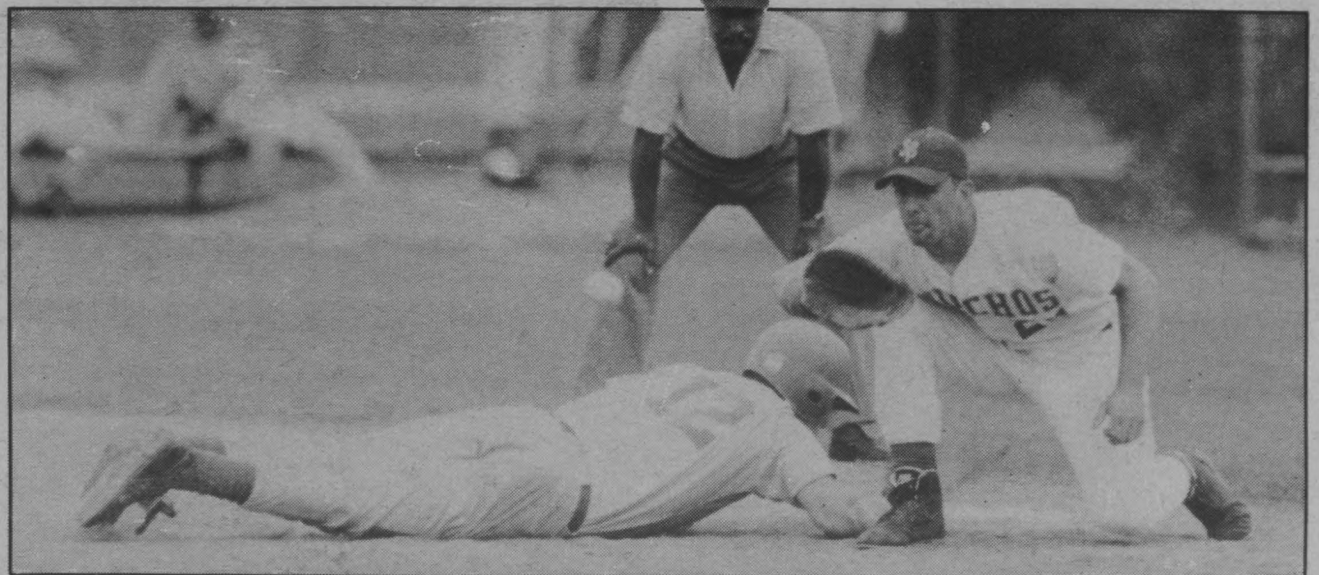
San Jose State's baseball team, which sported a poor 8-12 road record last year and was only 5-6 away from home for the season entering this weekend's series with UCSB, closed out a three-game sweep of the Gauchos Sunday with a 7-3 victory. The Spartans defeated Santa Barbara on Friday and Saturday afternoons by identical scores of 9-6.

The sweep pushed UCSB into a deep hole as far as the Big West conference race is concerned. The Gauchos are now 2-7 in league play (18-12-1 overall). Meanwhile, the Spartans are beginning to make people sit

up and take notice with a 7-2 Big West record and an overall mark of 22-7-1.

Oink. "Anytime you go on the road in our league it's a tremendous challenge," SJSU Head Coach Sam Piraro said. "If you win two out of three it's a big thing, and to come in and sweep Santa Barbara is a very tough chore. It was three hard-fought games. Santa Barbara doesn't quit, and our team is hard-nosed, so we're fortunate to come out with three wins."

On Friday, it was the bullpen that failed the Gauchos, as a strong six-inning start by junior right-hander Armando Delsi (4-3) was obliterated by a late Spartan scoring explosion off UCSB relievers Greg Connolly and John Bretza, including a grand slam off Bretza's first pitch by SJSU center fielder Jason Bugg. Saturday, two crucial Gaucho errors led to five Spartan unearned runs



Freshman first baseman Mike Wolger receives a pickoff throw during Sunday's contest at Campus Diamond. The Gauchos were swept by the upstart San Jose State Spartans.

and Travis Rodgers took the loss (3-5), despite allowing only two earned runs in six innings of work. The Gauchos themselves scored only one earned run on the afternoon.

Shaky defense again put Santa Barbara in a hole on Sunday, as the Spartans scored two unearned runs in the top of the first. Freshman right-hander Steve Lane (5-2), who has emerged as the ace of the Gaucho pitching staff, threw his third complete

game in as many Big West starts but took the tough loss.

UCSB failed in some crucial scoring situations throughout the weekend, including leaving two runners on base in four different innings Sunday.

"We've obviously dug a huge hole," UCSB Head Coach Al Ferrer said. "I think it all comes down to a lack of discipline. We have not been disciplined offensively and to the average person sitting in the stands,

they don't see it. But (it's) 2-0 and you're swinging at a breaking ball in the dirt — those things have put us in holes over and over again.

"The experienced coach tries to understand and be patient, and yet the compe-

titive coach says, 'Hey, that's a crock. Let's reach down, let's get ticked off, and let's find something that's going to work and go after it.' That's basically what we're doing now," said Ferrer.

SUNDAY'S GAME
San Jose St. 210 000 202— 7 7 1
UCSB 110 000 010— 3 7 3
WP—Sick (5-1). LP—Lane (5-2). Sv—LaVine (2). HR—SJSU: Constantino (7).

HR—SJSU: Miller (1), Constantino (6), Cawthon (3).

SATURDAY'S GAME
San Jose St. 300 000 411— 9 12 2
UCSB 400 100 010— 6 14 2
WP—Hendrickson (3-0). LP—Rodgers (3-5).

FRIDAY'S GAME
San Jose St. 000 300 600— 9 9 1
UCSB 000 002 400— 6 8 0
WP—Andrakin (5-2). LP—Delsi (4-3). Sv—A.Chavez (3). HR—SJSU: Winton (5), Bugg (4).

Later This Week in Nexus Sports:

Men's Volleyball, Softball, Tennis, Gymnastics, Golf and much, much more.

Watch For It!

ALTERED SHOT

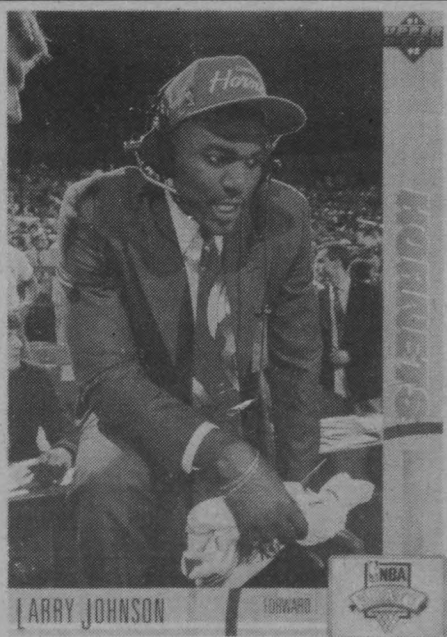
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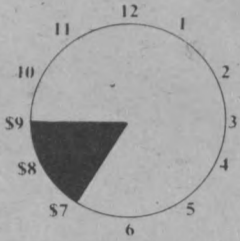
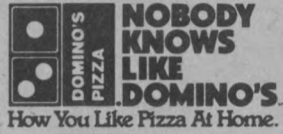
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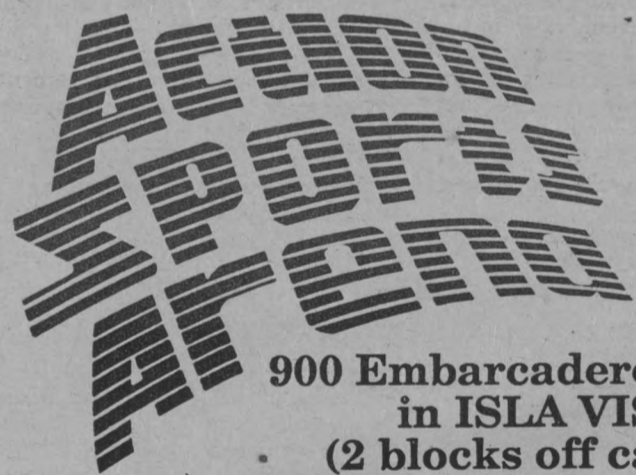
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