UCSB Able to Escape With 67-66 Win Over Long Beach

Late Basket and Swat by Muse Seals the Win for Gauchos

By Brian Pillsbury Staff Writer

For Long Beach State coach Seth Greenberg and his 49ers, playing the Gauchos in recent years has been like, well, banging their heads against the

Saturday night was no different as UCSB continued its mastery of Long Beach State, winning a 67-66 thriller at the Thunderdome before a crowd of 5,071. Santa Barbara has won 12 out of the last 14 meetings between the two schools and four in a row from the 49ers.

It was particularly satisfying for UCSB Head Coach Jerry Pimm who had spent much of Saturday in the hospital after breaking his left wrist in a bicycle accident.

"This is as good a paink-iller as there could be, to hang in there under the adversity we had tonight," Pimm said. "When you

that the defense and re-bounding is winning games for you. Hanging in there and having the guts to defend a very good Long Beach team — and out-rebound them — was the key to the game."

For Greenberg, knowing that the Big West-leading New Mexico State Aggies had fallen at Utah State, the loss was enough to make his stomach turn.

"I have a sick feeling," he said. "This could have been a breakthrough game for us. We did everything but score enough points."
And it was Gaucho cen-

ter Doug Muse who made sure Long Beach State didn't score enough points. Muse, who shot for 16 points on the night, was there in the end when UCSB needed the big plays. With just 0:21 to play in the game and the Gauchos hanging to a 65-63 lead, Muse scored underneath off a beautiful entry pass by point guard Pimm said. "When you can win not making free throws you've got to feel guard Rod Hannibal bur-

Big West Standings New Mexico St. 8-2 .800 8-3 .727 Pacific San Jose St. 7-4 .636 Long Beach St. UNLV .555 .500 **UCSB** 5-5 .500 Utah St. 5-6 .454 .454 5-6 Nevada 2-8 UC Irvine .200 Cal St. Fullerton 2-9 .181 Weekend Results Long Beach St. Utah State 69 New Mexico St. San Jose St. 84 Cal State Fullerton 82 Nevada UNLV Pacific

ied a three-pointer from the corner to put Long Beach State within one point at 67-66. After Wayne Butts

UC Irvine

missed a pair of free throws after being fouled by the 49ers' Brian Camper on the inbounds, Long

See GAUCHOS, p.3A



UCSB guard Phillip Tumer takes it to the basket against Long Beach State guard Rod Hannibal Saturday night at the Thunderdome. Turner was in foul trouble early and played only four minutes of the first half.

Gauchos Capture First Win of Season

Smaldino Powers Offense, but USD Takes 2-of-3

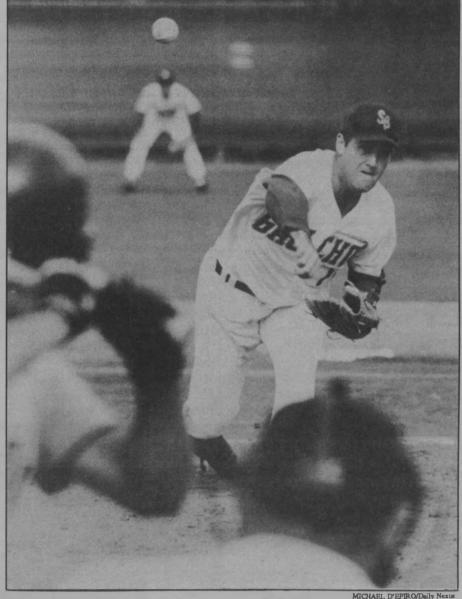
By Curtis Kaiser Staff Writer

It was an up and down weekend for the UCSB baseball team, but the Gauchos still managed to post their first win of the young season, and Bob Brontsema's first win as head coach.

The first game of Saturday's doubleheader and three-game series against the University of San Diego Toreros marked the official opening of Caesar Uyesaka Stadium. The Gauchos split the doubleheader, winning the first game 10-4 and getting blanked in the second 8-0. UCSB went down in Sunday's game 7-5.

The Gauchos (1-3) found themselves in trouble in the first inning of Saturday's first game after starting pitcher Steve Lane (1-0) walked the bases loaded, then gave up a three-run double. However, Lane settled down and pitched very impressively, allowing USD only one more hit before being replaced by John Minton in the seventh inning.

"I just couldn't find the zone in the first inning," Lane said. "After the first, the second inning was the most important for me, because I was able to settle down - they only got one more



UCSB pitcher Steve Lane delivers to the plate in Saturday's 10-4 win over San Diego. Lane picked up the win in the first game of the doubleheader.

baserunner after that. Then we came back with the homers, which pretty much put the game

"Other than the first inning he gave us what we needed," Brontsema said. "He righted the ship and came out and did a great job of allowing us to get back in the ballgame."

Doug Smaldino pro-

vided the offensive firepower for UCSB in the opening game. He led off the Gauchos' half of the first inning with a solo

See USD, p.2A

UNLV Scores Big in SB Giveaway; Rebels Win, 78-61

By Brian Pillsbury Staff Writer

Coming off an impressive 69-53 win over a tough New Mexico State team, the Gauchos ran into a buzzsaw Saturday night at the Events Center as the UNLV Lady Rebels outplayed UCSB for most of the evening on the way to a 78-61 win.

For the Rebels (15-3 overall, 10-1 Big West) the win left them in first place in the conference and helped to erase the bitter memory of last year's loss to UCSB in the Big West Tournament semifinals. The Gauchos dropped to 10-9 overall and 7-4 in conference.

From the beginning, UNLV took the young UCSB team out of its rhythm on offense with swarming pressure de-fense, forcing the Gauchos into 20 first half turnovers. While UCSB struggled to maintain its focus on offense, the Rebels were finding success driving the ball on the Gaucho

defenders. "They were the ones taking us out of everything we wanted to do," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said. "The thrust of our postgame talk was, hey, we're going to struggle from time to time with our execution, but I don't think we came out ready.

"Mentally and emotion-

ally I don't think we were ready to play at the same level we were at the other night. Vegas is a good team; I don't want to take anything away from them. I thought we came out a little passive and they swarmed us."

The Gauchos started the game playing tenta-tively and they were unable to put together enough solid consecutive possessions to counter UNLV scoring runs. Coupled with all the turnovers, UCSB also had a couple of questionable calls go against them. Defensively, the Gauchos were having trouble containing UNLV's Trudie Hopgood, who came off the bench to score 11 firsthalf points primarily on drives to the basket.

The Rebels, who shot 54.0% from the field, had five players reach double figures in scoring and were led by point guard Gwynn Hobbs' 17 points. Hopgood, along with fellow-Australian Cherie Hogg, added 14 apiece.

For the Gauchos, guard Iesha Smith led the way with a strong offensive effort as she poured in a career-high 21 points, including 3-for-5 from behind the three-point line, seven rebounds and three

steals.
"I feel like I'm coming along," Smith said. "I just

See REBELS, p.3A

SB Spikers Sweep UC Irvine; Top-Ranked UCLA Too Much

By Daniel Solomon Staff Writer

WESTWOOD — Having disposed of UC Irvine rather easily the night before (15-7, 15-5, 15-8), the #10-ranked UCSB men's

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taste of its own medicine on Saturday night as top-ranked and defending NCAA Champion UCLA handed the Gauchos a 15-5, 15-5, 15-12 loss at the Wooden Center.

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volleyball team got a little matches on the weekend, Santa Barbara's overall and MPSF records stand at 2-3.

"[UCLA] had us pretty well scouted and they seem to respond to their scouting reports a little bit With the pair of split better than we do." Head Coach Ken Preston said. "Basically, they're a really good defensive team for how big they are. They seemed to be in the right spots a lot, and they were digging a lot of our balls."

Both teams looked fairly strong in the opening minutes of game one, but with UCLA (6-1 overall, 4-0 in conference) up 4-3, the Bruins went on an 11-2 run as All-American Jeff Nygaard recorded two of his match-high 29 kills in the final points of the

The Bruins continued to roll in game two as they got off to a 11-0 lead before the Gauchos got their first point off a UCLA hitting error. However, sopho-more outside hitter Amaury Velasco returned the favor at game point, giving UCLA a 2-0 game

"They're just a really good team and we didn't play at the level that we needed to. We kind of came out pushing too hard," commented UCSB freshman outside hitter Donny Harris, who had a team-high 15 kills on the

Donny Harris

Despite being down 6-1 early in game three, Preston and his squad did not give up as he surprised the Bruins with a 6-2 offense. With senior Sean Stafford playing the #2 setter, UCSB rallied and pulled to a 6-6 tie. UCLA then built their lead to 10-7 on a service ace from setter Stein Metzger, but UCSB once again tied the game - at 10-10, off a Velasco kill down the line.

"We dug pretty well the first two games and pretty much dominated the net. But then Coach Preston came out with the 6-2 which confused us, and he

almost got away with it in game three," UCLA Head Coach Al Scates said. "It was a good move and he caught us flat-footed when he came out and put Stafford in as the other setter, and it worked real well for him.'

UCLA, however, proved to be just too strong as junior outside hitter Erik Sullivan put the match away on a kill from the backcourt.

On Friday night, the Gauchos dominated the Anteaters (1-5, 0-4) in hitting, .511-.184, and blocking 10-4. UCSB also recorded 13 service aces as Harris led the Gauchos with 14 kills (.333). Junior middle blocker Carter Reese added 10 kills (.643) and seven blocks.

"We played with a lot more emotion down there," said Preston after the UCLA match. "We were in charge the whole night."

'Against Irvine we just played real intense and we got off on a really good note, and they just never caught back up to us," Harris added.

Continued from p.1A home run well over the 400-foot mark on the center field fence. In the second inning, after singles by Chris Prince and Peter Muro, Smaldino hit another homer, this time to left field.

Jared Janke also hit a three-run homer in the game, while Peter Muro, Matt Bokemeier, Wynter Phoenix and Zach Elliott all had two hits.

As powerful as the Gauchos were in the first game - with three homers, ten runs, and 14 hits — they could manage very little offense in the second game against Torero left-hander Travis

Burgus (1-0) pitched a complete game shutout, limiting UCSB to singles by Bokemeier and Matt Bazzani. USD broke the game open in the third inning, scoring five runs, including a three-run blast by Torero shortstop Dave Romero off Gaucho reliever Steve Cain.

"Part of the problem was that their pitcher threw a great ballgame," Brontsema said. "He had good stuff. I have to give him credit before being too hard on us."

In addition to pitching and hitting problems, the Gaucho defense committed several physical and mental errors in the second game, leading to four unearned runs.

Sunday's game was an evenly matched affair which remained close throughout the game. The Gauchos played well, but didn't seem to get many

UCSB hit the ball hard and collected seven hits, but left men on base in scoring situations. Smaldino and Bazzani homered and Prince collected

"I felt good all weekend. I was seeing the ball well," Smaldino said. "Home runs are nice, but victories are better. Today we played well, but sometimes you're going to have games where things just don't go your way."

The Gauchos pitched well overall, but they had problems with walks and falling behind hitters, especially to hitters towards the bottom of the order. Although Gaucho pitchers combined for ten strikeouts, they also walked six.

"[Starting pitcher Ryan O'Coyne (0-1)] was sharp early, but he made a couple of mistakes. We're not closing the door like we want to. On the plus side, I thought [Scott] Randall was outstanding in his first college outing.

"I'm more pleased with this game than with any other game all year," Brontsema said. "We did things that were more in tune with what we're trying to get done. We hit the ball all over the park."

"I think it was a good series even though we lost two games," Bazzani said. "It was a growing experience for us. Some of the young pitchers threw well and the bats came alive, which is nice to see."

"I'm pleased with a lot of things, but not the outcome. The difference bethe game that we won is that we didn't hit the home runs," Brontsema said. "But we hit the ball harder, played better defense, executed better - and those are the things we're looking at. We're looking at the big picture."

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GAUCHOS: UCSB Sweeps Season Series With Long Beach State

Continued from p.1A Beach State got the chance to win the game with four seconds remaining.

Muse then came up with the big defensive play when he swatted 49er center Terrance O'Kelley's shot off the inbounds play. The ball went out of bounds and Long Beach State had one more shot at it with one second left. But UCSB's Rob Ramaker deflected Jeff Rogers' inbounds pass and time ran out for the 49ers.

The Gauchos improved to 5-5 in the Big West and 9-12 overall, while Long Beach is 5-4 and 10-6.

"With four seconds to go, I thought we got the ball where we wanted to— into O'Kelley's hands— but the refs said there was no foul," said Greenberg, shaking his head.

Hannibal and forward Mike Atkinson led Long Beach State with 19 points apiece, while O'Kelley added 14.

The Gauchos got another strong performance from Madden, who found ways to beat the 49ers though he wasn't having the best of nights shooting the ball. The in-defatigable junior guard tallied nine points and nine assists while turning the ball over just once in 38 minutes of play. Sophomore guard Phillip Turner

picked up three fouls early on and ended up scoring five points on the night. Madden and Turner combined to shoot 2-for-14 from the field but were 10-for-13 from the free throw line.

UCSB forward Wayne Butts found the range, scoring 11 of his 16 points during the second half. Butts connected on all three of his treys, including a big one that broke a

58-58 tie late in the game.
"All through the season I've felt like I could play better than how I'd been playing," Butts said.
"Right now I'm feeling confident and the coaches

are letting me play."
In the first half, the play got somewhat sloppy. At one point, the two teams combined to turn the ball over eight times in nine consecutive possessions. O'Kelley was hurting UCSB on the inside as he scored 12 of his 14 in the first half. The 49ers also made 14-of-17 from the free throw stripe in the first

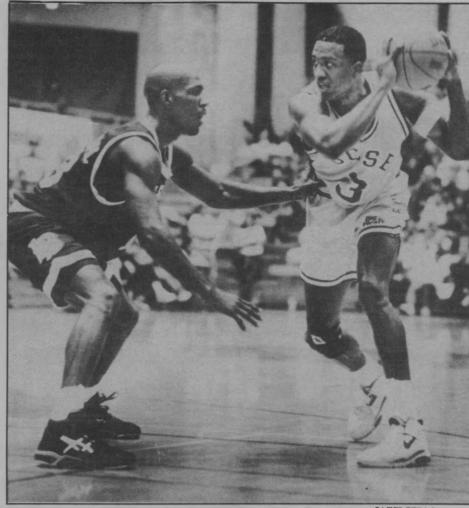
After Bakir Allen drew a foul as he dunked the ball at the 13:18 mark in the first half, the Gauchos went nearly six minutes without a field goal, until Butts lit a fire under the offense with a three-pointer. After O'Kelley sank a pair of free throws, a Muse lay-

c (Muse, Ramaker).
ts—Long Beach St. 7 (Rogers 3, O'Kelley kins, Camper), UCSB 9 (Muse 4, Butts, Madden, Allen, Turner, Ramaker).
louis—Long Beach St. 24, UCSB 20.
out—none. Technical fouls—none.
rs—Long Beach St. 19, UCSB 17. Team
s—Long Beach St. 3, UCSB 2.
lance—5,071.

in keyed a 13-6 Gaucho

run capped by the outside shooting of Mark Flick who came off the bench to hit two three-pointers.
In the second half it was

Hannibal who caught fire as he nailed 5-of-6 from three-point territory. He scored 17 of his 19 in the second half. After Madden hit both free throws, the Gauchos took their biggest lead of the game at 45-37 with 13:48 to play. But the lead dwindled away, and with 4:33 remaining, Atkinson tied the game at 58-58 when he



RACHEL WEILL/Daily Nexus

Gaucho forward Wayne Butts, who scored 16 points Saturday, works against the 49ers' Rod Hannibal.

converted a three-point play. However, the Gauchos were able to escape with the win and sweep the season series

with Long Beach State.

"There's always that bitter rivalry with Long Beach State," said Ramaker, who led UCSB with 10 rebounds. "We were ready to play tonight and that's how we have to play all of the time."



Forward Christa Gannon works in traffic as teammates Amy Hughlett (left) and lesha Smith look on. Gannon finished with nine points and 10 rebounds but the Lady Rebels won the game, 78-61, Saturday

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REBELS: Vegas Gets Their Revenge on Gauchos

Continued from p.1A wish we would've won. In the second half we came out with a lot of intensity, but we can't continue to play well one half and not well the other half. We've got to stop playing inconsistently."

In the second half, UCSB made a strong run after trailing 49-29 with 14:45 to play. Smith nailed a pair of three-pointers and then dazzled the

crowd with a driving layup on which she was fouled by the Rebels' Tracy Titus. Smith converted the three-point play and brought the Gauchos to within 11 points at 52-41 with 11:01 to play, but UCSB would get no closer as UNLV scored in several late possessions to keep the Gauchos at arm's

length.
"When we were watching, it was like, 'we're do-

ing well, we're doing well,' and then someone would run right through," UCSB forward Kris Grazzini said. "I really don't know what happened."

The Gauchos tried desperately to get back in the game and in the process sent the Rebels to the free throw line, though UNLV shot just 42.1% from the charity stripe. UCSB settled down on offense and committed just 13 turnovers in the second half, but it wasn't enough to catch the Rebels.

Their turnovers in the first half really helped us capitalize on the other end," Hogg said. "In the second half they came out really hard and as the game progressed they fought the whole way. We were able to get the ball inside and kick it out where we've got



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