

# SPORTS MONDAY

Daily Nexus

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## It's No Desert Mirage for Gaucho Golfers Who Finish Sixth, Get First Invite to NCAA Tourney

By Brian Pillsbury  
Staff Writer

They say there's a first time for everything, and as play finished up Saturday at the NCAA Men's Golf West Regional Championship, it was clear that the first time was now for the UCSB golf team.

The Gauchos took the most important step of the year, if not in the history of the program, this weekend at the Tucson National Golf Club, where they took sixth place with a

three-round score of 870, thereby earning UCSB its first-ever trip to the NCAA Championships.

Tied for 13th after the second round on Friday, Santa Barbara needed to crack the top-9 to ensure themselves of a spot in the NAAs. Playing what was probably the most pressure-filled round of golf the team had encountered to date, the Gauchos responded on the last day Saturday by playing their best round of the year, shooting a 282, which was second only to UNLV's

280.

"We were three strokes off [of ninth place] after the second and felt really confident," UCSB junior Ryan Mitchell said. "After the first nine holes we felt we had it and then we just put it in cruise control from there."

One of the major stories of the tournament for the Gauchos was Mitchell himself. Finishing fourth overall with a three-round score of 212, Mitchell was in the zone during the second round where he fired a red-hot 66 on the par-72

course. That score was the second-best single-round result of the tournament.

"I chipped in an eagle on the second hole, then birdied the third and I didn't think anything could stop me," he said. "It was my best round of golf in college."

"I think it gave the guys a little hope," UCSB Head Coach Steve Lass said of Mitchell's second round play. "And then during the last round it all came together."

See NCAAS, p.3A

BRIAN PILLSBURY

## Due to the Dearth of SB Sports, Here Y'Are...

Last year the poor Dallas Mavericks got gypped royally in the NBA draft lottery. They had the worst record in the league and ended up with the fourth pick. With a 1:66 chance, the Orlando Magic, the final team to qualify for the lottery, landed the top pick.

But this year the lowly Mavs, who again finished as the NBA's worst team, were redeemed by the new rules. They get to pick second.

All in all, this year's draft looks pretty boring when you compare it to the last two years'. Where are the guards? It's bigmen and swingmen this year as the NBA is becoming dominated by big guys who can run the floor and shoot from 17 feet and outward. And no other guy coming out this year fits that description better than the Big Dog himself.

**Milwaukee**— 6-foot-8 Glenn Robinson led the nation in scoring at Purdue and indicated earlier he would stay for his final season. But, as is the case with any human being, the dollar signs ended that. The Bucks need some size underneath as last year's #1 pick, Vin Baker, doesn't have the muscle to be a true power forward.

**Dallas**— Having traded Mr. Golden Gloves, Derek Harper, the Mavericks need a point guard badly. Jason Kidd of Cal has superstar potential, excellent court vision and all the tools. He's been maligned for his outside shot, but he has Jamal Mashburn and Jimmy Jackson to take that pressure off of him.

**Detroit**— Swingman Grant Hill from Duke is a likely choice. Hill has the versatile game tailor-made for the NBA and is a winner. After Hill, there are a lot of good players, but no real superstars.

**Minnesota**— The Wolves, who may not be in Minnesota much longer, will probably grab 6-foot-10 Juwan Howard of Michigan. Howard played center at Michigan but will be much better suited to the power forward role. The Wolves desperately need Howard's intensity and talent around the basket.

**Washington**— Seven-foot center Eric Montross of North Carolina is the logical choice for the Bullets, who are heavy at the 4-spot and 2-spot but have no center. Crybaby Bill Walton is right when he says Tarheel players play better once they leave Dean Smith's system, and Montross will be a good one.

**Philadelphia**— Connecticut's Donyell Marshall, another swingman, should make the Sixers happy. Though they really need guards more, Marshall brings Philadelphia a big-time scorer with good outside range.

**L.A. Clippers**— Clifford Rozier from Louisville should give the Clippers rebounding and depth at a position where they have little of it. 'Nique won't be around forever, and John Williams is just plain fat, making Rozier the one to step in, contribute and eventually take over.

**Sacramento**— The luckless Kings could be hoping 7-foot-2

See DRAFT, p.3A

## UCSB Netters Looking to Build Upon Breakthrough Year

By Michael Cadilli  
Staff Writer

If there is a lesson to be learned from this year's Gaucho women's tennis team, it is this: believe in yourself and you will go far.

UCSB capped off a "dream" season this year by going for the first time in school history to the NAAs in Athens, Ga. Another Santa Barbara first was qualifying two singles players for the NCAA individual tournament draw, as well.

"They achieved things this year no other [UCSB women's tennis team] has done before," UCSB Head Coach Chris Russell said. "It's nice to see them make that jump to a higher level."

"It's one thing for me to believe in them, I could tell them that all the time, but this year they had a conviction that they could do it — they had the confidence to win."

Last year's team started off the season ranked in the nation's top-30 but soon fell from the rankings due to injuries to players like Jean Okada and Kathy Peterson, who were missed from several lineups in key matches. However, this year's team stayed healthy and broke into the national rankings early in the year with hard work.

In just their second match of the young season the Gauchos upset #18-ranked BYU in Hawaii, a day after defeating host UH.

Ten days later, Santa Barbara marched into Tuscon, Az. and took out the powerhouse Wildcat squad, who was ranked 13th in the nation. In that same weekend they beat Iowa and Texas Christian University to bring their record to 5-0, including two upsets.

The players started to groove and feel the energy around them displaying a chemistry that is so often missed in team sports.

Jean Okada was no doubt a catalyst for this new winning formula. Coming off an injury-plagued freshman season, she had several wins against top players in the country, including a three-set victory over UCLA's Jane Chi, who was ranked 6th in the nation at the time.

Okada was a solid #1 player but what she did was take pressure off the Gaucho #2 and #3 players Lynn Coakley and Laura Rutledge. Okada wasn't a sure #1 player coming into the season, but with her results Russell had no choice but to put her in the top spot, netting her a #38 national rank to end the season. Coakley finished with a solid



Daily Nexus File Photo

Senior Laura Rutledge played mainly at #3 singles and was able to bring experience and leadership to help the Gauchos to an NCAA appearance.

year and a #75 rank and will definitely challenge Okada next year for the top spot.

Rutledge, a senior, didn't start off too hot, but in the end she was a consistent force and part of the backbone of the squad. A former #1 Gaucho player and nationally ranked, Rutledge will be missed in the lineup next season.

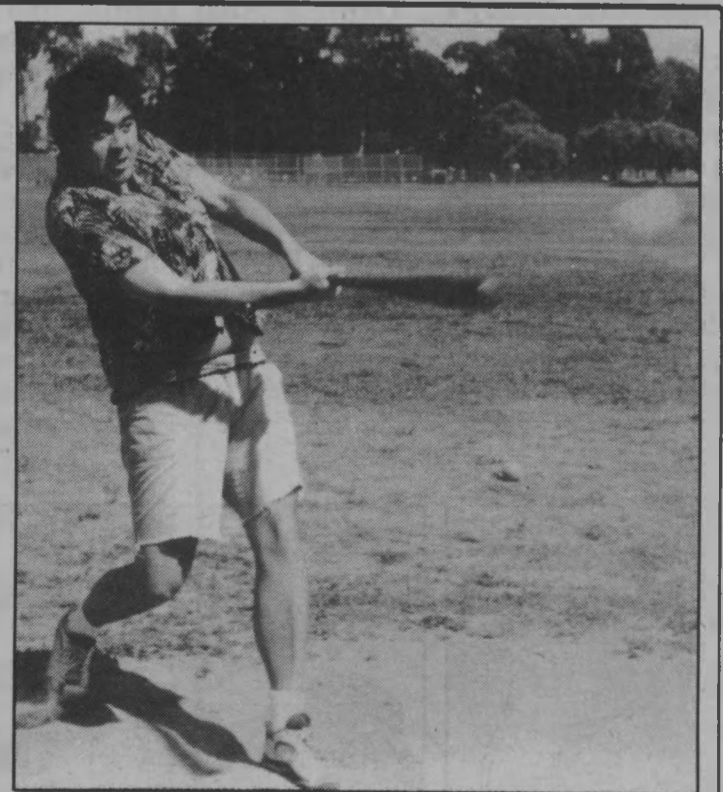
"It's going to be tough to replace her," Russell said. "She's been an impact player. She knows how to win, you can't replace that."

Sure, the top of the lineup is always talked about, but it was the bottom three athletes that were the depth of the squad. Amelia White, Kelly Spencer and Kathy Peterson all had winning seasons in singles and were impact doubles players as well.

Adding to this core next year will be a transfer student from Arizona State, Page Bartlett, who was their #4 player on the 10th ranked squad in the nation. Add to that singles specialist Nanceah Piccuta, and the Gauchos look to have a similar type year next season.

"It was a breakthrough year."

See GAUCHOS, p.3A



MICHAEL D'EPIC/Daily Nexus

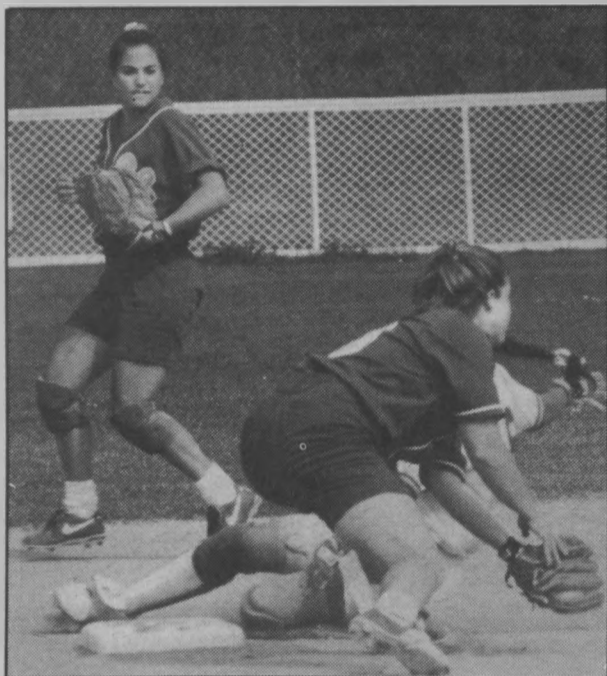
### Will the Thrill

Senior William Toren makes contact while enjoying the sun during a weekend softball game at Storke Field.



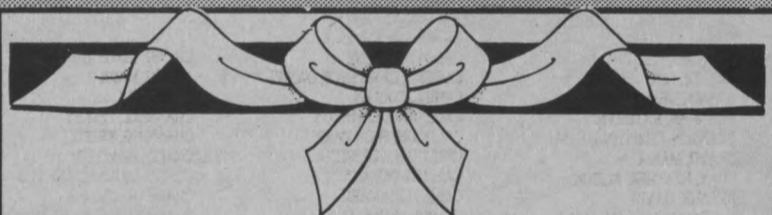


(Clockwise from right) A pair of Gaucho volleyball players prepare themselves to block a kill attempt. Sophomore Jean Okada lived up to expectations with her stellar year at #1 singles for the UCSB women's tennis team. The Gaucho softball team, meanwhile, suffered through one of its most difficult seasons ever. At the plate for the Gauchos, junior Doug Smaldino became one of the most potent hitters for the team. Photos by Michael D'Epiro and Gerry Melendez.



# GAUCHO SPRING SPORTS 1994

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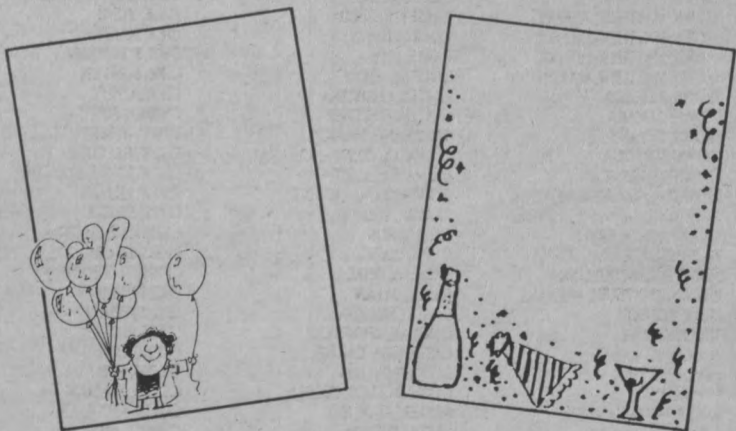


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# NCAA

**Continued from p.1A**  
 "I told them I didn't want any heroes," Lass said of the final round. "I wanted them to just to play smart golf. It makes no sense if you're having a fair round to go out there and try to be a hero."  
 Another clutch performance for UCSB was handed in by freshman Dan Buchner, who finished second on the team and 31st overall with a score of 219. The Regionals was the first tournament Buchner had played in several weeks with the team, but he put his nerves aside to help his team.  
 After shooting a 76 over

the first round, Buchner, who had never shot below a 74 in competition, responded by parring on Friday and then shooting a one-under 71 on Saturday to help solidify the sixth-place Gaucho finish.  
 "There was a lot of pressure because I hadn't played with the team in a while and I didn't want to ruin it for the guys who had been playing well all year," he said. "I was four-under through 11 holes, but I started to choke for three holes and was back at par. But I pulled it together and birdied the 17th. I've never been more nervous in my life."  
 "He's consistently shot some of the best rounds of the year playing with our

own team and I felt that if he shot one good round he'd get his confidence up," Lass said.  
 Tom Gocke was another Gaucho golfer who was able to deliver at just the right moment. Though he had not played his best golf during the first two rounds, shooting a 76 and a 78, respectively, Gocke put it together in the final round, where he shot a torrid 67 — the lowest score of the day. Gocke finished 39th overall with his score of 221.  
 "It was really an unexpected last round," Lass said.  
 UCSB's Jeff Gilchrist experienced two difficult rounds before coming out in the last round and

shooting a one-under par 71 to finish with a score of 223, giving him 48th place. David Bartman had a decent first round with a 72, but had problems over the final two. The senior finished in 59th place with 226.  
 UNLV was clearly the class of the field as they finished first with a score of 849. Arizona State and Fresno State were next with three-round scores of 864.  
 Individually, Rebel All-American Edward Fryatt's 207 beat out Joe Acosta of Fresno State for the title.  
 "This is a good win," Fryatt said. "I've been struggling all year except for the last few days and to step up and play well in the

regionals is great. It's the biggest win of my career."  
 Not only were the Gauchos the only team from Southern California to qualify for the NCAA Championships, but they finished ahead of Pepperdine, who is considered one of the best teams in the area, as well as finishing ahead of Big West rivals San Jose State and Pacific.  
 "We were 2-7 against Pacific this year and to beat them was nice," Mitchell explained. "And we always like beating San Jose State."  
 Flush with confidence, there is only one thing is left for UCSB to accomplish. Ranked in the top-30 in the U.S., the Gauchos are looking to

make a serious run at the NAAs, which get underway next week in Texas. Having proved they could hold their own against the best field they had seen thus far, the Gauchos aren't content with just making the cut for the NCAA Championships.  
 However, they do know that they are responsible for the milestone step the Gaucho program has taken.  
 "We won a tournament back in November, but this is probably 10 times bigger than that," Lass said. "This is by far the biggest thing we've done this year and probably the biggest thing that's been done in school history in golf."

# DRAFT


**Continued from p.1A**  
 Yinka Dare from George Washington is the guy they are looking for. With only two years of college basketball under his belt, Dare is a project. But Wayman Tisdale and Mike Peplowski aren't getting it done so Dare is the best alternative.  
**Boston**— Lamond Murray of Cal is a perfect pick for the Celtics. Boston needs a replacement for Reggie Lewis and Murray may be the man. He can hit from long range and is a decent rebounder.  
**L.A. Lakers**— Xavier forward Brian Grant isn't a player you build a team around, but he is a force underneath. If L.A. passes on Grant, then the Lakers could go after Temple shooting guard Aaron McKie to help bolster their backcourt.  
**Seattle**— Denver's Dickembe Mutombo ate up the Sonics inside and 6-foot-11 Sharone Wright of Clemson can bring a physical presence to a Seattle team that lacks toughness.  
 ...  
 Baseball itself is a bor-

ing game. Face it, its players are overpaid and too many of the games are played in stadiums with a "field" surface that looks more like a pool table. But the worst thing about major league baseball is that the season is just too damn long.  
 At the rate they're going, the World Series will be finishing around Thanksgiving.  
 Rather than watch the Padres and Cubs grind out the string in a four-game series in the middle of August that means absolutely nothing, baseball should have interleague play. They could cut the season down to 150 games, eliminate the four-game series, the inflated number of intradivisional games, and in doing so, bring back a little freshness to the game.  
 The NBA could also stand to shorten its season. Basketball in June is ridiculous.  
 ...  
 With the French Open getting underway today, the most notable absence in the draw will be Monica Seles. Stabbed in the back at a tournament in Hamburg last year, the 20-year-old has yet to return.


For his part in the attack, her assailant was given what basically amounted to a slap on the wrist. Though Seles has recovered 100% from the attack, she isn't all there mentally. Women's tennis needs her, the annoying grunt and all. By staying out, she has let the guy who stabbed her accomplish his goal — to see Graf reclaim the #1 position in the world.  
 Without any competition, Graf has a 41-1 match record this year and the French Open is hers to win.  
 It's good to see that Jennifer Capriati has used her time off from the game in a positive way. Capriati, who hasn't played a tournament since September, lost her sponsors and endorsement money with the announcement of her arrest on drug possession charges last week. For Capriati, it's the classic case of too-much-too-soon that professional tennis is notorious for.  
 On the men's side, Pete Sampras has been similarly dominating as Graf has, but unlike Steffi, Pete will not win in Paris this year.

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# GAUCHOS

**Continued from p.1A**  
 We took some big steps forward," Russell said.  
 After all the positives this team had there was one negative that could have lasting affects. About halfway through the season Russell gave a letter of resignation to the athletic department and walked away from the team for no

apparent reason, during a year that had been going so well. Two days later he returned to the helm, but the damage had been done.  
 "I don't have a clue why he left, but he's lost some respect from us. It will be hard for him to get it back," said one player, who wishes to remain anonymous.  
 Russell doesn't have any comment except that

he hasn't made a decision yet on whether he'll be back next season or not. Sources indicated that he has had problems with assistant coach Pete Kirkwood.  
 However, whatever happens and whoever is the coach next year, the team has the players, the experience and the chemistry to get back to nationals and do some damage next season.

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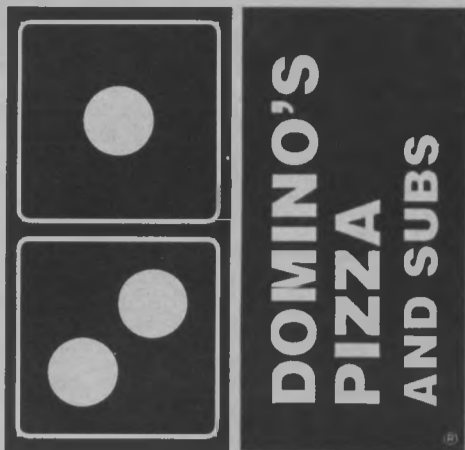
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