

# BIG WEST

# 1994-95 *BASKETBALL* PREVIEW

GERRY MELENDEZ/Daily Nexus



**DAILY NEXUS PICKS:**

1. *New Mexico State*
2. *Utah State*
3. *Long Beach State*
4. *UC Santa Barbara*
5. *UNLV*
6. *Nevada*
7. *UC Irvine*
8. *Cal State Fullerton*
9. *Pacific*
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**Balance of Power Shifting in the Big West; Conference Title is Up for Grabs in '94-'95**

As the 1995 edition of Big West basketball gets underway, conference observers can note the drastic changes that have occurred for Big West teams. With UNLV's fall from grace, the conference power structure has shifted, and this year's title is up for grabs.

New Mexico State has shown by their consistency over the past few seasons that they are the class of the conference. Despite a conference opening loss at UCSB, Head Coach Neil McCarthy's Aggies are the consensus favorite to win the Big West title in 1995.

Utah State surprised many by tying for second place in the conference last season, and with all five of their starters returning, it shouldn't be difficult for the Aggies to repeat that feat. Junior forward Eric Franson is off to a blistering start, pouring in 22.6 points and 11 rebounds per night for Head Coach Larry Eustachy.

Look for Long Beach State to finish the conference season about where they have the last three years: at 11-7. Head Coach Seth Greenberg will have some big shoes to fill with the season-ending ankle injury to Big West Freshman of the Year James Cotton, but LBSU should remain among the Big West's top teams.

UC Santa Barbara was supposed to have big problems with the departure of two members of its frontcourt. However, the Gauchos have surprised many with a 7-3 start, including an upset victory over NMSU. To rise to the top of the conference, however, UCSB will have to prove that it can win tough games on the road.

Just a couple of years ago, UNLV was the annual favorite to run away with the conference, but since the departure of Jerry Tarkanian, the Runnin' Rebels have slowed to a jog. Despite having the conference's best starting five, the Rebels are no more than a mediocre squad because of its lack of a bench.

Nevada has gotten off to a good start this season,

jumping out to a 2-1 conference record. JC transfers Faron Hand and Brian Green have led the Wolfpack in scoring thus far, but for Head Coach Pat Foster's team to move out of the Big West's second division, forward Jimmy Moore and guard Eathan O'Bryant will have to duplicate or improve on last year's numbers.

Despite finishing in last place in the Big West last season, the Anteaters nearly reached the NCAA tournament after upsetting Utah State, UCSB and University of the Pacific before narrowly losing to NMSU in the final of the Big West tournament. Head Coach Rod Baker's hopes of carrying that momentum over into the 1994-95 season seem to be on hold, as UCI has gotten off to a 0-3 start in conference play.

Many observers felt that Cal State Fullerton under first-year Head Coach Bob Hawking was set to have a rough season. Instead, CSF has jumped out to a 2-0 start in conference play, and is currently tied with Utah State for first place in the Big West. It remains to be seen whether the team can play this well over the entire Big West season.

Pacific will likely have trouble matching last season's 10-8 Big West record due to the loss of first team All-Big West standouts Michael Jackson and Charles Terrell. The Tigers return only one starter, but have received excellent execution from freshman Corey Anders.

After a surprising 1993-94 season that ended with San Jose State in a tie for second place in the conference, the Spartans do not appear to be able to match that feat in 1994-95. SJSU has gotten off to a 1-9 start, and has only one player averaging double figures in the point category.

With six or seven teams realistically in the conference title hunt, the 1995 Big West season looks to be an exciting one. So whether we see New Mexico State run away with it all or if a Cinderella team like the Titans can turn some heads, there is sure to be a lot to talk about come March.

**BIG WEST CONFERENCE**

**NEW MEXICO STATE**

Preview by Curtis Kaiser

**NMSU Strives for Three Titles in a Row**

**Aggies Continue to Dominate Big West Conference**

As the only Big West team that is currently ranked in the nation's top 25, the #24 New Mexico State Aggies have high hopes of earning another conference championship in addition to securing another invitation to the NCAA tournament.

Winners of two consecutive conference titles and veterans of five successive appearances in the tournament, the Aggies (11-3 overall, 2-1 Big West), under tenth-year Head Coach Neil McCarthy, have dominated the Big West in the 1990s the way UNLV controlled the conference in the 1980s.

"We've had six consecutive 20-win seasons and five straight NAAs and an NIT [appearance]," McCarthy said. "We'd like to continue that streak, those are our goals. We've averaged 24 wins per year over the last six years."

NMSU returns three starters from last season's 23-8 squad. Both members of the Aggie backcourt, seniors Keith Johnson and Rodney Walker, are back, while senior center/forward Johnny Selvie is the only returning member of last year's starting frontcourt.

Johnson is currently averaging 6.8 points per game, while Walker is posting 14.2 ppg, along with 5.3 rebounds per contest. Selvie has scored 9.2 ppg and pulled down 5.2 rpg.

Senior forward Thomas Wyatt, the first man off the Aggie bench last year and an honorable-mention All-Big West selection, has moved into a starting role this season and become the team's leading scorer with 14.7 ppg.

"Thomas probably made more big plays for us that helped us win games than anyone else on the team last year," McCarthy said. "He is also an excellent defensive player."

Other key contributors for the Aggies this season include a pair of transfers who are making a lot of noise in the NMSU frontcourt. Senior starting forward Clyde Jordan (8.6 ppg, 9.2 rpg) and reserve junior forward Crafton Ferguson (9.5 ppg, 3.3 rpg) have been big contributors thus far.

McCarthy plans to use his team's speed to employ more defensive pressure as well as to run a high-octane offense.

"My plans for this year are to press a lot," McCarthy said. "We hope to put on more defensive pressure the full 90 feet, up and down the court. And we think we can accomplish this because we have very good speed and quickness, one through 10."

Although most observers expect New Mexico State to win the conference, McCarthy doesn't take the rest of the Big West lightly.

"I think the conference will be very, very strong this year," McCarthy said. "There are six teams that could win this league, relative to their talent on their roster."

**QUICK FACTS -**

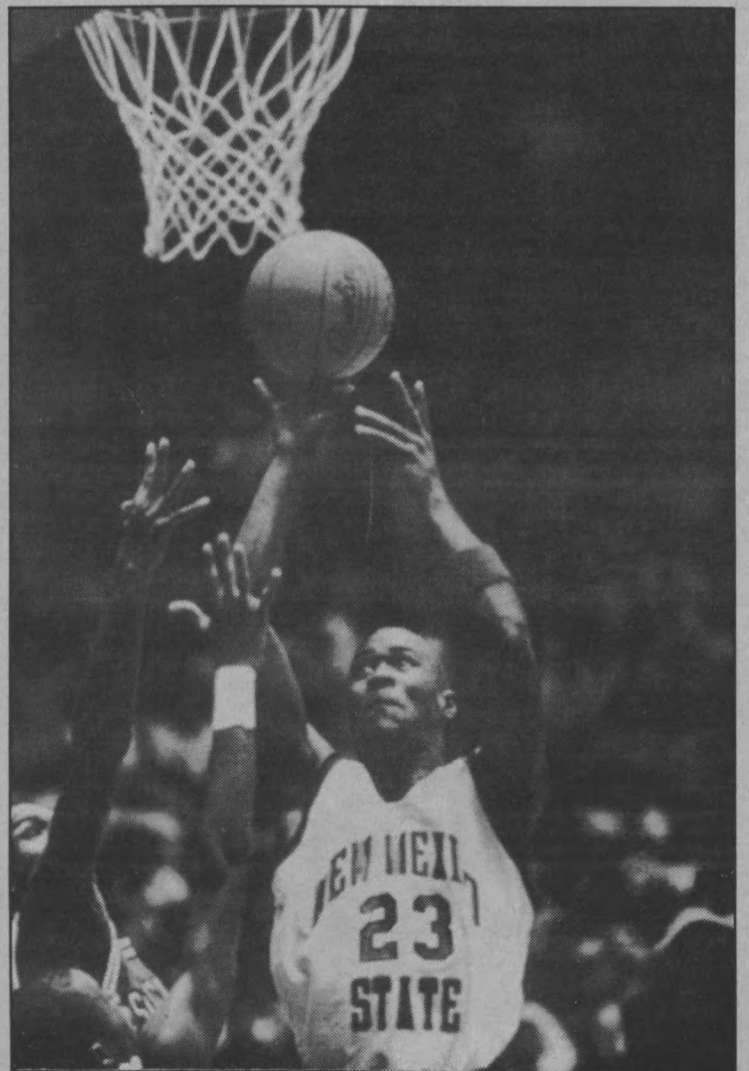
**Location:**  
Las Cruces, NM **A**

**Head Coach:**  
Neil McCarthy **G**  
(204-92, 10th year)

**1993-94 Finish:** **G**  
23-8 overall, 12-6  
in the Big West  
(1st place) **E**

**1994-95 Record:** **S**  
11-3 overall, 2-1  
Big West

**Nexus Pick: 1st Place**



Big West Media Guide

Senior guard Rodney Walker has been an integral part of the New Mexico State offense this season, starting in all of the Aggies' games and scoring 14.2 points per contest.



# UTAH STATE

Preview by Deborah Rafii

## Utah State Hopes to Come up Big in '95

Eustachy Looks for Another Winning Season With USU

**Nexus Pick: 2nd Place**

Finishing second in the Big West final standings, the Aggies surprised many observers who picked the ballclub, under 1st-year coach Larry Eustachy, to finish at the bottom of the conference rankings.

Utah State ended the 1993-94 season 14-13 overall and 11-7 in Big West play, the best conference finish for the team since 1988. The Aggies are currently 8-2 overall, with a 2-0 Big West record.

The team's biggest offensive threat is junior center Eric Franson, averaging 22.9 points and 10.9 rebounds per game.

Franson has earned Big West Conference Player of the Week honors twice this season and scored a total of 31 points in the team's 71-62 victory over San Jose State last week. The win over SJSU was the Aggies' fifth-straight conference road victory.

"Eric Franson is perhaps the best-kept secret in college basketball," Eustachy said. "He has posted some incredible numbers but what's most impressive is his consistency. He isn't the most gifted athlete on our roster, but his work ethic and competitiveness give him the edge."

Accounting for about 45 percent of the team's points this season along with Franson is junior forward Silas Mills. Mills averages 13 points and 6.9 rebounds, but has been suspended indefinitely by Eustachy for personal reasons.

In the backcourt, senior guard Roddie Anderson has returned after a successful season and pairs up with senior Corwin Woodard to run a smooth offense. Anderson has started all ten games this season, averaging 8.9 points and 5.1 rebounds.

Woodard, a guard from Wilson, North Carolina, scored in double figures 18 times in the '93-'94 season and averaged 18.2 points over the season's final six games.

Leading the Aggies in scoring last year was senior center Nate Wickizer, whose brother Jon also shares the frontcourt. Nate Wickizer has six career 20-point games and is approaching the 1000-point mark.

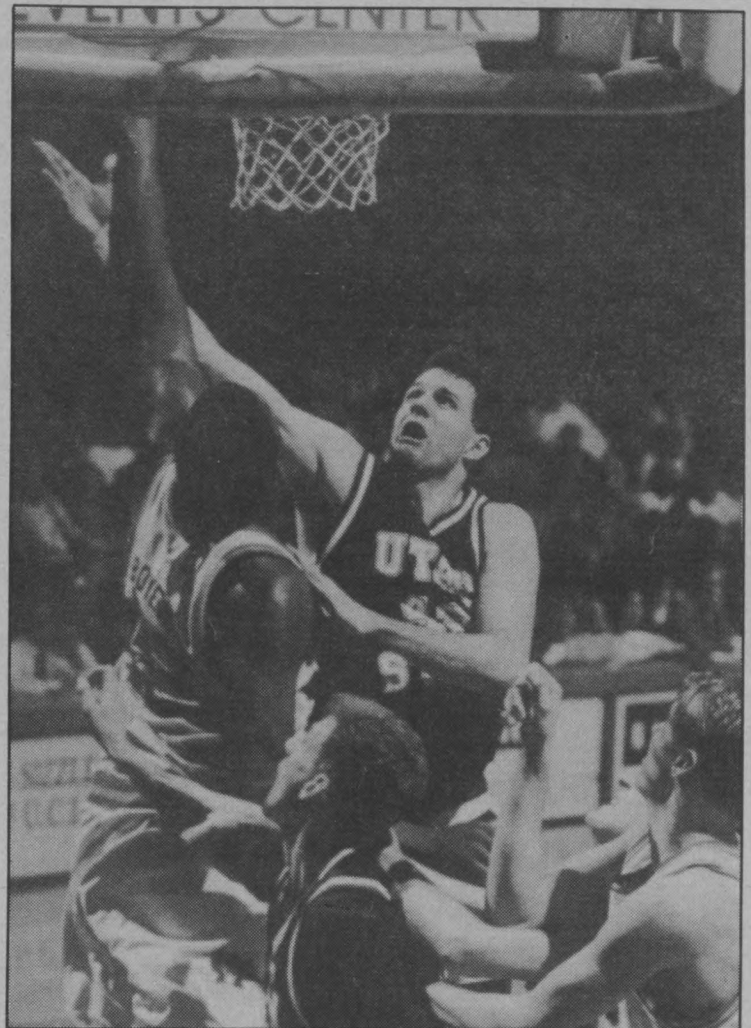
In its 25th year of play in the Dee Glen Smitt Spectrum, USU is 5-1 at home and boasts an impressive record in the arena, having experienced only one home losing season (1981-82) in the history of the sports center.

"We're way ahead of where we were as a basketball team a year ago," Eustachy said. "The strength of this basketball team is depth. We'll be able to extend defense more in an attempt to create turnovers with improved depth."

"Our talent isn't going to overwhelm anybody in the Big West, but this team has the character and chemistry to compete."

### QUICK FACTS -

**Location:** Logan, UT **A**  
**Head Coach:** Larry Eustachy **G**  
 (22-15, 2nd year) **G**  
**1993-94 Finish:** 14-13 overall, 11-7 **I**  
 in the Big West (2nd place - tie) **E**  
**1994-95 Record:** 8-2 overall, 2-0 **S**  
 Big West



Big West Media Guide

Junior forward Eric Franson, Utah State's leading scorer (22.6 ppg) and rebounder (11 rpg), has already been named the Big West Player of the Week twice this season.



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# LONG BEACH STATE

Preview by Chris Ganci

## Frontcourt Serves as Strength for LBSU

Despite Arena Leaks, 49ers Continue to Rebuild Club

Nexus Pick: 3rd Place

The 1994-95 basketball season began with great optimism and excitement for the Long Beach State 49ers. They had a brand new arena, the Pyramid, one of the conference's best guards in last season's Big West Freshman of the Year James Cotton, and easily the deepest frontcourt of any team in the Big West.

Fast forward to January. The Pyramid has already sprung a leak, Cotton is out for the remainder of the season, and the frontcourt has been unable to carry the 49ers above a .500 record, as they are currently 4-4.

The problems that arose with this building as a result of the Southern California storm are the least of Head Coach Seth Greenberg's concerns. It was announced Monday that Cotton, who averaged 11.4 points per game, will redshirt after being unable to recover from a severe sprain to his left ankle suffered during an exhibition game on Nov. 18.

Fortunately for Greenberg, he has the players to make up for Cotton's absence. Simply stated, the frontcourt is loaded. Senior power forward Mike Atkinson is currently the leading scorer for the Beach at 15.3 ppg, while shooting 58 percent from the field. However, that fine percentage is still a sharp dropoff from last season when the 6'7" Atkinson led the entire nation in shooting at nearly 70 percent. This is a cager difficult to stop down low.

"Minute for minute, shot for shot, Mike is the most productive player in the Big West Conference," Greenberg said. "He is the most efficient offensive player I've had the pleasure to coach."

Junior defensive specialist Juaquin Hawkins (6'7") and 6'10" senior Joe McNaull, a transfer from San Diego State, have been solid enough at the other frontcourt positions to push All-Conference third-team pick Terrance O'Kelley (12 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 59 blocked shots in '93-94) to the bench. Depth is also provided by redshirt freshman Akeli Jackson and junior swingman Eric Brown.

"Mike [Atkinson], Terrance [O'Kelley] and Joe [McNaull] are all legitimate inside scorers, while Akeli [Jackson] adds an explosive jumper to our frontcourt lineup," Greenberg said.

Cotton's replacement in the starting lineup, 6'5" Long Beach City College transfer Jamie Davis, has been a pleasant surprise, averaging almost 12 ppg.

The point guard position was also a bit of a question mark, but 6'3" JC transfer Rasul Salahuddin has solidified the spot with a Big West lead of 3.8 steals per game, while pitching in 7.7 ppg and 5.2 assists.

"Our team has many positive components and I like the make-up of the group," Greenberg said. "It combines seasoned veterans and improving second-year players with what we think is a good recruiting class."

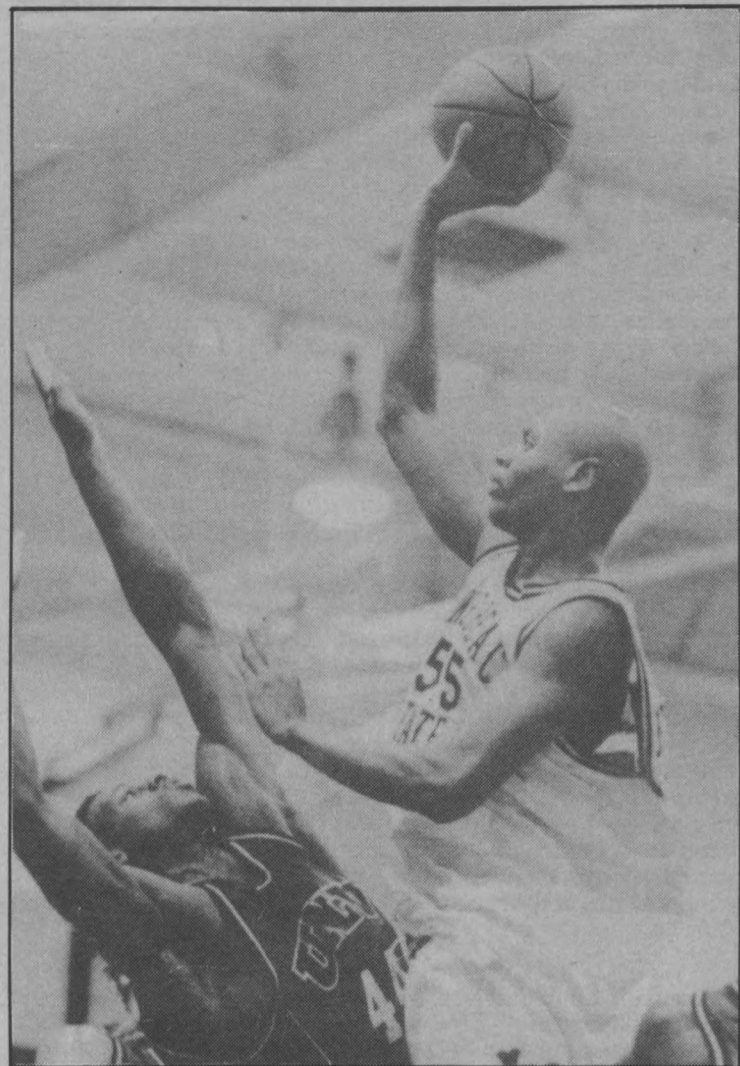
### QUICK FACTS -

**Location:**  
Long Beach, CA

**Head Coach:** 4  
Seth Greenberg 9  
(72-52, 5th year)

**1993-94 Finish:** E  
17-10 overall, 11-7 R  
in the Big West S  
(2nd place - tie)

**1994-95 Record:**  
4-3 overall, 0-1  
Big West



Big West Media Guide

Senior center Terrance O'Kelley provides Long Beach State with quality minutes off the bench. In addition to his six points per game, O'Kelley leads the team with 5.6 boards per contest.

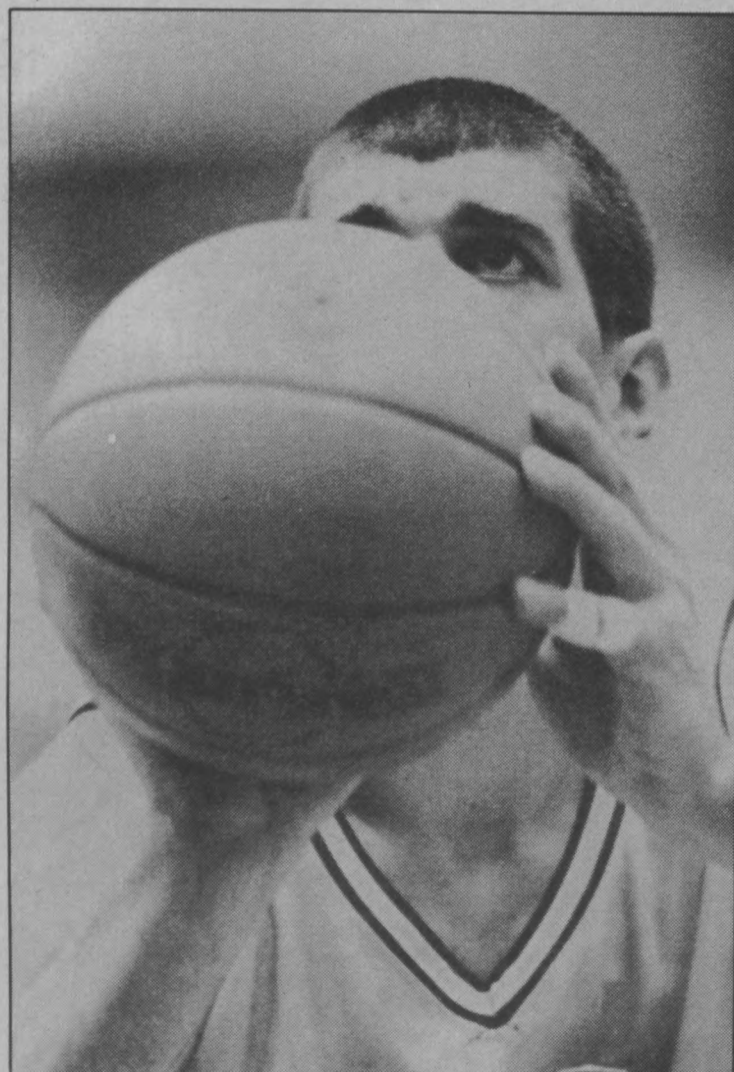
# UC SANTA BARBARA

Preview by Daniel Solomon

## SB Surprises Fans in Big West Openers

Nexus Pick: 4th Place

Wins Over NMSU, UNLV Give Gauchos Momentum



RACHEL WEILL/Daily Nexus

Senior center Doug Muse, the big man in the middle for the Gauchos, continues to be UCSB's most consistent player. Santa Barbara has begun the season well with a 7-3 mark.

### QUICK FACTS -

**Location:** G  
Goleta, CA

**Head Coach:** A  
Jerry Pimm U  
(186-142, 11th year) C

**1993-94 Finish:** H  
13-17 overall, 9-9 O  
in the Big West S  
(6th place)

**1994-95 Record:**  
7-3 overall, 2-1  
Big West



Despite finishing last season 13-17 overall, 9-9 in the Big West, Head Coach Jerry Pimm knew that with all but one graduating senior returning, his Gaucho squad might finally have the experience and talent to contend for the Big West title.

That was until his deep five-man frontcourt quickly became a sparse three with the premature departures of junior forward Kyle Milling and sophomore forward Rob Ramaker.

With the two player losses, concerns immediately arose about the fouling discipline of senior center Doug Muse, the role of senior forward Duane Carter, who medically redshirted the '93-'94 season, and the ability of 195-pound junior forward Mark Flick to play in the paint.

Muse has stayed out of foul trouble in almost every game thus far and has emerged as the team's leading scorer, averaging 14.5 ppg. The team co-captain is also averaging 5.8 rebounds and almost two blocks per contest.

Carter has played solidly as the team's sixth-man, averaging 8.4 ppg and 4.1 rpg.

Flick, who earned the starting four-spot after a stellar preseason, has surprised everyone by leading the team in rebounding at 7.2 rpg while scoring 10.1 ppg.

Another surprise has been the backcourt play of starting guards Tecon Madden and Lelan McDougal. Madden, who has been nursing an ankle injury since the preseason, is averaging four assists and two steals per contest, while McDougal is second on the squad in scoring at 12.6 ppg.

Off the bench, junior guard Phillip Turner has handled the ball with confidence while JC transfer Dancee Prince is hitting treys at a 44 percent clip.

"Prince and McDougal give us two very good additions at the wings," Pimm said. "Both of them can really shoot the ball and I see them each playing a lot of minutes for us this year."

After starting the season 2-0 in conference with home wins over New Mexico State and UNLV, many were convinced that this might be the year that the Gauchos make it back to the NCAA Tournament.

However, the only way that the UCSB men's basketball team will advance that far is if the Gauchos win the Big West Conference tourney.

With only 26 regular season games for the 1994-95 campaign, it will be nearly impossible for the Gauchos to reach that magical 20-win plateau which could get them to the "Big Dance."

Especially if the Gauchos continue to struggle on the road, the best prediction at this point would be a 17-9 overall record and a fourth-place, 12-6 conference mark.

Santa Barbara, currently 7-3 overall and 2-1 in the Big West, lost its first conference match to the Nevada Wolfpack, 75-67.

# NEVADA - LAS VEGAS

Preview by Mike Cadilli

## Runnin' Rebels Aspire to Former Glory

Problems Extend Past Starting Five to Bench Support

As most people know, the UNLV Runnin' Rebels haven't quite been the same team as in the recent past. However, first-year Head Coach Tim Grgurich knows that with hard work his squad can get back to old form.

With one of the 10 toughest schedules in the country, winning the Big West will not be easy. The Rebels play 17 games on the road and only nine at home, which would put a strain on any team.

"All I can say is I'm going to work hard, but I'm not promising anything," Grgurich said. "With Coach Tarkanian, we never had any rules against working, and that's all I plan to do."

It seems that maybe Grgurich has worked too hard, because he was admitted into a hospital on Jan. 6 for physical symptoms related to exhaustion. The team turned to Assistant Coach Howie Landa to take over during the interim.

Maybe what drove Grgurich to hospitalization was that UNLV wasn't playing well at all. The Rebels average 76 points per game, 37 rebounds per game and 19 turnovers per game, while their opponents average 82 ppg, 41 rpg and 16 turnovers per contest.

The result is the slow UNLV start (3-5 overall, 1-2 in the Big West), including a two-point loss at home against Cal State Fullerton and a four-point defeat in Santa Barbara.

Despite the hard times the Rebels have been having, UNLV still fields one of the best starting five in the conference. Kebu Stewart stands in the center at 6'8", 239 pounds, and is returning as the 1994 Big West Player of the year. Stewart currently averages 18 ppg and 10 rpg.

Starting in the backcourt is 1994 first team All-Big West guard Reggie Manuel and sophomore point guard Lawrence Thomas. Manuel currently averages 15 ppg and shoots better than .530 from beyond the three-point arc. Thomas puts in seven ppg and gets four assists per game, while shooting .524 from the floor.

The Rebel frontcourt features one of the most athletic players in the conference in Patrick Savoy. Able to finish any alley-oop, Savoy averages 17 ppg and pulls down eight rpg. In the 1993-94 campaign, Savoy recorded five double-doubles and scored in double figures 19 times.

Also in the frontcourt is forward Clayton Johnson, who averages nine ppg and four rpg. With a measured 36" vertical leap, Vegas can probably count on some exciting dunks from Johnson.

The problem for UNLV lies past the starting five. For the Rebels to make a run for the title, they are going to have to get more production from the bench.

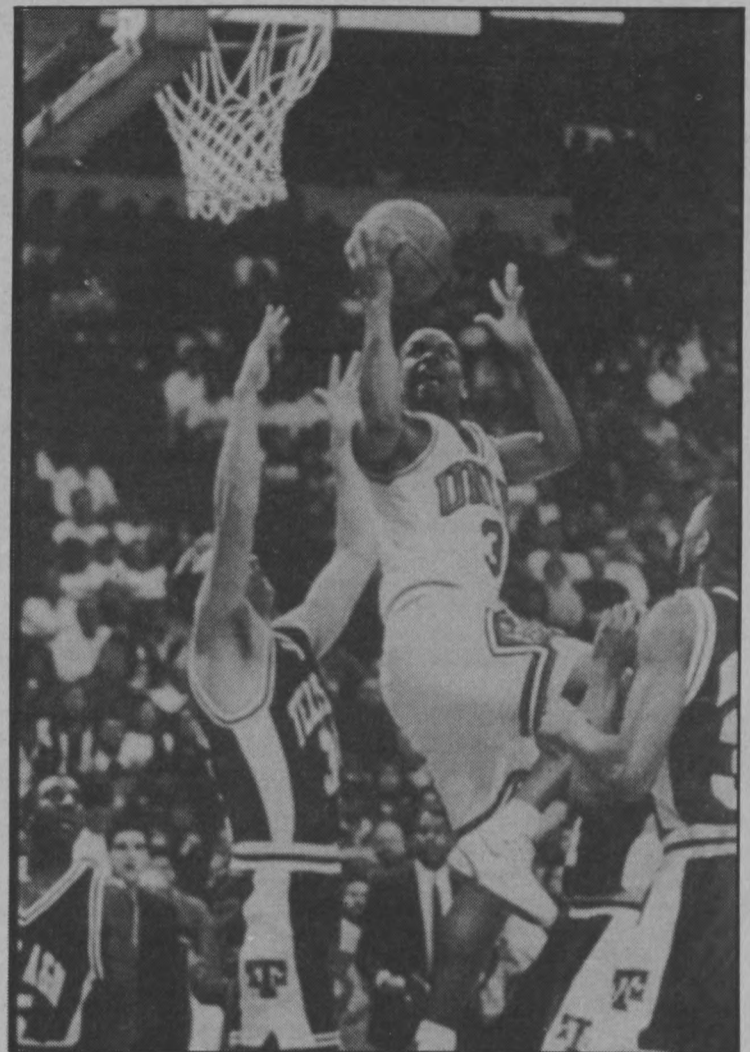
### QUICK FACTS -

**Location:** Las Vegas, NV **R**  
**Head Coach:** Tim Grgurich **E**  
 (3-5, 1st year) **B**  
**1993-94 Finish:** 15-3 overall, 10-8 **E**  
 in the Big West **L**  
 (5th place - tied) **S**  
**1994-95 Record:** 3-5 overall, 1-2 **S**  
 Big West

**UNLV**



**Rebels**



Big West Media Guide

UNLV senior guard Reggie Manuel, a first-team All-Big West selection last season, is one of the Rebels' key players.

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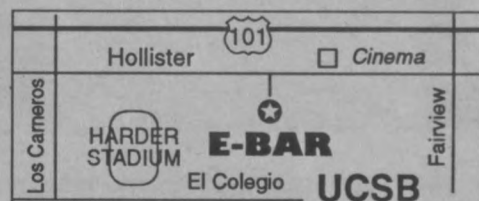
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**SUN** 23oz Domestic Drafts



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# NEVADA - RENO

Preview by Chris Ganci

## Nevada JC Recruits Beneficial to Team

Wolfpack Program Holds High Expectations for '95

Nexus Pick: 6th Place

When Nevada completed their first season in the Big West Conference two years ago, their athletic department knew an established coach was a necessity if the Wolfpack were to rise above the elite teams of the conference. Enter Pat Foster. In 13 previous campaigns as a head coach at Lamar and Houston, Foster led his teams to postseason appearances 12 times. Now in his second year at Nevada, he has utilized junior college transfer recruiting to build a program that is gaining momentum.

With a win over UCSB on Monday night, the Wolfpack is at 6-5 (2-1 in the Big West) and is on track to surpass the 11-17 mark of Foster's initial season. This season, Nevada has been led by two of Foster's first JC transfers and two new jucos.

The nucleus of the team comes from one of the best guard-forward tandems in the Big West: seniors Eathan O'Bryant, a 5'11" point guard, and Jimmy Moore, a 6'8" forward. Last year, O'Bryant led the conference in assists (fourth in the nation at 8.1 per game) while Moore paced the Big West in scoring at 19.2 ppg.

In '94-'95, O'Bryant has been a "marathon man." His assists are down (six per game), and his points and rebounds are similar to last season, but O'Bryant has been a steady leader while averaging an exhausting 37.3 minutes. His numbers Monday against UCSB prove his all-around worth to the Pack. In 39 minutes, O'Bryant scored 14 points with eight assists, five rebounds and three steals.

"Eathan gives us stability in the point guard position," Foster said. "To make an impact in his first season the way he did a year ago was nothing short of amazing. With the addition of individuals who are capable of putting the ball in the basket, Eathan will be able to concentrate more on what he does best — create shots for other players."

Moore, on the other hand, took a little longer to get his season started. After missing the first four games due to a suspension, he has averaged nearly 14 ppg while leading the team in rebounding. More importantly, Nevada is 5-2 with Moore, 1-4 without.

"Jimmy is truly one of the most talented players in our league," Foster said. "He has the ability to score inside, outside, in transition and in a half court game. He can help us in so many different areas."

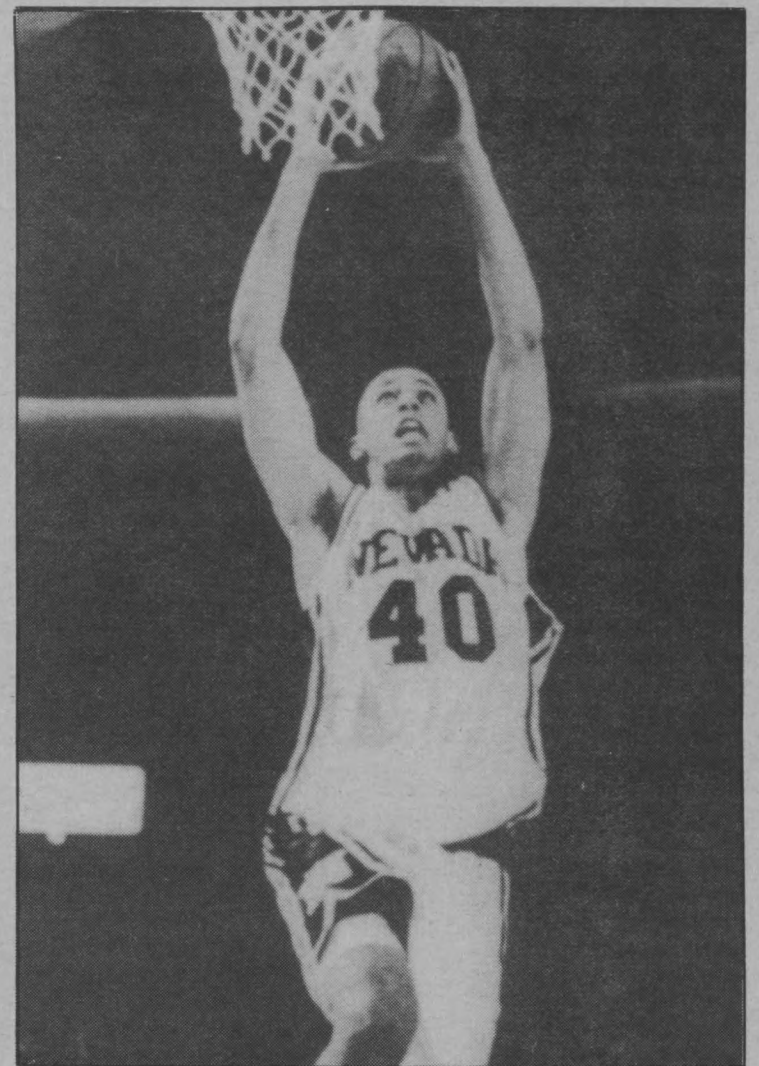
"Last year, we really got to see what caliber of players Jimmy and Eathan are," explained Foster. "Those are two players who we feel are as good as any in the country."

As for this year's JC crop, 6'7" center Faron Hand and 6'4" guard Brian Green lead the Wolfpack in scoring. Hand, a 260-pound powerhouse, is averaging 15.2 ppg and 6.3 rpg, while Green has pitched in with 14.6 ppg. Their sudden impact combined with the Moore-O'Bryant teaming has led to high expectations from the coach.

"We need to get 16 or 17 wins to consider this season a success," Foster said. "If we win less than that, we haven't made as much progress as I would like to."

### QUICK FACTS -

Location:	W
Reno, NV	
Head Coach:	O
Pat Foster	
(17-22, 2nd year)	L
1993-94 Finish:	F
11-17 overall, 6-12	P
in the Big West	A
(8th place-tie)	C
1994-95 Record:	K
6-5 overall, 2-1	
Big West	



Big West Media Guide

Senior forward Jimmie Moore, last year's Big West scoring champion, is off to a slow start this season, scoring 11.9 points per game for UNR. Last year Moore averaged 19.2 ppg.



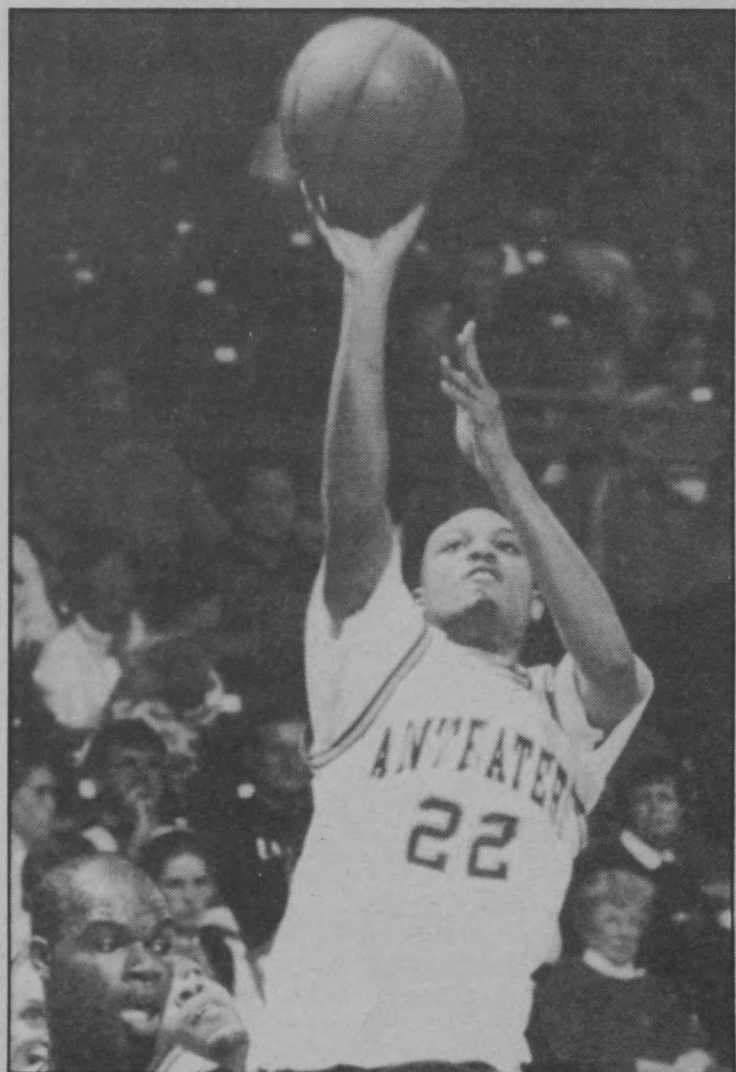
# UC IRVINE

Preview by Curtis Kaiser

## Anteaters Need to Build on Last Season

Nexus Pick: 7th Place

UC Irvine Fills Void Left by Three Departing Starters



Big West Media Guide

Anteater senior guard Chris Brown led the nation in three-pointers last season with 4.7 per game. UCI is counting on Brown to help the team rebound from a slow conference start.

### QUICK FACTS -

Location:	A
Irvine, CA	
Head Coach:	N
Rod Baker	
(27-69, 4th year)	T
1993-94 Finish:	E
10-20 overall, 4-14	A
in the Big West	T
(10th place - tie)	E
1994-95 Record:	R
4-6 overall, 0-3	S
Big West	

After a poor '93-'94 regular season that saw the Anteaters finish in last place in the Big West and receive the 10th seed in the Big West postseason tournament, UCI surprised conference observers with upset victories over UCSB, Utah State and UOP in the tournament before losing to New Mexico State in the final, 64-70. A win in the final would have given the Anteaters their first NCAA appearance ever.

Although Irvine hasn't had a winning season since the 1987-88 season, and has gone 27-69 under fourth-year Head Coach Rod Baker, the Anteater squad has its sights set on a possible Big West title in 1995.

"Our goal is to win the Big West championship, not just the tournament, but the regular-season title," Baker said. "We have created some goals for ourselves and how to go about achieving them. This team wants to distance itself from last year's group."

The Anteaters returned nine lettermen this season, but lost starters Lloyd Mumford, DeForrest Boyer and Jermaine Avie.

This year's group is led by senior guard Chris Brown, the nation's leading three-point scorer in 1994. Brown earned honorable mention All-Big West honors last season.

"Chris has tremendous skills to shoot the ball," Baker said. "He has a gift to extend beyond the normal defensive pressure to get his shot off."

Brown, who hit on 122 of 301 three-point attempts last season, averaged 17.4 points per game in 1994. Brown has continued to bomb away from beyond the arc this season, as 22 of his 27 field goals have been three-pointers. However, his shooting touch seems to have gotten off to a slow start, as his scoring average has dropped to 11.4 ppg at .297 field goal shooting.

Picking up some of Brown's slack has been junior guard Raimonds Miglinieks. Miglinieks, a transfer from Riverside Community College who is originally from Latvia, is averaging 11.3 ppg and 6.0 assists per game.

"Raimonds is a tremendous passer," Baker said. "He can score, but that is not his first thrust — he looks more to setting up the offense."

UCI's forwards have provided the bulk of the Anteater rebounds, with junior Michael Tate pulling down 8.5 rebounds per game and freshman Kevin Simmons grabbing 8.0 per contest. Senior forward Mark Odsather is the fourth Anteater in double figures in the point category with 11.0 ppg.

The Anteaters have gotten off to a slow start in conference play this season, though, losing to Cal State Fullerton at home and falling to UNLV and New Mexico State on the road.



# FULLERTON

Preview by Alex Nugent

## CSUF Begins Fresh With New Skipper

Season Kicks Off With Perfect 2-0 Record in Big West

Nexus Pick: 8th Place

**W**ith three starters from last year returning and a pair of junior college transfers, the Cal State Fullerton men's basketball team could be much improved over last year's 8-19 squad.

Although early preseason polls have picked the Titans to finish last in the Big West, the team has surprised many thus far by beginning conference play with a 2-0 record, winning at both UNLV and UCI.

The Titans are headed by first-year coach Bob Hawking, a former assistant who took over after the resignation of former Head Coach Brad Holland.

"Nothing dramatic is different, given the fact that Brad and I are of kind of the same philosophy. We are trying to up-tempo maybe just a tad bit more, given the fact that we feel we have pretty good quickness."

The six returning players are led by honorable mention All-Big West Conference selection senior Winston Peterson. The 6'6" center led the Titans in scoring last season (15.3 ppg, 7.5 rpg). He also led the team in field goal percentage at .537.

"Obviously, he was our leading scorer last year and we expect him to be a solid contributor again this year. In some people's polls, he has been listed as a preseason all-conference player."

Other key players are 6'9" junior David Frigout, who averaged 5.3 ppg and 4.1 rpg last season, 6'2" senior James French, 6'0" senior Danny Robinson, and junior college transfers Ali Nayab and Chuck Overton. French (11.7 ppg, 3.3 assists per game), who played point guard last season, will be moved over to the off-guard position. He led the team in assists and steals last season and was the only player to start every game.

Robinson (2.3 ppg, 1.3 assists per game) is expected to share time at the point guard spot with Nayab, a 5'10" transfer from Southwestern JC in San Diego. Overton is a 6'3" wing man selected as an All-American last year at Salt Lake City Community College.

One player that will surely be missed is 6'7" forward Darren Little (11.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg), who will not play because of academic ineligibility.

With the blend of returning players with new young talent, Hawking believes that his team is better prepared and more experienced this season.

"We are quite a bit further along than last year. This year we have a nucleus of returning players and it's a completely different scenario for us. We are further along because everyone is familiar with the expectations and the things we are doing X's and O's-wise are the same."

### QUICK FACTS -

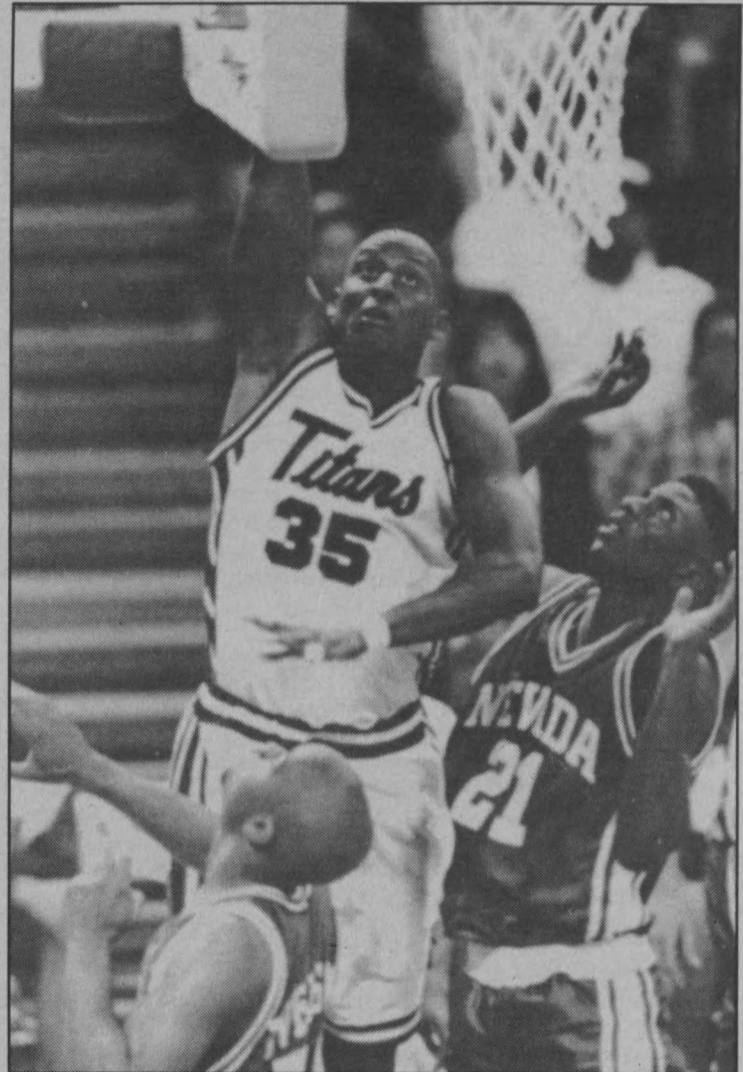
**Location:**  
Fullerton, CA

**Head Coach:**  
Bob Hawking  
(4-6, 1st year)

**1993-94 Finish:**  
8-19 overall, 6-12  
in the Big West  
(8th place - tie)

**1994-95 Record:**  
4-6 overall, 2-0  
Big West

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Big West Media Guide

Winston Peterson, Fullerton's star senior center, leads the Titans in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage. Peterson has helped stake CSF to a 2-0 conference start.

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**PACIFIC**

Preview by Nick Pavlatos

# Season Outlook for UOP Appears Bleak

Tigers Remain Behind Bars Until Experience Is Gained

**Nexus Pick: 9th Place**

After losing two Big West All-Conference players to graduation, forward Michael Jackson and guard Charles Terrell, the UOP Tigers have an extremely young team with only one returning senior. Last year's campaign ended for Head Coach Bob Thomason with a 17-14 overall record and a 10-8 record in conference.

This season was supposed to be rebuilding year for Thomason and the Tigers, but a respectable 6-4 start and the outstanding play of freshman guard Cory Anders has opened the eyes of opposing teams in the Big West Conference.

"On paper, we lose four good players and people will say we're rebuilding," Thomason said. "But I think we have players on our roster who are just as talented."

Anders leads the team in rebounds, averaging 6.6 per game, while tallying a steady 13.2 points per contest. He has led the Tigers in rebounds four times this season, and has posted eight or more boards in four of the last six games.

Sophomore point guard Adam Jacobsen compliments Anders in the backcourt with per game averages of 16.9 points and 4.2 rebounds.

Jacobsen has done much of his scoring from beyond the three-point line with a conference-leading 3.4 treys per game. He has missed scoring in double figures just twice this season, and has shot for 20-plus points six times.

"I think the reason we have a chance to be successful with our youth is because we have a couple of guards who, even though they're young, are fairly experienced," Thomason said. "We have talent on this basketball team. Assuming we stay healthy, this team has a chance to be really exciting."

Three returning frontline players — Marzell Clayton, Charles Jones and Vic Trierweiler — will have to put in plenty of minutes until four of the squad's redshirt freshmen and one JC transfer can gain some experience.

Clayton, the lone senior on the squad, is averaging 6.7 ppg and 4.8 rpg, while providing leadership down low.

Jones, a 6'5" junior forward, is second on the team in scoring and rebounding, averaging 16.6 and 6.3, respectively. Trierweiler, a 6'8" sophomore center, and Rayne Mahaffey, a 6'9" freshman, have become UOP's men in the middle despite playing the weakest spot in Thomason's lineup.

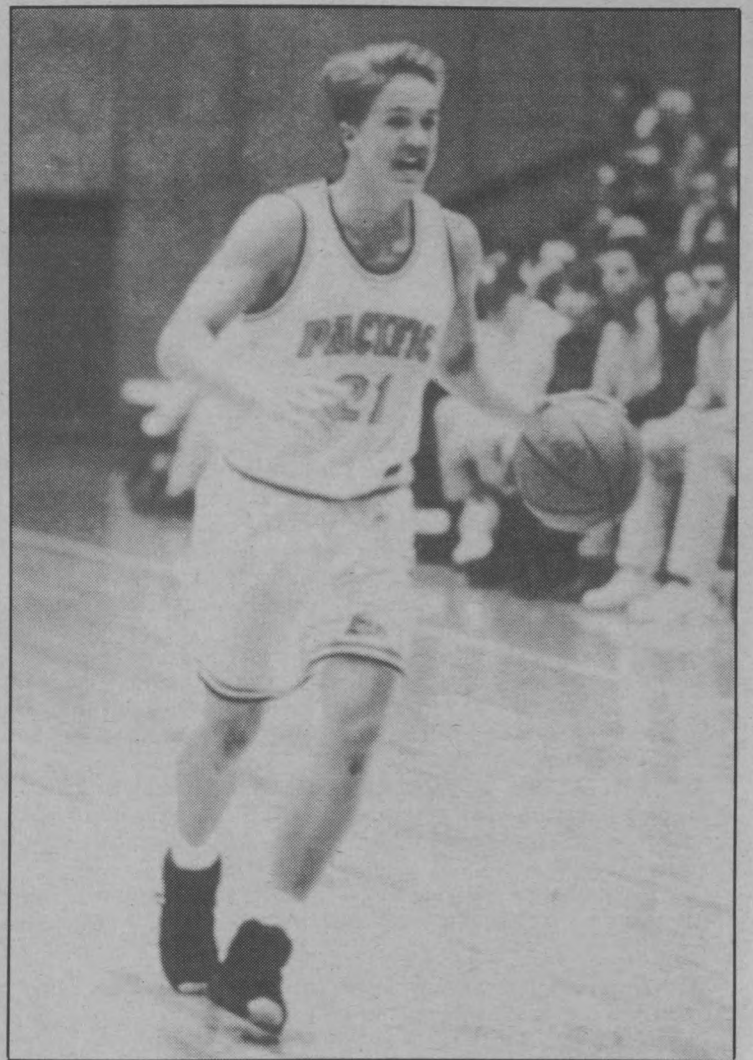
With the exception of returning sophomore guard Mark Boelter and JC transfer Matt de la Pena, the rest of the bench consists of young and inexperienced underclassmen.

"It's tough to lose key players, and our squad is extremely young," Thomason said. "But I don't feel that this team won't be a contender in the Big West Conference."

**QUICK FACTS -**

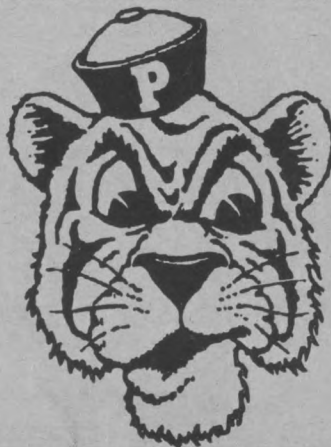
**Location:** Stockton, CA  
**Head Coach:** Bob Thomason (141-122, 9th year)  
**1993-94 Finish:** 17-14 overall, 10-8 in the Big West (5th place - tie)  
**1994-95 Record:** 6-4 overall, 1-1 Big West

TIGERS



Big West Media Guide

Tiger sophomore point guard Adam Jacobsen leads the team in assists (4.2 apg) and points (16.9 ppg). In ten UOP games this year, Jacobsen has played all but seven minutes.



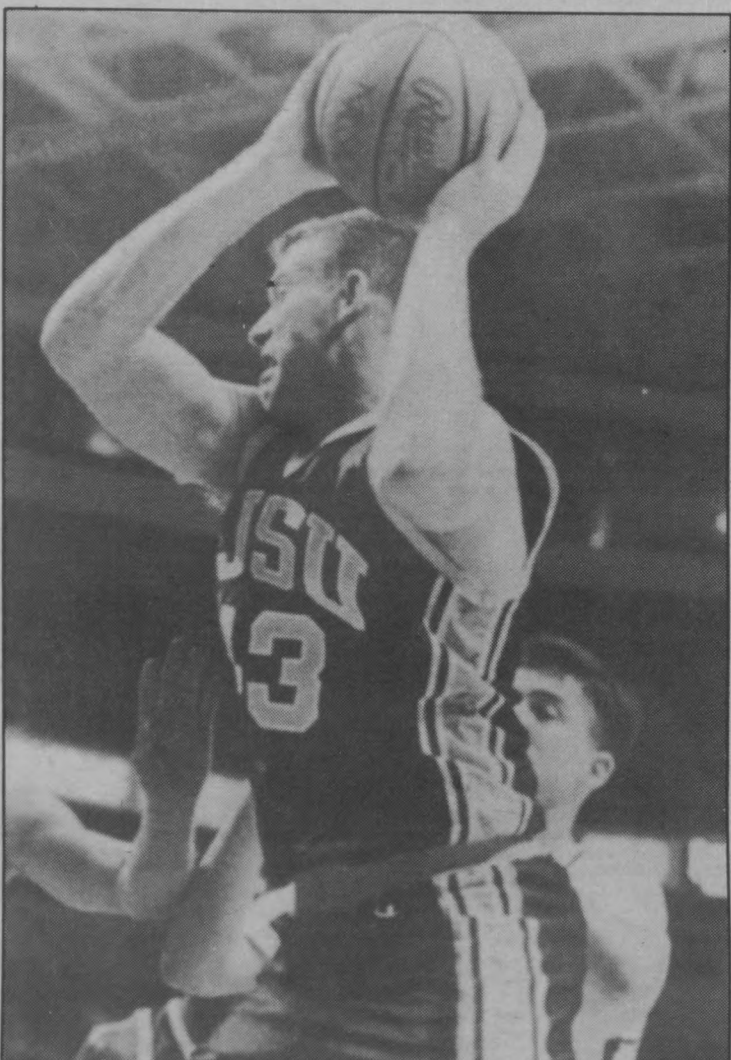
**SAN JOSE STATE**

Preview by Steve Large

# Spartans Lack Experience Since Exodus

**Nexus Pick: 10th Place**

Brotherton and Greene Guide Team as Veteran Players



Big West Media Guide

San Jose State center Mike Brotherton is the leading Spartan rebounder (4.3 rpg) and the second-leading scorer (8.5 ppg). Brotherton hopes to help SJSU rebound from a dismal 1-9 start.

**QUICK FACTS -**

**Location:** San Jose, CA  
**Head Coach:** Stan Morrison (40-105, 6th year)  
**1993-94 Finish:** 15-12 overall, 11-7 in the Big West (2nd place - tie)  
**1994-95 Record:** 1-9 overall, 0-2 Big West

SPARTANS

Last year at this time, journalists were writing the San Jose State Spartans off as the doormat of the Big West conference. They ended up finishing second with an 11-7 conference record, their first winning season in seven years.

This year, the same sports writers are picking San Jose State to finish somewhere in the bottom of the conference once again.

If the first third of the season is any indication of what is to come, the Spartans are of no mind to prove these experts wrong.

Led by coach Stan Morrison (the 1994 Big West Conference Coach of the Year and former athletic director of UCSB), the Spartans are off to an 0-2 start in conference and a 1-9 overall record. They are stuck in the basement of the Big West.

With only two returning starters from last year (senior center Mike Brotherton and junior forward Darren Greene), the Spartans will need last year's reserves and this year's newcomers to make big contributions.

"A key [to our success] is the improvement of our returning players," Morrison said. "A second big factor is how will the new players contribute their talents to our team."

One thing going for the Spartans this year is their size. Unlike past SJSU teams, this year's squad has plenty of it.

San Jose State has six players who are at least 6'7" and are capable of contributing either as a power forward or center.

Although the team is playing without a dominant defender, Morrison hopes that a rebounding-by-committee theme will get underway as the season progresses.

"I expect our rebounding will come from Mike Brotherton, Roy Hammonds [a senior forward], and our guards," Morrison said.

Brotherton is the team's top returning scorer and rebounder (8.4 ppg., 5.2 rpg.) while Hammonds came off of the bench last year to average 5.3 ppg. and 3.0 rpg.

With last year's point guard and team leader Terry Cannon gone to graduation, SJSU will have to find a new face to anchor the backcourt.

Sophomore transfer Jahi Bacon seems to be the man for the job. A threat from three-point land (he shot 40.6 percent from behind the arc last year at Cerritos College), Bacon has already shown that he can put up double figures in the points column this year.

Sophomore guard Tito Addison is also another key player in the backcourt who has scored in double-figures four times and leads the team in steals with 14.

The Spartans have more size, strength and quickness than they had last year, but their lack of experience is what will keep them from duplicating last year's success.

