

SPORTS MONDAY

Daily Nexus

February 12, 1996

Page 1A

Gauchos Prevail in 65-57 T-Dome Win

■ UNLV Falters in Second Half of Loss

By Michael Cadilli
Staff Writer

In the last hand, Vegas folded.

UNLV played its final Big West game in Santa Barbara Saturday night and lost a 12-point second-half lead to fall to the Gauchos 65-57 in front of 5,372 Thunderdome hopefuls, who made up the largest crowd at a basketball game this year at home.

When UCSB (11-10 overall, 8-5 in the Big West) tied the game at 2-2, the tortillas came out. But instead of pumping up the Gauchos in the first half, the Runnin' Rebels made both technical foul shots and jumped out to a 26-18

Big West Standings

Long Beach	9-3
UC Irvine	8-3
UCSB	8-5
Nevada	6-6
Utah St.	6-6
Pacific	6-6
NMSU	5-8
San Jose St.	5-8
UNLV	4-8
Fullerton	4-8

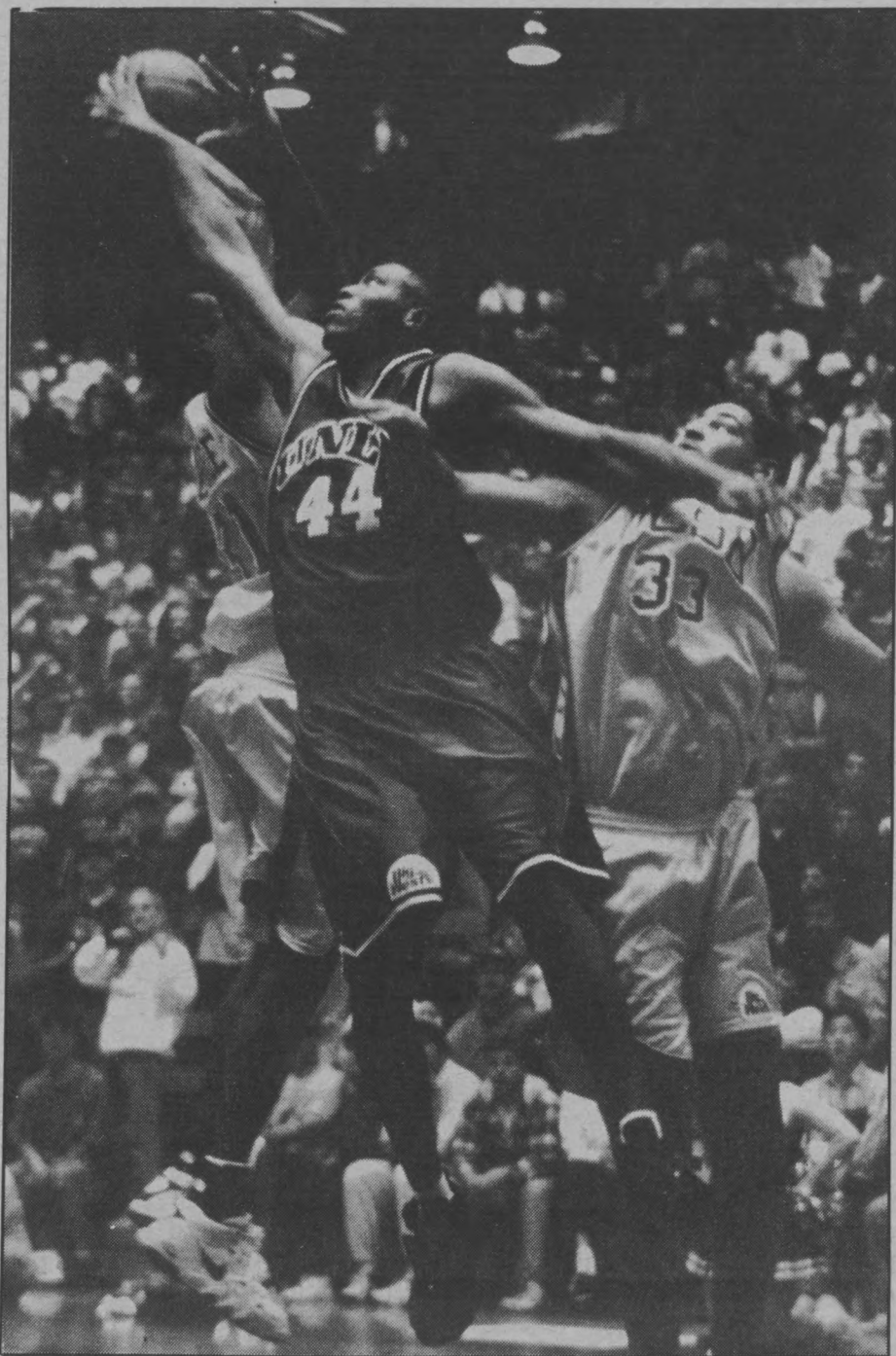
lead at the break. However, Santa Barbara scored 47 second-half points to forge past Vegas (7-13, 4-8) behind the power of the sixth man — the loud fans.

"The crowd made a difference," said sophomore forward Kealon Wallace. "They didn't let down on us, they stuck in and when we started making that little run, they got real loud. That's what the Thunderdome's known for and that helped to get us energized."

UCSB went on a 13-6 run after UNLV's Clayton Johnson got a technical foul following getting tangled up with Gaucho senior guard Danece Prince. Johnson didn't return to the game because Rebel Head Coach Bill Bayno indicated that he was teaching Johnson a life lesson after he lost his cool.

"He grabbed me around the chest, like wrapped me around as I was coming up [around on a pick]," said Prince, who scored eight points, going 2-8 from three-point range. "He went to grab me and I just raised up [my arms] and I guess his head connected with my elbow. I didn't mean anything personal by it and he knows that,

See WIN, p.3A



JARROD BRADLEY/Daily Nexus

BOARD WAR: UCSB sophomore forward Kealon Wallace (left) fights off Tony Lane of UNLV to record one of his career-high 17 rebounds in the 65-57 win.

Two Tough V-Ball Teams UCSB Spikers Dug Up by #1 Hawai'i in Three

By Jenny Kok
Staff Writer

Even with 2,435 raging Gaucho fans trying desperately to get into the heads of the University of Hawai'i men's volleyball players Saturday night, the Rainbows stayed focused and proved themselves worthy of their #1 national ranking by sweeping #2 UCSB 15-7, 15-13, 15-5.

It was a big disappointment for Santa Barbara (4-2 overall, 4-1 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) to be swept at Rob Gym in front of the largest home crowd the team has drawn in years.

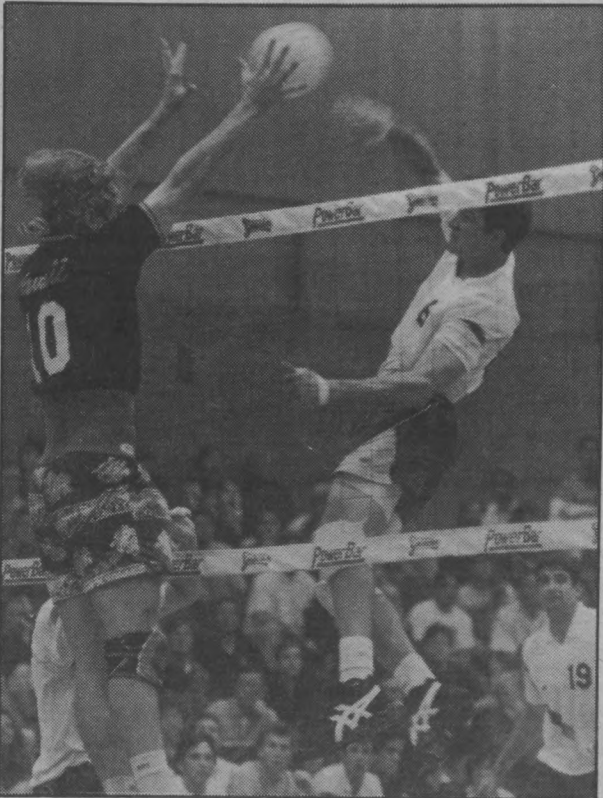
The fans' favorite target of the evening seemed to be Hawai'i middle blocker Sivan Leoni. Leoni, who pounded out 12 kills at a .588 hitting percentage while leading the team with four blocks, offered an explanation for his and his team's ability to perform in front of a hostile crowd.

"The crowd didn't know how to get to us," said Leoni, a native of Israel. "My English isn't great, so I didn't really know what they were yelling about. We average 5,000 fans per game at home, so we are used to the noise. What really gets to us is when the crowd is quiet."

Regardless of the noise factor, the Rainbows (7-0 overall, 4-0 in the MPSF) simply played a flawless match. Their passing was perfect. Tough serving, which earned them seven aces, threw Gaucho passing for a loop. Their defense outdug UCSB's by 40-29, while on offense Hawai'i outkilled Santa Barbara 83-56 — .428 to .368, respectively.

"I give them a lot of credit," said UCSB junior outside hitter Donny Harris. "They played great and we didn't come out and play. They acted like they owned the gym. I feel bad for all the fans that came out to support us and I'd like to apologize to them."

Despite being pulled for half of game three, Harris did his part for the Gauchos, leading the offense with 22 kills at an impressive .436 clip. Nine of his kills came in game one when Santa Barbara came out even with the Rainbows, tying the score at 3-3 before Hawai'i went on a scoring streak.



DAN THIBODEAU/Daily Nexus

SOLO ARTIST: #1 Hawai'i blocker Leoni Sivan attempts to stuff a Gaucho spiker in the three-game sweep of #2 UCSB at Rob Gym Saturday.

Strong serving and steady defense by Aaron Wilton, who led the match with 11 digs, broke the tie while sophomore outside hitter Yuval Katz, after a slow start, made his presence known. UCSB tried to get back in the match, but Hawai'i put a stop to it as Katz ended the game with a kill and one of his match-high four service aces.

Game two didn't start out any easier for the Gauchos as Hawai'i jumped out to an unpleasant 11-4 lead. At this point, Santa Barbara Head Coach Ken Preston brought in seniors Doug Hughes and Brant Chillingworth to stabilize the passing.

The Gauchos narrowed the margin to 11-7, but the Rainbows nudged ahead 13-8. However, from there,

See SWEEP, p.2A

The Classic Matchup May Be Over But Not Forgotten

Chris Oyama

And so ended an era of UCSB Gaucho vs. UNLV Runnin' Rebel men's conference basketball games.

With the Rebels moving to the Western Athletic Conference next season and the Gauchos staying put in the Big West, the once-classic matchup will be suspended. For how long, who knows? But personally, I think it is forever.

If this turns out to be true, I for one will miss the Rebels. Because let's face it, whether you liked them or not, for the past two decades, UNLV defined Big West basketball. They put it on the map and showed to the rest of the country that this relatively small conference on the West Coast could compete with the big boys.

Once they are gone, all we will have left are the memories. But what memories they are.

I recall a time during my freshman year when UNLV-UCSB was the most anticipated game of the year for Gaucho fans. Tickets were in such demand that organizers

See UNLV, p.3A

Santa Barbara Sweeps Two Road Games at Las Vegas, Las Cruces to Take Series

By Brian Berger
Staff Writer

UNLV and New Mexico State. These schools have terrorized the UCSB women's basketball team for years. However, this year things have changed as the Gauchos were looking to sweep the regular-season series with both teams for the first time in five years. Much to the pleasure of Santa Barbara fans, the mission was completed as UCSB (16-5 overall, 12-1 in the Big West) knocked off the Lady Rebels 76-63 Friday night and then defeated NMSU 78-71 Sunday.

Friday night the Gauchos went into South Gym in Las Vegas to take on UNLV (3-16, 2-10) for the final time in regular-season play. While the Lady Rebels have owned Santa Barbara in the past, UCSB had no problem putting away the struggling squad, which has been plagued by injuries and suspensions.

UCSB took the opening tip and after a basket by senior guard Dio Aguinaldo, the Gauchos claimed the lead for good. Junior Amy Smith paced Santa Barbara in the opening 20 mi-

minutes as the forward scored 10 points (4-for-6) to give Santa Barbara a 41-31 advantage at the break.

Junior guard Erin Alexander led Santa Barbara in scoring with 16 points, being one of four UCSB players to reach double digits. Aguinaldo (13), Smith (12) and senior forward Lauren Goldstine (11) round out the Gauchos' top scorers.

Sunday afternoon Santa Barbara visited the Pan American Center in Las Cruces, N.M., to challenge the Roadrunners (14-9, 9-4). As in the UNLV game, UCSB never trailed.

The Gauchos fired out of the blocks behind the long-range attack of Alexander, who looked to match the performance of the NBA's Tim Legler, winner of the 1996 three-point-shooting contest at the All-Star competition Saturday. Alexander, who leads the Big West in shooting percentage from behind the arc as well as treys per game, connected on four bombs in five attempts to give Santa Barbara a 42-28 lead at halftime.

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PRESENTS

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE BY LINDA C. BLACK

Aries (March 21-April 19). Pay bills and gather money you're owed this morning. Get all the business taken care of early, just in case you get a good offer this afternoon. It would be a nice evening to take a drive with a good friend. Talk about things you don't usually have time for.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). To advance in your career, try something that's never been done before—at least not by you. Rely on an old partner for moral, if not financial, support. Go through your budget again this evening. You may find a place where you can whittle waste even further.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Be nice to a quiet co-worker this morning. That one may have more going on than you realize. You may be thwarted from taking action until this afternoon. If you work with a partner, you should be able to get what you want then. Trade something you have.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Don't get involved in a messy situation today, even for a very good friend. You may only make matters worse. It's time that one accepted responsibility. If you get into a bind, call a wise person who lives out of town for inspiration.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You may be able to work out a compromise this morning. Hopefully, you'll end up with something that's better than either of you had. For relaxation, hide away with a good book tonight. A long conversation with an interesting friend is also highly recommended.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Learn from an expert this morning. That'll be easier than reading the manual. Also, make a secret pact with a friend. Support each other in achieving your separate objectives. Then, complete something at home that's been dragging on for way too long.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'd better get that check into the mail this morning! If you hold off much longer, you'll have penalties, too. Tonight would be a good time to learn a new game. There are probably several people who'd like to teach you. Pick the one with the best sense of humor.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may notice you're even more powerful than usual this morning. Unfortunately, it won't last. Better make your move early. Tonight, talk to an older relative. If you learn how your ancestors got through hard times, you'll become even stronger.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Keep your head down this morning. You need to finish some stuff that should have gone out last week. Utilize new skills to speed up your production. Confess an old mistake to your sweetheart this evening, and fall in love all over again.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Consult a friend this morning, in private. You may get the answer you need to make a big decision. Do it early, or not at all. Plans made later may fail to materialize. Stay home and discuss a private matter with your sweetheart tonight.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may run into massive resistance this morning. It's because you want to change something that works for somebody else. Show the benefit of doing things your way and you'll get further. You'll have a more receptive audience tonight.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Make travel plans early this morning. If you can leave, so much the better. Get away before the boss thinks of anything else for you to do. Your mate will have even more chores for you tonight. Authorize a little reward for yourself!

Today's Birthday (Feb. 12). Make a decision and take action now. In March, an investment may be required to secure your future. In April, you could find romance in an educational setting. Go someplace together in June. Stay busy in July, and instigate legal proceedings in August. Schedule your vacation for October, and complete career negotiations in November. You may get a surprise from friends in December. A secret tip brings benefits in January.

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1st Time's a Charm for UCSB Poloists

By Tiana Cassity
Reporter

Gauchos fans filled the Campus Pool stands Saturday as UCSB downed the USC Trojans 9-5 in its first-ever intercollegiate women's water polo game.

Despite concern about the strength of the Santa Barbara offense, the Gauchos (1-0 overall, 1-0 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) were on top of the ball from the start, with freshman driver Wendy Jensen securing the inaugural goal of the season a mere eight seconds into the game.

The game's standout, however, was junior two-meter/utility player Kerri Santos, who by the end of the third quarter had as many goals as the entire USC squad (0-1, 0-1). Santos seemed to be wherever the ball was, as she led UCSB in scoring with four points.

"Our defense was really strong, but our offense was good, too. We had some great counterattacks, and this game was a good start for the season," Santos said. "We were definitely ready."

Santa Barbara's strong start didn't intimidate the Trojans, though, as USC senior two-meter hole set Christina McCall scored one of her two first-period points in a man-up goal at the 5:44 mark.



DIAMEL RAMOUL/Daily Nexus

OVERPOWERED!: UCSB junior two-meter player Suzanne Eskilson works over a USC defender in the 9-5 Gaucho victory in its first ever NCAA event.

The two teams seemed to match up fairly well during the first half, with each squad scoring proficiently. Jensen contributed another goal in the second quarter, bringing the score to 4-3 and giving the Gauchos the lead for the first time since the start of the game. Junior two-meter hole set Suzanne Eskilson (two goals) and sophomore utility player Carly Jones (one goal) also added to the UCSB attack.

Despite the game's outcome, Santa Barbara Head

Coach Joe O'Brien felt his team still needs to concentrate on offense. "Our defense was great, but we have some fundamental things to work on where the offense is concerned," he said.

The question of who among the team's four goalies will occupy the cage this season seems to have been answered. Junior netminder Lisa Janz saved four shots on goal in the first half, while freshman Angie Seto was instrumental in the Gaucho win dur-

ing the last two quarters with equally inspired play. The Trojans managed to score only one goal in the second half, as Seto blocked three attempts.

UCSB will continue playing in the MPSF—which consists of USC, San Diego State and UCLA in the southern half, while the University of the Pacific, UC Berkeley and Stanford University are in the northern section—Thursday at 5 p.m. against San Diego State in San Diego.

SWEEP

Continued from p.1A
UCSB went on a five-point run on three Santa Barbara kills and two Hawai'i errors that tied the game. But the Rainbows didn't waste any more opportun-

ities as Katz hammered out a kill for a sideout and then again came through on offense to put his team up by one. The game ended on a hitting error by Harris.

UCSB's frustrations showed in game three as Hawai'i jumped out to a 7-0 lead. With the score at

9-3, Santa Barbara showed some heart as the teams recorded 22 straight sideouts. But again, Katz let loose on UCSB and eventually finished off the game with a single-handed block of a dink attempt from Chillingworth. Katz led the match with 30 kills,

hitting at a .556 clip. For UCSB, junior middle blocker Robert Treahy led the block with two solo and two assisted blocks while pounding out 13 kills at .500 and making five digs. Junior outside hitter Jason Crone led the defense with six digs.

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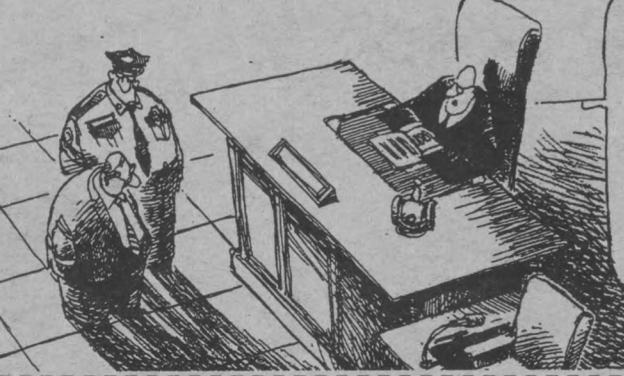
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THE
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We Score More

Gauchos Hit SLO Pitchers in 2nd Game

Finally coming out of an early season hitting slump, the UCSB women's softball team won its first game of the season Saturday by pulling off a road victory over Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

After losing the first game 5-0, the Gauchos (1-3) managed to put it together late in the second game as they got key hits down the stretch to produce three runs in the top of the ninth inning to win 3-2.

"In the first game we came out a little down," said senior pitcher Stacey Atwood. "The second game, we picked it up and that's what helped us win."

Scoreless after seven innings, junior outfielder Daneele Lovetro drove in the game's first run when she singled home one of the two runners on base. Junior

catcher/utility Johnna Mike followed with another hit and RBI and Lovetro came around to score on a bad throw to make the score 3-0.

"Offensively, we were struggling a little bit. We were only getting hits here and there," Atwood said. "Towards the end of the second game, we broke through our slump and our momentum picked up."

Junior pitcher Kacie Ontiveros picked up her first win as a Gaucho in the second game to improve her record to 1-1, while Mike tallied two hits for UCSB.

The Gauchos lost the first game 5-0 as Atwood (0-2) gave up three earned runs on six hits. Offensively, she tallied two hits, as did Lovetro.

—Alex Nugent

WIN

Continued from p.1A but he just got out of control because the crowd was getting on him."

That play seemed to jump-start the Santa Barbara offense as senior guard Lelan McDougal tallied a game-high 24 points, while Wallace put in 12 second-half points and pulled down a career- and game-high 17 rebounds.

"We let up defensively in the second half. In the first five minutes they scored 13 points," Bayno said. "We don't have a lot of depth, so it's hard to maintain that intensity."

In the last four games UCSB has been crashing the glass better, and despite going up against the Big West's top rebounder in Warren Rosegreen, the Gauchos finished the game tied in rebounding at 36.

"I just knew we had to get on the boards," Wal-

lace said. "They beat us real bad [in rebounding] when we went down there, so somebody had to take care of the board work and I took it on as a challenge for myself."

And according to Santa Barbara Head Coach Jerry Pimm, what kept his squad in the game was defense and its league-leading free-throw shooting ability (.708).

"It's the defensive things that keep you in games. If you keep working on the defense hard and you play for the full 40 minutes and never give up on the boards, you can stay in games," he said. "What we had to do was take it at them. We only had six free throws in the first half, and in the second half we took it at them for 26 free throws and that was a big, big factor."

Another reason UCSB pulled out the victory was the ballhandling of senior guard co-captain Phillip Turner, who recorded 12 assists (top 12 in the nation for assists per game) and 12 points.

UNLV

Continued from p.1A wouldn't even tell where they were being distributed.

That morning of the game my hallmates and I scoured the campus, searching for the secret location. I vividly recall that five minutes before the announcement was even made, I was wading my way through a mad crush of human flesh trying to work my way into the Thunderdome. Apparently, someone had been tipped off, and to prevent a stampede organizers decided to just give the tickets out early. Fortunately, I was able to get one. Others weren't quite as lucky.

That particular game was perhaps the greatest game I had, or since have, been to. The crowd was enormous, the intensity was incredible and the atmosphere was unbelievable. Santa Barbara narrowly prevailed in a three-

point victory, but my fondest memory was of Gaucho guard Idris Jones sitting on top of the rim after the game, leading the chant of "Gauchos, Gauchos."

In the past two meetings at home against the Rebels, the games have not meant quite as much since the UNLV program has dramatically declined. Gone are the superstars — the Larry Johnsons, the J.R-Isaiah-J.R Riders — and Tark the Shark can be found in new waters. Still, Saturday's 65-57 victory over UNLV was special.

For Gaucho fans, beating the Rebels has meant so much more than just a W in the win column. It has meant that sometimes the little guy can beat the big guy on the block. Sometimes the UCSBs of the world will have their day in the sun.

As for the Rebels, what can I say? Good luck in your new conference. Your stay in the Big West has truly been a pleasure.

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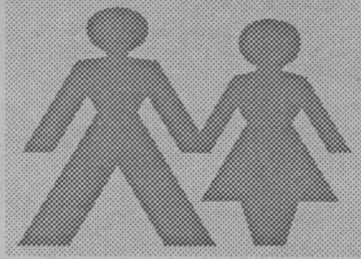
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