

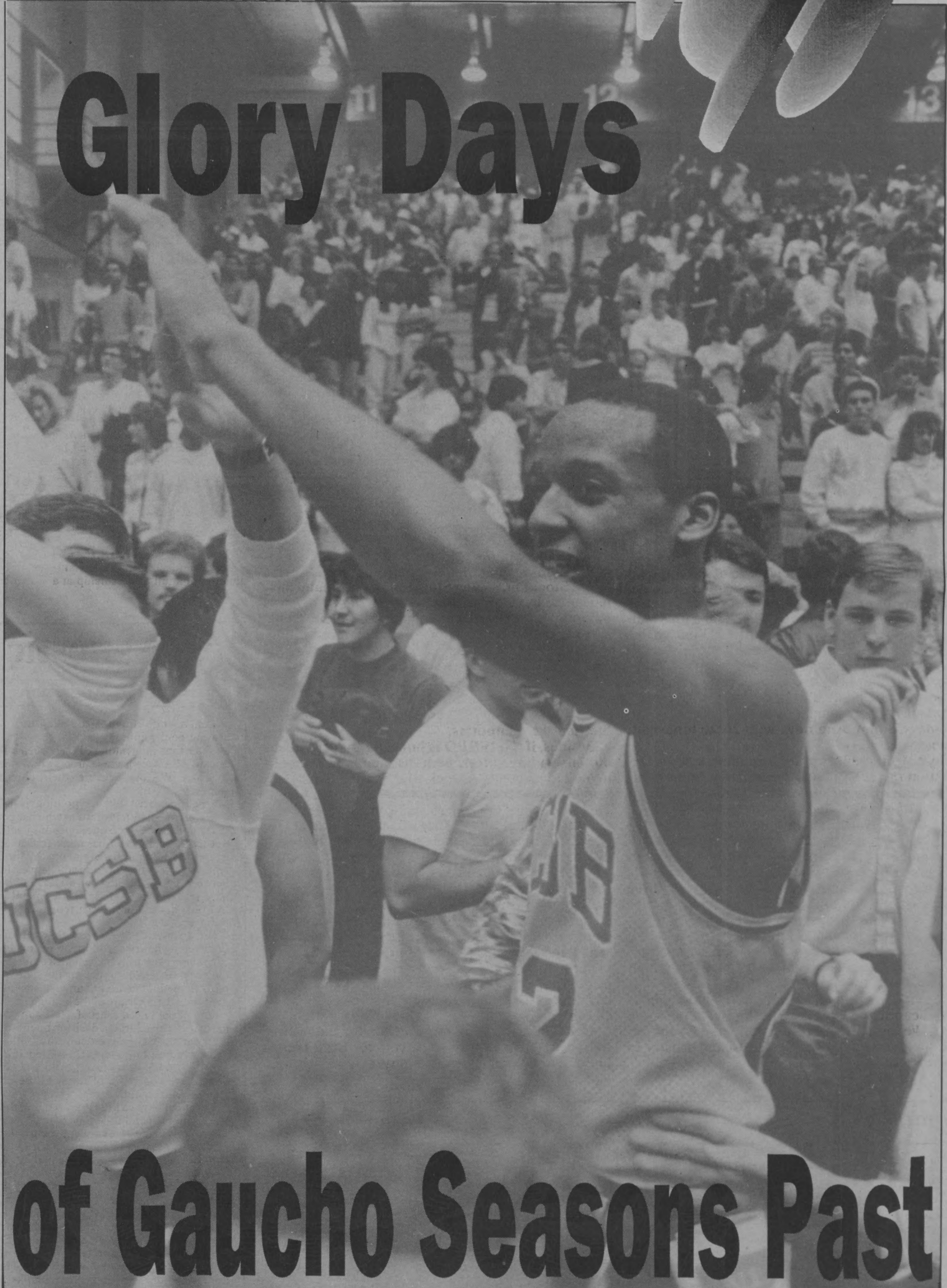
HOMECOMING '93

A Daily Nexus Supplement

January 20, 1993

Page 1A

Glory Days



of Gaucho Seasons Past

Looking Back at the 1987-88 NCAA Tournament Team

HOMECOMING '93

Putting UCSB on the Map

Five Years Ago, the Gauchos Shocked UNLV and the Nation on Their Way to the NCAA Tournament

By DINO SCOPPETTONE

"The ultimate goal is to ... beat UNLV at UNLV, again earn a spot in the PCAA tourney and if they fail to take top honors in the conference, win an NIT bid."
—Daily Nexus, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1987

Such lofty goals. Actually, looking at the state of the UCSB men's basketball team nowadays, it is almost laughable for the team to shoot for a conference tournament spot and an NIT invitation. Anything less than a berth in the NCAA tournament is a disappointment to Gaucho fans, who have come to expect big things from their hoopsters.

But this is now, and that was then. Then, of course, being the days when the Thunderdome was still the Campus Events Center, when Gaucho basketball was synonymous with mediocrity, when the letters U-C-S-B were nothing but a mere jumble in the college basketball puzzle.

In fact, until the 1986-87 season, the UCSB Gauchos had suffered through 10 straight losing seasons, and the lack of fan support meant that the Events Center was just another cavernous pit in which college basketball cropped up every now and then. Sure, spectators would file in for the annual drubbing at the hands of UNLV, but aside from that, Gaucho basketball was just another event.

The credit for the turnaround, according to UCSB



SHAWSOME: Brian Shaw scored a triple-double to lead UCSB to an upset of North Carolina State.



LET THE GAMES BEGIN: Gaucho fans celebrate during the opening minute of UCSB's win over UNLV in 1988.

Head Coach Jerry Pimm, goes to those players that stuck it out through the hard times, the years immediately following the arrival of a coach that had taken Utah to the NCAA tournament five times in seven years. Pimm was taking a chance by moving from a cushy job in Utah to the shores of Santa Barbara 10 years ago, and he was hoping to work his magic once again with the Gauchos.

The going was slow, but after three losing seasons, the building blocks were laid. 1986-87 saw a trio of Brians — Shaw, Vaughns and Johnson — help carry the team to respectability. It is this team, a squad that finished 16-13 overall, that UCSB Sports Information Director Bill Mahoney considers the breakthrough squad in Gaucho basketball lore.

"That was the year that broke a string of 10 consecutive years of under-.500 seasons," said Mahoney, who at the time was an Assistant Media Relations Director at UCSB. "Suddenly, people were noticing that Santa Barbara had some players that could really play basketball. We finished in second place in the conference ... and that was a major accomplishment."

The 1986-87 squad was a group of young, bright-eyed guys that weren't really sure how far they could go. The next year, however, the team knew it had talent, and the Gauchos proved it by bolting to a 6-0 preseason record before Jimmy Valvano and North Carolina State invaded the Events Center — a venue that was becoming increasingly loud with each game — on Dec. 23 of 1987.

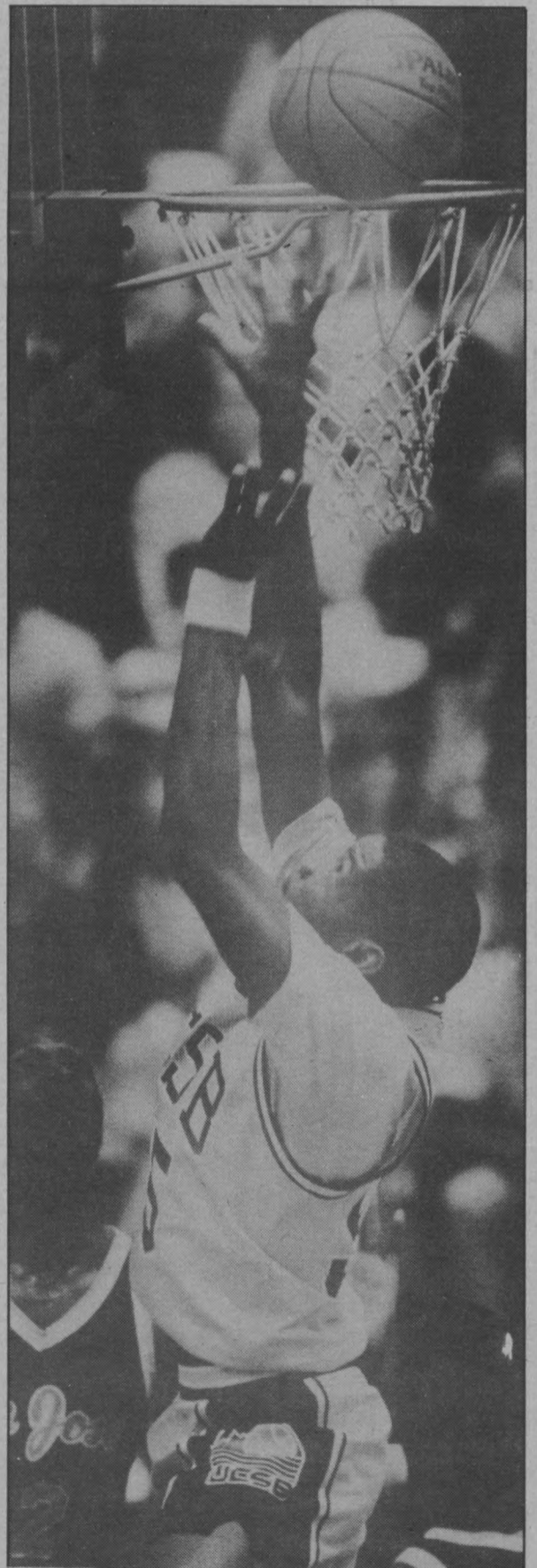
"We really didn't know what kind of team we were going to have going into that North Carolina State game," Pimm recalled. "We hadn't played an opponent of that stature, a nationally ranked team. That was a get-it-over-the-hump game, no doubt about it."

With Brian Shaw turning in a triple-double (22 points, 20 rebounds, 10 assists), UCSB got it over the hump in style, thrashing the Wolfpack 96-78 before a sellout

crowd of 6,000. "They probably had better athletes than us, but I think they took us for granted," Shaw said after the game. "Once we got 'em down and the crowd got on 'em, we just put the pressure on."

Now, the pressure was beginning to shift to the Gauchos. People were starting to notice little ol' UCSB, the beach school that finished the preseason with an 8-1 conference mark. Suddenly, the Events Center had be-

See 1987-88, p.11A



THE FREEZE: As a sophomore in 1987-88, Eric McArthur averaged 8.5 points and 6.5 rebounds.

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HOMECOMING '93

Bowling, Basketball and Bonfire; Week of Festivities Is Under Way

By Rob Carpio

Simply because the university's football program was axed a year ago, it does not mean that UCSB Homecoming must be canceled as well. On the contrary, Homecoming festivities are alive and well this week on campus, as activities ranging from bowling to softball are on the agenda to provide fun and excitement for both students and alumni.

Susan Goodale, advisor to the Student Alumni Association and a member of the Homecoming Committee for 1993, explained that the week serves two different purposes for current and past UCSB students.

"From the alumni perspective, it's an opportunity to bring alumni back to campus and to refamiliarize them with the place they went to school, and it's a chance for them to meet their classmates again and spend time together," Goodale said. "For the students, it's an opportunity to create tradition and to have an event that adds to the time they're here in a meaningful way. So when they graduate, they have those good memories and they will want to come back for Homecoming as alumni."

Activities started Tuesday at noon with a giant

Activities started Tuesday at noon with a giant Twister game in Storke Plaza, sponsored by Sigma Chi Fraternity and Milton Bradley.

Twister game in Storke Plaza, sponsored by Sigma Chi Fraternity and Milton Bradley. Homecoming continues Wednesday with a blood drive in Room 2 of the University Center from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., and a karaoke contest at the Annex from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

From 9:30 p.m. until midnight on Thursday, UCSB students are invited to Orchid Bowl in Goleta for Rock 'n' Bowl with a special admission charge of only \$5 for anyone with a current reg card and wearing blue and gold attire or UCSB letters. On Friday will be the Blue and Gold Rally, taking place at noon inside The Pub and including a performance by Los Guys. Presentations will be made at the rally to name the Gaucho Man and Woman of the Year. The award will be given to one current male and one current female UCSB student, and ac-

ording to Homecoming Co-chair Rosie Meza, "the award covers a wide range of candidates" that includes both scholar-athletes and non-athletes. The committee has yet to decide who the recipients will be.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday will be a softball game between alumni and the local media. From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., the Homecoming Festival takes place on the Faculty Club Lawn with food and game booths, as well as music by Raw Silk. In case of rain, the festival will be moved to Rob Gym.

A change from past Homecomings at UCSB is the sport around which the activities revolve. Because the football program was dropped, basketball will be the center of attention for the first time this year. Goodale acknowledged that while many people regard football as the traditional Homecoming sport, UCSB is not unique in its choice to put together a non-football Homecoming.

"Very few people know that across the country — and even in California — basketball is the sport that people rally around at Homecoming time," Goodale said. Among California universities highlighting basketball during

See WEEK, p.6A



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Karaoke Contest

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

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HOMECOMING '93

Basketball Just Doesn't Quite Fit as Well as Homecoming Football

By Scott McPherson

There is, of course, something just a little bit weird about a Homecoming *basketball* game.

After all, Homecoming has always been an occasion for the gridiron. Football. Now *that's* a Homecoming game. The young men bashing each others' heads on the grass, the halftime parade of floats on the track around the football field, the chill of the autumn air that causes goose bumps to stand up on the bare shoulders of the newly crowned Homecoming Queen as she struts around in a tiara and shiny new prom dress.

Now *that's* a good ol' fashioned Homecoming.

Basketball? For a Homecoming game? The sport of basketball—especially when played in the Thunderdome—is a loud and frenzied affair, not like the stop and go, wait in the huddle, three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust action of football.

At the traditional Homecoming (football) game, the gone-but-not-forgotten alumni mill about in the stands, alternating between paying attention to the game and looking around the stands, saying to acquaintances from long ago, "Hey, didn't we cheat on a science test together about five years ago?" This is

There remains an odd, nagging sense that something is awry when one refers to a Homecoming basketball game.

what makes going back to your alma mater such a good time — reliving vague memories about people and places that you think may have been important to you at some point.

For the Homecoming basketball fan, such conversational reminiscing is just not possible. Imagine yourself, a graduate of this fine institution, packing into the Events Center to catch this Saturday's Homecoming spectacle on the hardwood. Perhaps you see a friend, a former professor, whomever; someone that you knew way back when. But to talk to him or her, you'd have to turn your back on the game, negotiate your way through the stands, fight off the CSOs that kindly insist that you return to your seat, weave around the fans that bark, "Hey buddy, sidddown. I'm tryin' to watch the game!" locate the object of your search, find a seat next to them (a neat trick in a sold-out arena) and try to engage in some type of

meaningful conversation as 2,000 students scream "air ball" in unison at the top of their lungs in the same building.

It is, of course, the fault of those darned students that we don't have a Homecoming *football* game to attend this year. For those unclear on the dark and stormy history of Gaucho football, a little history lesson is in order: Due to NCAA regulations, UCSB had to upgrade all of its athletic programs to the Division I level last year, including the then-Division II Gaucho football team. Such an upgrade costs money, and the decision whether or not to cough up the required dough for a top-notch football program was left up to the student body. In their "I'm sick of fee increases, and I'm not gonna take 'em anymore!" wisdom, the students gave the gridiron the thumbs down, effectively killing the program — and the yearly Homecoming *football* game.

While the Gaucho football program was, in general, no great loss, and even though the UCSB basketball team is infinitely more interesting to watch, there remains a kind of odd, nagging sense that something is awry when one refers to a Homecoming *basketball* game.

Well, I guess we still get a bonfire.



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HOMECOMING '93

It's Bad Timing, but Festivities Are Here; Can You Feel the Thunder?

By Daniel Solomon

So what is all of this Homecoming stuff about anyway? And who decided to have it during the third week of the quarter, right before midterms are about to start? After all, Homecoming would have been much better in the first two weeks of the quarter, when the students could actually get into the festive and partying spirit.

Now it appears that we'll have to limit ourselves to a condition of total drunkenness, rather than a condition of being passed out on our front porch while a dog urinates on our leg to wake us up. Why can't they just let us sleep?

Well, if you're stumped about the meaning of Homecoming Week, I offer you a few choices to consider.

Is Homecoming:

A) A chance for the university to raise more money from wealthy students and poverty stricken alumni? No, wait. Strike that and reverse those two.

B) A chance for the university to raise blood from the bodies of stressed out and nutrient depleted students? Unless, of course, the students are on a strict diet of Freebird's and frozen T.V. dinners, like myself,

Let us take this time to analyze the Homecoming slogan: *Feel the THUNDER.* Kind of gives you chills, huh?

in which case donating blood is not only acceptable, but expected.

C) A chance for the university to hype the local hangouts, like the Annex, Orchid Bowl in Goleta, and my favorite, the Faculty Club Lawn? (In fact, I heard that they had three kegs at the Club last weekend. The only problem was that Babs forgot the tap.)

D) All of the above. Well, if you haven't guessed by now ... then there should be a university investigation as to how someone as stupid as you could get into a place of higher education like UCSB.

In all seriousness, the events planned for Homecoming Week are honest attempts to raise money for a university that is in financial crisis. And we should probably cut that point right there before we get carried away and start talking about fee in-

creases, student protests and the regents, led by one of the richest men in California, good ol' Pete Wilson.

However, let us take this time instead to analyze the Homecoming slogan: *Feel the THUNDER.* Kind of gives you the chills, huh? But really, is this slogan supposed to be a subliminal message, especially with the most recent rainstorms, which are expected to return later this weekend or next week? Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

What I was thinking, on the other hand, was that this slogan is supposed to inspire students to get out to the Thunderdome Saturday for the women's and men's basketball games. Despite the fact that the men had lost three games in a row before beating Long Beach State on Monday night, Saturday's game against CSU Fullerton should be quite entertaining. We can only hope that the game will be able to compete with the excitement of the Homecoming bonfire, which will be held at the hottest spot on campus. That's right — the Faculty Club Lawn.

Have a good Homecoming Week, and if anyone sees our esteemed chancellor during these festivities, remind Babs not to forget the tap Saturday.



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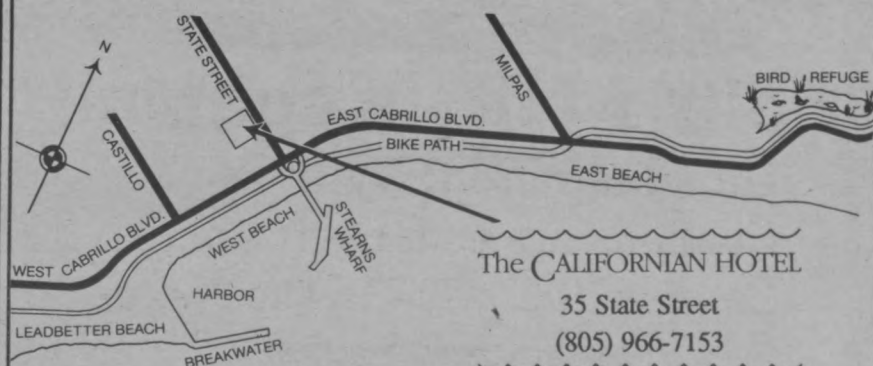
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WEEK

Continued from p.3A
Homecoming are Westmont, the University of San Francisco and Pepperdine.

Gacho men's basketball Head Coach Jerry Pimm remarked that Homecoming is a time for the whole campus to get together, and the sport around which all the activities are centered makes no difference.

"It's a whole total package," Pimm said. "Men's basketball does get a lot of publicity with our national televised games and everything, so it's nice to have a game during that time, and I think it's a good time to build everything around. But it's not just basketball that [alumni] come back for; they come back for all of the activities that the students are doing here now."

The main attractions for the week are the basketball games on Saturday. In the afternoon, the Lady Gauchos will take on Long Beach State at 4:30, while the men will do battle with Cal State Fullerton at 7:30. Both games will take place in the Events Center.

The UCSB Homecoming Committee explained that basketball as the focal point of the week is just an experiment, although student and alumni interest has been positive, according to Goodale. Committee Co-chair Reza Garajedagi expects a big turnout overall for the festivities

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Schedule of Events

Wednesday, January 20
Blood Drive, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
UCen Room 2

Karaoke Contest
9p.m.-11p.m.
The Annex

Thursday, January 21
Homecoming Rock n Bowl
9:30 p.m.-Midnight
Orchid Bowl, Goleta
\$5.00 admission with UCSB student ID
and blue and gold attire or UCSB letters

Friday, January 22
Blue and Gold Rally
Noon
the Pub

Saturday, January 23
Softball vs. Local Media
10 a.m.
Softball Field

Homecoming Festival
Food and game booths
11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Faculty Club Lawn
(Rain location: Rob Gym)

Women's Basketball
Gauchos vs. Long Beach
4:30 p.m.
Events Center

Men's Basketball
Gauchos vs. Fullerton
7:30 p.m.
Events Center

Bonfire Rally
9:45 p.m.
(time approximate after men's game)
Closing Ceremonies and low-ground fireworks
Faculty Club Lawn

during the week, as well as the games on Saturday. A bonfire rally will culminate events on Saturday night after the men's game at 9:45 on the Faculty Club

Lawn. Members of the men's team are slated to attend the closing ceremonies that are to be highlighted by a low-height fireworks display.

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UCSB Readers Poll Rules

1. NO XEROXED BALLOTS.
2. Ballots must be dropped off at The *Daily Nexus* Ad Office, underneath Storke Tower, by **Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 5pm.**
3. ONE ballot per person.
4. Ballots must be filled out with reasonable completeness. Ballots with less than half of the blanks filled will be recycled with alacrity.
5. NOTE: The Nexus' "Best of UCSB" is intended to be a good natured contest among business groups and others in the community. In other words, this is not a cutthroat competition whose results are somehow of deep and lasting significance. Please do not take it as such.
6. Decisions of Ballot referees are final.

1. Best Sign of the Times _____
2. Best Place to Hear Live Music _____
3. Best Local Band _____
4. Best Radio Station _____
5. Best Movie Theater _____
6. Best Hike _____
7. Best Place to Stroll at Night Safely _____
8. Best Place to Commune With Nature _____
9. Best Place to People Watch _____
10. Best Place to Buy Groceries _____
11. Best Place to Get Condoms _____
12. Best Dining Commons _____
13. Best Coffee House _____
14. Best Place to Drink Beer _____
15. Best Pizza Place _____
16. Best Mexican Restaurant _____
17. Best Thai Place _____
18. Best Chinese Restaurant _____
19. Best Barbecue Joint _____
20. Best Burrito Eatery _____
21. Best Hamburger Joint _____
22. Best Vegetarian Place _____
23. Best Breakfast Place _____
24. Best Restaurant With a View _____
25. Best Place to Eat if Your Folks are Picking up the Tab _____
26. Best Ice Cream Shop _____
27. Best Bakery _____
28. Best Gym _____
29. Best Beach _____
30. Best Surf Spot _____
31. Best Surf Shop _____
32. Best Way to Get Tar Off Your Feet _____

33. Best Afternoon Getaway _____
34. Best Car Mechanic _____
35. Best Bike Shop _____
36. Best Way to Save Money _____
37. Best Secondhand Clothing Store _____
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41. Best Computer Store _____
42. Best Computer Game _____
43. Best Place to Get Goofy Stuff _____
44. Best Cheap Date _____
45. Best Happy Hour _____
46. Best Margarita _____
47. Best Night Club _____
48. Best Place to Play Pool _____
49. Best Karaoke Bar _____
50. Best Dive Bar _____
51. Best Word for Vomiting _____
52. Best Stupid Thrill _____
53. Most Nauseating _____ (fill in both)
54. Best TV Show _____
55. Best Place to Watch TV _____
56. Best Place to Eat on Campus _____
57. Best Thing About UCSB _____
58. Best Professor _____
59. Best Class _____
60. Best Class to Sleep Through _____
61. Best Reason to Miss Class _____
62. Best Excuse for Turning in a Paper Late _____
63. Best Excuse for Not Graduating in 4 years _____
64. Best Answer to a Question We Haven't Asked _____

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Fill out and bring in to the Nexus Ad Office, under Storke Tower, by Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 5pm

HOME COMING '93

Which Team Was Better? A Look Back at the 1990 and 1992 Gauchos

By Brian Banks

First impressions can last a lifetime, and the initial experience of Gaucho basketball for the class of 1993 was a 20-win season and a trip to the 1990 NCAA Tournament.

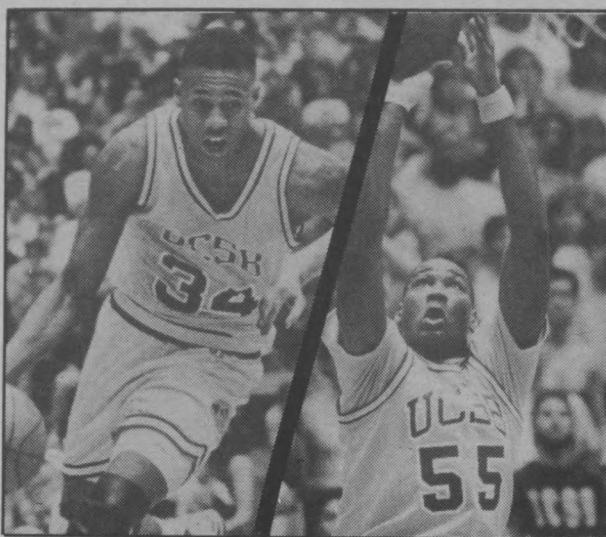
The Gauchos came close to that level again last season, but fell short of postseason expectations. No NCAA Tournament. No postseason victories.

The teams of the 1989-90 and 1991-92 campaigns are markedly similar in their style and success. Both, of course, coached by Jerry Pimm, which means yellow and brown plays and five-pass rules. Both tried to control the tempo of the game, which meant slowing down to set the pace and then turning on the speed when the opponents have been lulled to a daze.

Both found electricity and excitement through the highlight film heroics of one man. Four years ago, a bald-headed, long-armed, post player named Eric McArthur rocked the Thunderdome with out-of-nowhere rejections and in-your-face dunks. Last year, the hometown fans were treated to more of the same by a baldheaded, long-armed, post player named Lucius Davis.

Both teams had their outside shooting specialists. In 1989, Carrick DeHart broke the school record for career points while breaking games open with his sharpshooting. In 1991, Idris Jones was voted the league's Best Sixth Man on the strength of his clutch shooting.

Both teams fed off the Thunderdome crowd, perhaps



Lucius Davis (1992) and Eric McArthur (1990) each garnered All-Big West First Team honors and led the Gauchos to the postseason as seniors.

more so than any UCSB teams before or since. The 1989 and 1991 squads didn't have the NBA talent of a Brian Shaw or the three-point shooting records of a Brian Johnson. They had emotion, a hard work ethic and tremendous senior leadership.

And they had the fans.

Simply put, people liked these guys. Who couldn't appreciate the way Davis went to the hoop, or the way DeHart rained jumpers? Who couldn't buy into the rivalries against UNLV and New Mexico State, especially when the Gauchos had a legitimate shot at beating those guys. In 1989 and 1991, UCSB basketball was the talk of the town. A fan favorite. Santa Barbara's hottest ticket.

In one of those computer-simulated, dream-game, input-the-numbers-and-check-the-results contests, these two squads would put on quite a show. 1989 versus 1991. Which team was better? Which team had more potential? Which team might challenge the 1987-88 team as the school's best ever?

The matchup would present some problems, like Lucius Davis guarding himself. But imagine moving the 1991 Davis over and sticking him on McArthur, or a backcourt shooting battle between DeHart and Jones. It would be a great show.

Guards: Clearly, the 1991 team had the better backcourt, if only because its predecessor had no legitimate point guard. The man handling the ball in 1989 was an awkward freshman named Idris Jones, whose main responsibility was to pass off to DeHart as quickly as he crossed the time line.

In 1991, Pimm had one of his best backcourts ever, with point guard Ray Kelly at his quick-hands, drive-the-lane best, defensive stopper Ray Stewart on the wing and Jones coming off the bench to tear teams apart.

Forwards: Always the strong suit of any good Pimm team, both 1989 and 1991 saw its share of effective 3- and 4-spot players. Four seasons ago, Gary Gray, Davis, Paul Johnson, just a baby-faced sophomore who had yet to find his specialty (rebounding and defense), were heading the frontcourt. In relief was 6-6, 220-pound Ulysses Akins, who possessed more toughness than basketball skill and was nicknamed "The Thug" by a local broadcaster.

In 1991, there was Davis. Need there be more? 22.2 points a game. 6.1 rebounds a game. In perhaps the best year ever recorded by a Gaucho, Davis set five school single season records. There was also Mike Meyer at the small forward spot, holding opponents like Jimmy Jackson, Doug Christie, J.R. Rider and Lucious Harris to well under their scoring averages. Both Davis and Meyer had little help off the bench, and averaged over 30 minutes a game.

Centers: The 1989 squad had the center of everyone's attention — McArthur. He was the kind of player people stopped whatever it was they were doing to watch. He wasn't exactly the most talented basketball player; he

See TEAMS, p.9A



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

Blood Drive
UCen Room 2
11 am - 3 pm

Karaoke Contest
The Annex
9 pm - 11 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

Rock 'n Bowl Night
Orchid Bowl, Goleta
9:30 pm - midnight
\$5.00 if you have student ID and wear blue and gold

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

Blue and Gold Rally
Gaucho Man and Woman of the Year
UCen Pub
12 noon

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

Homecoming Food and Game Festival
Faculty Club Lawn
11 am - 3 pm
Music by Raw Silk

Women's Basketball Game
UCSB vs Cal State Long Beach
Events Center
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Men's Basketball Game
UCSB vs Cal State Fullerton
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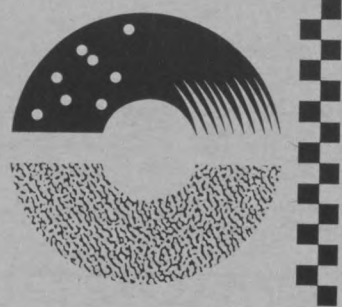
by Gary Trudeau

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TEAMS

Continued from p.8A couldn't dribble, couldn't shoot from outside 12 feet, and he couldn't shoot free throws worth a dime. But the paint was his. He could jam, he could hook, he could juke one defender while going through another. And on the other end, you'd better have a lot of height and a lot of luck to get a shot past him. McArthur wasn't just great. He was actually feared.

The 1991 team had Sam Robson.

So which team was better? Four years ago, the Gauchos went to the second round of the NCAA Tournament, and that was as good as winning the National Championship. Last year, the team *should* have gone to the second round, at least. It had all the talent, all the intangibles, all the potential. But fate wasn't on its side.

The 1989 squad had more success, the 1991



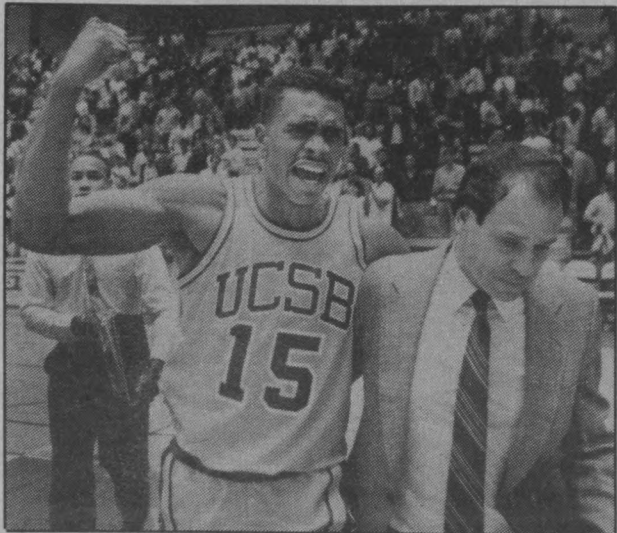
TOP GUNS: Lucius Davis (above) averaged 21.8 points a game last year, while Carrick DeHart (below) averaged 16.0 points during 1989-90.

version had more potential. In a simulated matchup, it would be close. Kelly and Stewart would probably put a lot of pressure on young point guard Jones, but DeHart could light it up. The McArthur-Davis battle inside would be epic, but give the edge to Davis be-


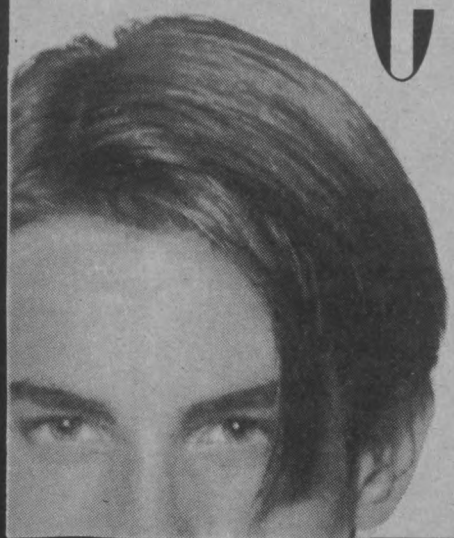
cause of his quickness and shooting range. But give McArthur 10 blocks on Robson and five jams.

If it went to the wire, the 1991 team might prove best, simply because Davis and Jones were a great clutch team. Defend Jones on the perimeter, send it in to Davis. Close out on Davis inside, expect a Jones jump shot. It was practically unstoppable, not to mention the fact that last year's squad ran Pimm's special last-second plays to perfection.

The class of 1993 may not go out with a team like last year's. After all, success should be taken in measured doses or it gets taken for granted. But a trend has been established. If the 1987-88 team was the greatest ever, 1989-90 and 1991-92 were close seconds, just wait until next year.



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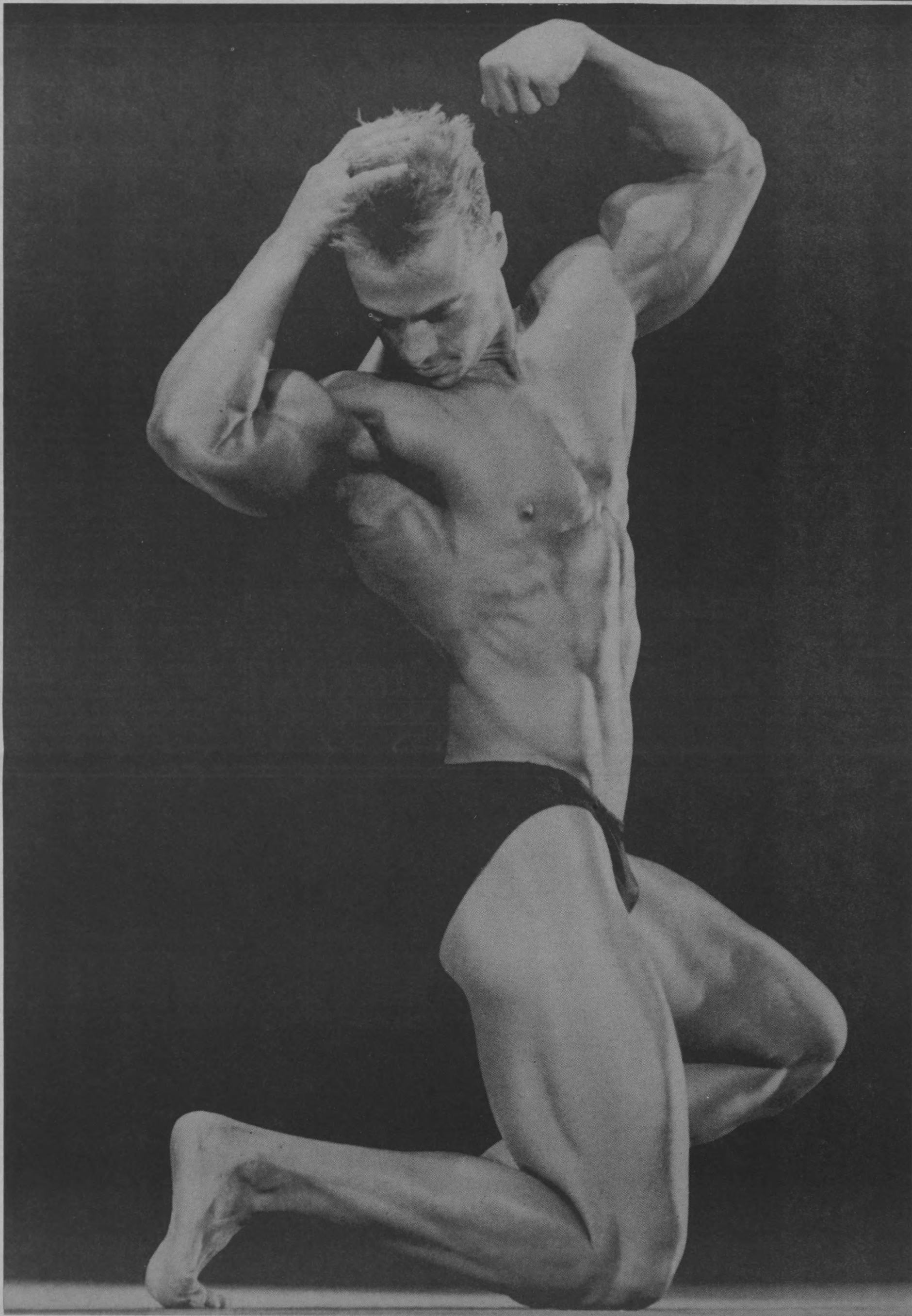
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1987-88: UCSB Beats Rebels Twice

Continued from p.2A
come the Thunderdome, and the Gauchos and their fans were expecting to win. It was time, then, for goal number one.

"We made some mistakes; some very bad mistakes. It wasn't supposed to go like that."

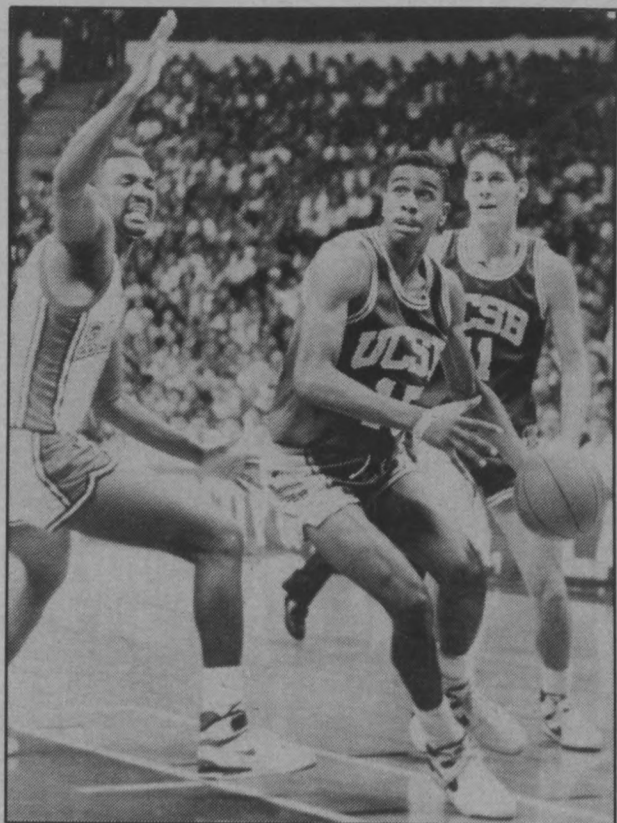
—Jerry Tarkanian, Jan. 7, 1988

At least, not for the Runnin' Rebels, the #13 team in the nation. For UCSB, however, a team that had never beaten the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, it went just like it was supposed to go. The Gauchos, riding a wave of emotion, waltzed into the Thomas and Mack Center at Las Vegas and walked out with a 62-60 win in front of 18,500 stunned fans. Sophomores Carrick DeHart and Eric McArthur paced UCSB with 13 and 11 points, respectively, while Shaw held Rebel gunner Gerald Padidio to 1-13 shooting from the field.

"I think the first time, at their place, we kind of snuck up on them," Mahoney said. "I really don't think they expected us to be as good as we were."

If the Gauchos won by virtue of surprise, UNLV had no excuse when it arrived at the Thunderdome a month later ranked second in the nation. This time, there was no surprise involved. Yet UCSB stuck it to the Rebels again, 71-66, and Gauchomania was officially in full swing. Two wins over the Rebels meant that the Gauchos most assuredly would be reaching goal number two, the conference tourney bid. And even when UCSB dropped a game to Utah State in the second round of the PCAA tourney, some sort of postseason spot was in reach. But to which tournament would the Gauchos be going?

"Unless you go all the way, you're gonna be



K-ROCK: Carrick DeHart scored 21 points in the Gauchos' 71-66 win over #2-ranked UNLV.

disappointed."

—Brian Johnson

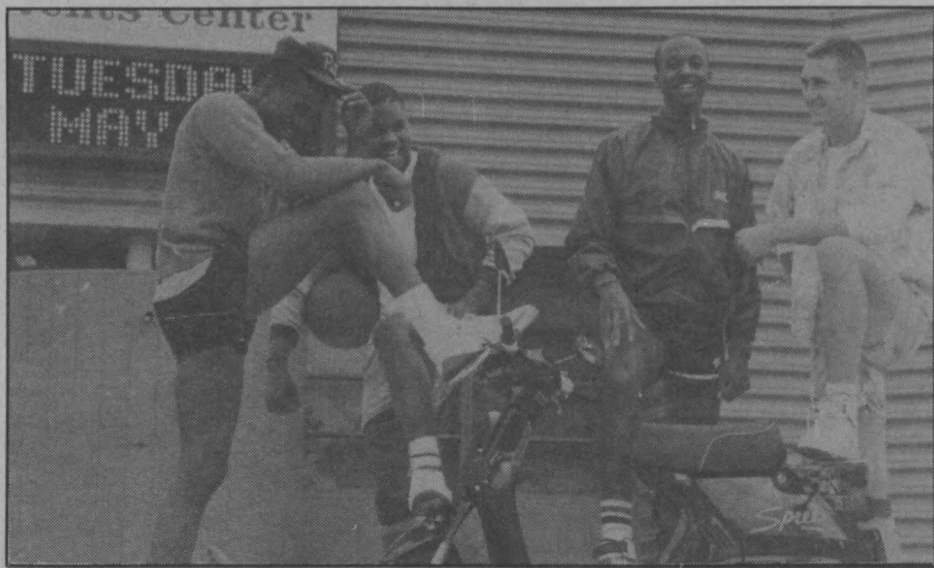
In March of 1988, the UCSB men's basketball team learned that, for the first time in their history, the Gauchos would be given the chance to go all the way. By virtue of its 22-7 record, UCSB had gone beyond goal number three; it had been selected to the NCAA tournament field of 64, and the Gauchos would be traveling to Cincinnati to face Maryland in the first round. It was an unprecedented achievement for Santa Barbara basketball. It meant that UCSB had notched a place, however small, on the college basketball map.

The fun didn't last too long. UCSB fell to Maryland, 92-82, and closed out its season with a solid 22-8 record. The tournament game marked the end of the UCSB careers of Shaw, who now plays for the NBA's Miami Heat,

and Johnson, who still holds the Gauchomania record for three-pointers in a season. Furthermore, DeHart, McArthur and forward Gary Gray would go on to have standout careers for Santa Barbara.

In a time when Thunderdome sellouts are commonplace and UCSB is featured on national television several times a season, one must go back only a few years to find the seeds of Gauchomania. One must realize that it was not for the efforts of Shaw and Johnson, and guys like Greg Trygstad and Carlton Davenport, the Gauchomania program may not have been where it is today.

"[The 1987-88 season] was an eye-opener nationally, and it expanded our recruiting area," Pimm said. "It set us apart from some of the others, and gave us an identity because of the national exposure. Now, people know we're the Gauchos, we have the Thunderdome."



JUST KICKIN' IT: Gauchomania players (from left) Brian Johnson, Carlton Davenport, Brian Shaw and Mike Doyle hang out in front of the Thunderdome, where fans celebrated victories during the Gauchos' breakthrough 1987-88 season.

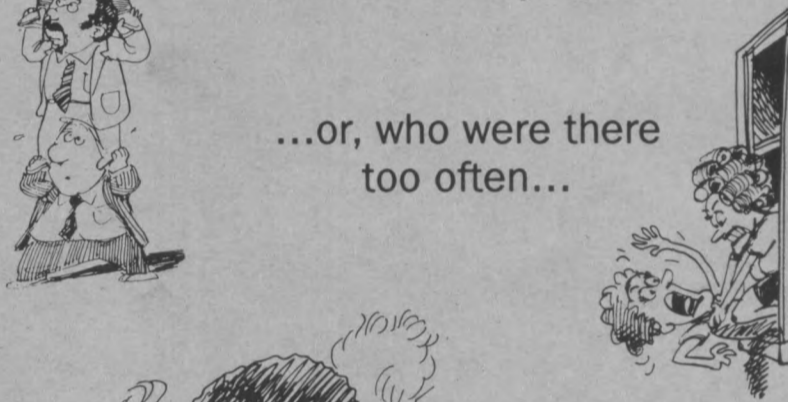


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