

Sports TUESDAY

Gauchos Finish Season With Losses in NCAA Tourney

BY MATT HEITNER
Staff Writer

Try as it might, the UCSB baseball team couldn't put an end to its NCAA tournament jinx this weekend in South Bend, Indiana.

Playing in their first NCAA tournament since 1996, the Gauchos found the Hoosier state unkind, going 1-2 en route to early elimination in round one of the NCAA Tournament. After dropping the first game to Florida International 17-4 on Friday, UCSB rebounded to top Wisconsin-Milwaukee 13-12 in a game played over two days because of rain delays.

But the Gauchos saw their season come to a close Sunday after an 11-10, 10-inning loss to host Notre Dame.

"After the Notre Dame game we were disappointed," senior designated hitter Mike Kolbach said. "But overall, the feeling was that we were proud of our season. We felt that we gave it our all and left it all out on the field. Obviously, it was a really hard way to end the season, but overall we had a good year."

In the first game Friday, the Golden Panthers jumped all over Santa Barbara junior starter James Garcia, who was tagged for three runs in the top of the first inning. However, the Gauchos clawed their way back, scoring a run in the second and a run in the third to make the score 3-2 in favor of FIU.

After retiring 10 out of 11 Golden Panther batters, Garcia ran into trouble in the fifth inning. Garcia gave up a leadoff double, before getting a fly out for the first out of the inning. The game went downhill from there, as the

next batter reached on a fielding error from senior shortstop Jeff Bannon. A balk, three singles and another balk followed the error; FIU quickly soared for a 6-2 advantage. Garcia was then knocked out of the game on a three-run



Jed Stringham

blast from FIU shortstop Mickey Torello.

But UCSB's relievers fared no better than Garcia, as sophomore Jim Bullard, junior Matt Moran, senior Russell Wirth, and freshman Justin Angevine combined to give up the Golden Panther's final eight runs.



Jamie Gonzales

"[FIU] just kept going," Stringham said. "They just played all nine innings. They overwhelmed us in an inning or two there, but they were not any better than we were. Things just got out of control and we couldn't stop the bleeding."

With its back against the wall, Santa Barbara was forced to respond the next day against UW-M. The Gauchos came out like a team unwilling to let their season slip away, exploding for eight runs in the first inning and a half to go up 8-0. But UW-M quickly sliced the UCSB lead in half, scoring four

runs in the second inning off of UCSB senior starter Rylie Ogle.

UCSB came right back with four runs of its own in the third to take a 12-4 lead, before Milwaukee answered with four runs in the bottom of the fourth to make the score 12-7. Junior reliever Jeremy Sugarman entered the game in the fifth inning and surrendered a single before the game was suspended due to rain.

The game resumed the following day, with Sugarman retiring UW-M on a double play and a strikeout. The Panthers then pulled within one run at 12-11 with four runs in the bottom of the sixth, before tying the game at 12 all in the eighth.

The Gauchos finally took the lead for good in the top of the ninth. With two away in the final frame, Stringham lined a shot down the right field line for his 14th dinger of the year, giving UCSB a 13-12 lead.

"It was a 1-0 or 2-1 count against their submarine pitcher," Stringham said of his round-tripper. "It was the second time I'd seen him. The wind was blowing out in right [field] so I knew he would want to pitch me in. But he threw a pitch outside and I went with it."

Senior closer Jamie Gonzales made the lead stand in the bottom of the inning, striking out two batters to give UCSB its first tournament win since 1986.

But Santa Barbara had little time to enjoy the victory. The Gauchos were forced to play their second elimination game in one day due to the rain, the second game coming against the Fighting Irish.

Notre Dame jumped out 2-0 in the top of the

See BASEBALL, p.3A



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS FILE

Freshman pitcher Matt Vasquez prepares to bring the heat. The UCSB baseball team fell to Florida International and Notre Dame this weekend in round one of the NCAA Tourney.

There Is No Comparison: Kobe Will Never Approach M.J.'s Immortality

BY ELIAV APPELBAUM

Kobe Bryant will never be as good as Michael Jordan.

Never in a million years. Never ever ever will Kobe approach Jordan on the pedestal of basketball immortality. Kobe is great in his own right, but pundits popping up claiming the latest "Laker sensation" is the greatest ever are way out of proportion.

Jordan is an institution, a volume in the Encyclopedia Britannica, a "Black Jesus," according to rival and buddy Charles Barkley. Jordan is everything to the NBA; he defined a game and molded it into a boundless sport that generations of players could build within. And he changes it while his myth continues to prosper.

Laker Hall of Famer Jerry West might have the distinction of having his silky silhouette graze the left corner of every NBA jersey and every icon blaring on your television screen, but Jordan's tongue-wagging, jump-jiving, pirouetting summersault of a levitating man within earthly bounds reigns supreme. Unlike any other sport, Jordan is undoubtedly the greatest basketball player to tread or fly on this planet.

Kobe is a spectacular, but he cannot reach the pinnacle that is Jordan. Though there is more to the game than scoring, Kobe has never even reached the 50-point barrier in a game. Yet Kobe has impressed me with his command and fire for the game. I noticed something eerily similar about the players while watching Kobe recently. Both athletes conserve their energy for extended spurts of domination. Both have a swagger and touch around the hardwood that is unique to each player.

But what about results? What about the hardware?

Kobe hasn't racked up any list of imposing and qualitative accolades that

Jordan has owned for years. Kobe does not approach Jordan in categories including Finals MVP, All-Star Game MVP, scoring titles, All-Defensive teams, NBA championships. Jordan has raked the leaves from the venerable oak tree and the bounty of immortality is forever in his grasp.

Jordan won the 1982 NCAA Championship with North Carolina, and he buried the game-winning 18-foot jump shot to give Tar Heel Head Coach Dean Smith his first title. Jordan was a skinny freshman. At around the same age, Kobe was tossing air balls against Utah, as the Lakers were swept out of the playoffs in consecutive years.

Jordan was nurturing his greatness, while Kobe was getting used and abused by Old Man Karl Malone.

I've had enough of this discussion. This is an open-and-shut case.

A better question to ask about Kobe is whether he is even the best guard in the NBA? The league is abundant in big-guard talent. Tweeners, such as Xavier McDaniel and Jeff Malone, have died out. The fleet-footed tall men, including Tracey McGrady and Paul Pierce, among others, are making a name for themselves.

The only difference? These players don't have Shaquille O'Neal clogging the middle. McGrady has Bo Outlaw, and Pierce has Vitaly Potapenko. These guys couldn't guard molasses.

Pierce is my personal favorite. He's the player who is most comfortable on the court with his own skills and with integrating them in a blue-collar Boston Celtics club. Kobe's got the flash of L.A., Pierce is bringing the Celts back to respectability with no help.

If people keep bringing this Kobe-Jordan debate up, all they have to do is watch one game with Jordan.

How can you describe M.J.? Larry Bird phrased it best: "God disguised as Michael Jordan."



TRUC BUI / DAILY NEXUS

Senior designated hitter Mike Kolbach dives back to first base. Santa Barbara picked up its first NCAA Tournament victory since 1986 this weekend with a 13-12 win over UW-M.

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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE
 By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (May 29). You're ready for a change this year. You've outgrown your old status quo. Relocate, if necessary, to make a dream come true. Don't despair if it still takes a while for this dream to fully materialize. Get yourself headed up the right mountain, and commence the hike.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - Now you're getting into the tough part. No more flashy presentations or dazzling rhetoric. The arguments are over, and you've made the sale. Now, you get to make the product. This takes more than you thought it would. Are you up to the challenge? (Just say yes!)

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Your sweetheart or your child is running into problems. He or she keeps finding windows of opportunity that are nailed shut. You're one of the few who can help. Not only do you understand, but you also have a hammer.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - Ease off on the throttle. Time to chill out for a while. The coming phase is more difficult. Something you try today or tomorrow will not work, so be ready with a Plan B, a Plan C and as many alternative plans as it takes.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You're getting stronger, and with good reason. You've been facing things that scared you, and they haven't gotten you yet. You've found a friend who can help. Together, you can put some of those fears to rest - permanently.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - Settle down, and don't get too extravagant. You'd like to buy something the group needs, but you can't afford it. Your sweetheart would pitch a fit if you did, anyway. Instead of funding the venture, suggest a fund-raiser.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - Things may come to a grinding halt, on your recommendation. If you can tell that something isn't going right, shut it down. Some of the others may not have realized how much power you have. Now they know.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is a 7 - Curtail your activities for the next few days. This will happen anyway, so you might as well do it on purpose. Postpone travel, parties, dates, etc., until Thursday or Friday. You might want to ask to get Friday off. Thursday, too.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - It's time you had a little time for yourselves. Even galley slaves get a break now and then, don't they? Well, maybe not, but you can squeeze in time for a lunch date with friends, can't you?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - Oops. Time to pull over and explain what you've been doing. If you've been going too fast, for example, you may get to explain that to an authority figure - one with a badge. Don't try to get away with anything today. Be cool!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - Your recent frugality pays off. You're not fighting this battle alone anymore. New information helps you figure out what's working and what's not. It's worthwhile to ask the experts.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - You've been having a lot of fun lately. Now it's time to get practical. If you've recently formed a new partnership, what are your resources? Compiling them may be more difficult than you expected. Be patient, and the truth will come out.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - A friend is asking tough questions and stirring things up. If you two work together, you can get some of the changes you've been hoping for. Be ready to move quickly.

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The deadline for submissions is Friday, June 22, 2001

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- ⇒ Isla Vista Design Competition's winning design. Daniel Parolek from Envision Design will speak about the Berkeley firm's winning vision.
- ⇒ Isla Vista Master Plan process. Learn about the summer and fall work schedule for the Plan.
- ⇒ Isla Vista Master Plan public participation. County staff will outline the roles and responsibilities of the Project Area Committee (PAC) and explain the fall election process.

Please visit www.islavistaplan.org or contact Heather Baker at 568-2882 of County Planning and Development for more information. This workshop is also sponsored by UCSB and the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District.

(A County redistricting workshop follows at 7pm. Visit: <http://www.co.santa-barbara.ca.us> for more information about that workshop.) Refreshments will be provided.

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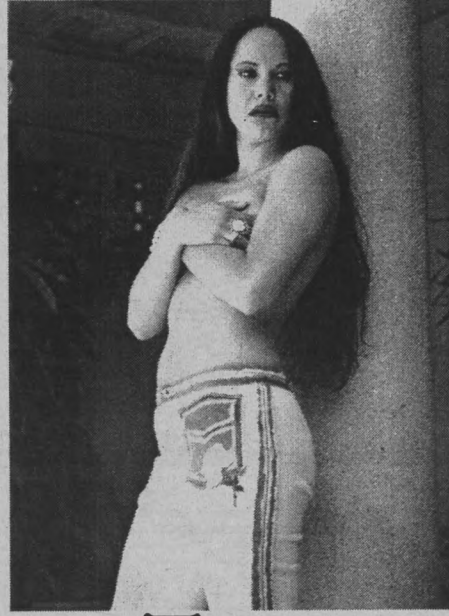
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BASEBALL

Continued from p.1A

first, but UCSB answered with three runs of its own to lead 3-2 after one inning. The first inning was a sign of things to come, as both clubs would exchange hits and leads for the next eight innings, leading to a 10-10 tie after a full nine innings.

Notre Dame then jumped ahead on a solo shot from Brian Stavisky in the top of the tenth. The Gauchos' final rally in the bottom of the inning fell short, and the game ended on a

groundout from senior third baseman Dave Molitor with Schumaker on third base.

Despite the loss, UCSB enjoyed a spectacular 2001 campaign. The Gauchos recorded their first 40-win season since 1986, and staked their claim as the one of the top Santa Barbara baseball squads of all time.

"We're proud of what we did," freshman pitcher Matt Vasquez said. "We accomplished a lot this year and we broke a lot of team and individual records. We wanted to go further [in the tournament] but it just didn't happen."



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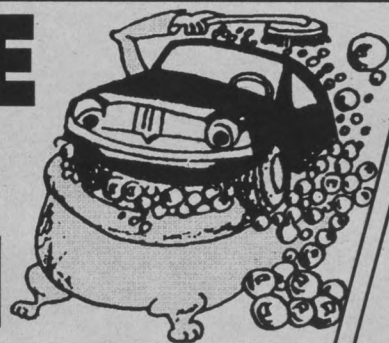
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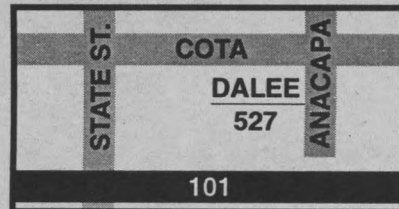


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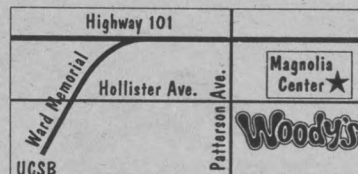
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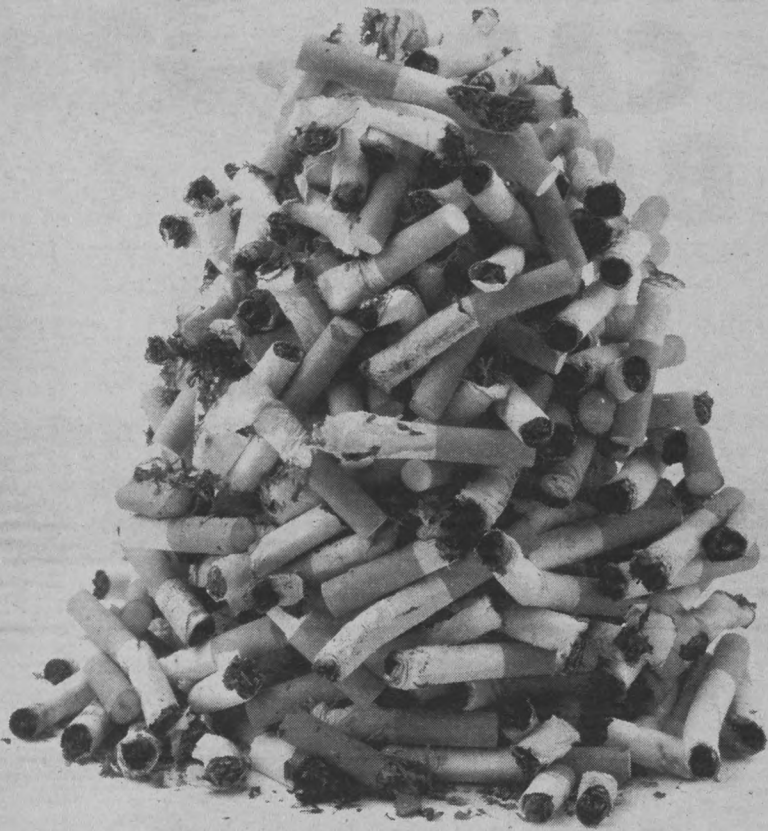
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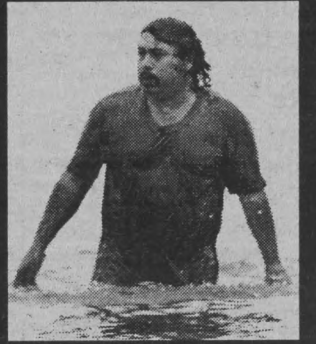
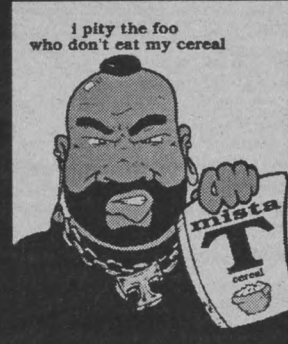


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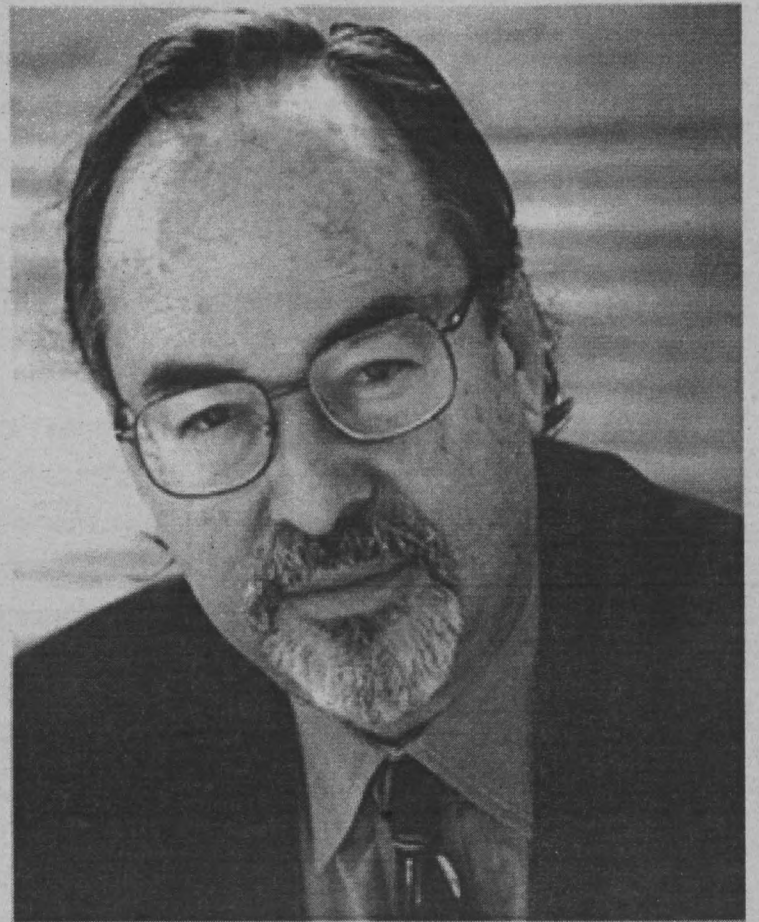
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