

# Sports MONDAY

## Big West Conference Champs

■ Gaucho Men Take First; Three Individuals in Top 10

BY MATT HURST  
Reporter

At the start of the weekend, a first-place finish in the Big West Conference Championships seemed a challenge for the UCSB men's cross country team. By the time the weekend was over, the team was ready for its next challenge. The Gauchos overcame favorite Boise State to take the conference crown, finishing with three runners in the top 10 and five in the top 12.

Led by seniors Ben Flamm and Nate Elston — who finished third and fourth, respectively — the Gauchos produced the all-out team effort that was required to win.

"Everyone ran as a team incredibly well," Flamm said. "Our depth paid off, and that helps when it becomes a team sport. It wasn't my best race, but it was for Nate."

Flamm finished in 25:31,

just 25 seconds behind first-place finisher Cormac Smith of Boise State. Elston finished right behind Flamm in 25:46, one of his best times this season.

"After that I was pretty exhausted," Elston said. "If I hadn't run this well, someone else would have. Someone different steps up each time, so we don't worry about depending on one guy."

Senior Trent Bryson was the other Gaucho to finish in the top 10. His time of 26:04 was good enough for ninth place. Senior Alan Roberts and junior John Stires also ran well, finishing 11th and 12th, respectively.

UCSB Head Coach Pete Dolan was named Big West Coach of the Year after the Gauchos pulled off the victory.

"It's a really nice honor," Dolan said. "To me, the team winning is the big present. I'm just proud to represent the university with guys like that. [The award] is a

nice afterthought."

Boise State, which was deemed by Dolan as "the clear favorite" going into the championship, finished in fourth place.

"We didn't expect to beat Boise," Elston said. "But all year we focused on them during our training."

The training was the key to winning, according to both Flamm and Elston.

"Going back to last year, Boise's victory was almost humiliating," Flamm said. "We went away knowing we had to set higher expectations, and had to be better runners."

"We were pushing the limits," added Elston. "We had a solid offseason training. All year we were focused, and the week before we cut back to save our legs."

According to Flamm, the team expected to place high with a one- or two-point



PHOTO COURTESY UCSB ATHLETICS

**TOGETHER:** The UCSB men's cross country team had several strong individual performances to overcome favorite Boise State in the Big West Championships.

difference between the #1 and #2 teams, but that was not the case. The Gauchos ran away with the title, beat-

ing second-place Utah State by 32 points.

"The amount of points between us was unex-

pected," Flamm said. "We expected it to be closer, but instead it ended up being a race for second."



JEFF CLARK / DAILY NEXUS

**DON'T SHOOT!:** The UCSB men's water polo team lost a pair of games to Long Beach State and #2 USC at home last weekend. Santa Barbara's record now stands at 9-8 overall, 1-5 in the MPSF.

## Water Polo Loses to USC, Long Beach at Home

BY SHANE CULBERTSON  
Staff Writer

The UCSB men's water polo team saw its four-game winning streak come to an abrupt halt last weekend at Campus Pool. The Gauchos (9-8 overall, 1-5 in the Mountain Pacific

Sports Federation) lost a 7-6 nail-biter to Long Beach State on Saturday before being stomped 8-3 by USC on Sunday.

Santa Barbara got off to a sluggish start in Saturday's match and found itself trailing 5-2 at halftime. The Gauchos

See POLO, p.2A

## Volleyball Beats Tigers On the Road in 5 Sets

BY SCOTT HENNESSEE  
Staff Writer

The UCSB women's volleyball team found itself in an unfamiliar position Friday night in Stockton — it was losing.

After sweeping its last four opponents in straight sets, the #6 Gauchos (21-2, 10-1 in the Big West) found themselves down two games to one against University of the Pacific (15-6, 8-3 in the Big West) on the Tigers' home court. But Santa Barbara responded to the challenge, taking the final two games to earn the come-from-behind victory.

With an Oct. 11 home win over UOP, the 15-4, 14-16, 10-15, 15-3, 15-11 victory marks the first time in four years UCSB has swept its season series with Pacific.

"We had to really push to win this match," UCSB Head Coach Kathy Gregory said. "That can be good for us. We need to know what we are made of."

If there was any doubt as to what sophomore outside hitter Roberta Gehlke is made of, it can be erased now. Gehlke was Santa Barbara's main offensive weapon, taking 73 sets and pounding out a match-high 29 kills, 22 of which came in the first two games.

"Roberta was unbelievable the first two games," Gregory said. "I've never seen anybody play as well as she did to start the match. She really steps up her play in the big matches."

Gehlke was quick to note that she wasn't the only Gaucho who rose to the occasion.

"I think the whole team played well," Gehlke said. "All in all, this was one of the best matches we've played. We stuck together as a team and we pulled it out together."

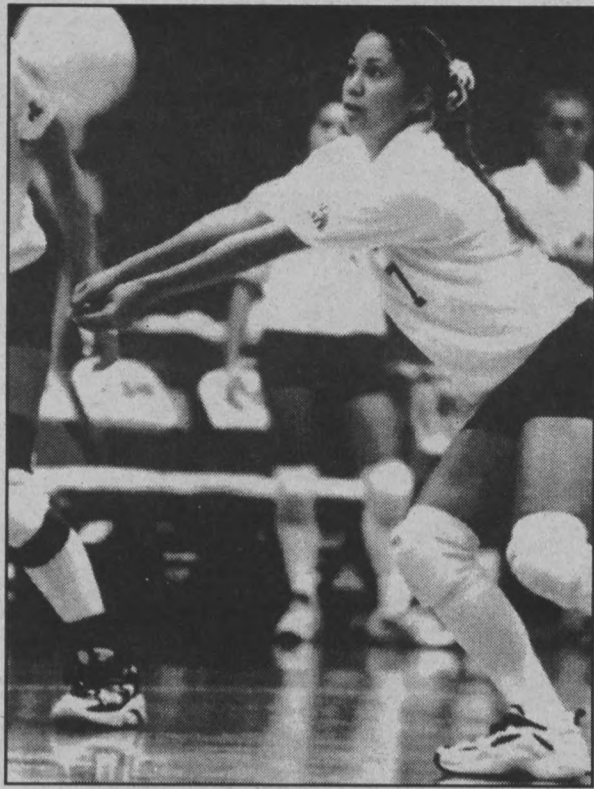
It looked as if UCSB would have to pull a rabbit out of its hat to win after losing game three, when its hitting percentage dropped to .179 while Pacific's rose to .395. But with their backs against the wall, the Gauchos rose to the challenge by playing some of their best volleyball of the match in

See V-BALL, p.2A

### Sporting Events Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
No events scheduled	Women's volleyball @ Long Beach State 7:30 p.m. Women's soccer vs. Cal State Fullerton 7 p.m.	No events scheduled	Men's basketball Blue-Gold game 7 p.m. Golf vs. Long Beach State @ Virginia Country Club all day	Women's volleyball vs. UC Irvine 7:30 p.m. Women's basketball vs. Myjava Team-Slovakia 7 p.m. Women's swimming and diving vs. UCLA 2 p.m.	Women's volleyball vs. Cal State Fullerton 7:30 p.m. Men's water polo vs. UC Irvine 12 p.m.	Men's water polo vs. Stanford 12 p.m.





ALAN JACOBY / DAILY NEXUS

**CONCENTRATION:** The UCSB women's volleyball team had to dig deep to beat #17 UOP Friday night.

## V-BALL

Continued from p.1A

game four. Santa Barbara made quick work of the Tigers, forcing them into a -.077 hitting percentage en route to the 15-3 win.

Junior middle blocker Katie Crawford said that finding itself down two games to one made the team dig deep for a little bit extra.

"After game three we just kind of said, 'Look, we are not going to lose this match.' We really stepped up our play after that," Crawford said.

While game four was a one-sided affair, game five proved to be anything but. The two teams were neck-and-neck until UCSB was able to seize the momentum with the score tied at eight, thanks to some stellar play by Gehlke and sophomore middle blocker Heather Bown. The duo combined

on a block and each slammed a kill to put Santa Barbara ahead 11-8. UCSB would take three of the next four points on hitting errors by the Tigers to reach match point at 14-9. Pacific snapped a long rally with a block on the next point to pull within four, but Gehlke ended the 2½-hour battle on the ensuing point with her 29th kill.

"They played a good match," Gregory said of the 17th-ranked Tigers. "It wasn't like the UOP we played before — they are much improved. I give them a lot of credit."

A lot of credit should be given to Santa Barbara's back row, which combined for a season-high 77 digs. Six Gauchos had at least nine, and junior outside hitter Erin McCown led all players with 19 digs to go along with eight kills.

"In games four and five,

Erin McCown's defense and hitting was about as good as I've seen it," Gregory said. "This was probably one of her best matches."

While McCown saved her best play for the end of the match, it was Bown and Gehlke who carried the team through the early going.

"In games one and two, Robby and Heather couldn't be stopped," Gregory said. "They were unbelievable."

Bown finished the match with 22 kills, nine digs and six blocks. Gehlke also had nine digs.

Defensively, UCSB was able to slow the Tiger tandem of Addie Hauschild and Jennica Smith. Pacific's main offensive weapons were held to hitting percentages well below .200 and combined for only 27 kills.

Santa Barbara hit at a .294 clip, with four players earning double-figures in kills.

Along with Bown and Gehlke, Crawford had 17 kills, and sophomore outside hitter Charlene Conley had 12 in 22 tries for a .455 hitting percentage.

The Gauchos will try to carry over their solid play from Friday into Tuesday night's contest with #2 Long Beach State.

"It was a good feeling to win," Crawford said. "I have never won there before, and we have a pretty big rivalry with them. Taking this win to Long Beach will help us a lot."

## POLO

Continued from p.1A

refused to go down without a fight, however, and came out firing in the second half. Sophomore Paul Rave led the charge by netting two goals to help UCSB tie the score at 6-6 midway through the fourth quarter.

Junior goalkeeper Lance Wahlert, who had 10 saves in the match, was impressed with his team's effort in the second half.

"We had a good talk in the huddle during halftime," Wahlert said. "After that we came out strong defensively, and our offense had some great counterattack goals."

Forty-niner sophomore Adam Collins broke the hearts of the 300-plus UCSB fans in attendance when he scored the game-winner late in the fourth quarter.

It was more of the same for the Gauchos on Sunday when the USC Trojans came to town. UCSB once again found itself down early and was unable to overcome a 4-1 halftime deficit, eventually losing 8-3.

UCSB Head Coach Joe O'Brien felt the Gauchos failed to play up to their potential in both games.

"USC and Long Beach both played strong games, but our execution didn't match up with our expectations," O'Brien said. "We're at the point now where we know we can beat anybody, we just can't let the pressure get to us. We have to step up and start playing at a higher level emotionally, physically and professionally."

UCSB senior Eric Scholten also expressed disappointment with the Gauchos' level of play.

"We knew what to expect of both teams, but we didn't react accordingly," said Scholten, who had two goals in the USC game. "I don't think our defense played to its capacity in either game."

Perhaps the only Gaucho who did play up to his ability this weekend was Wahlert, who sent back 11 of the Trojan's shots.

"Lance played outstanding this weekend," Scholten said. "He had some huge saves that helped to keep us in both of the games."

With three consecutive conference matches remaining, Santa Barbara needs at least one win to earn an automatic berth in MPSF playoffs.

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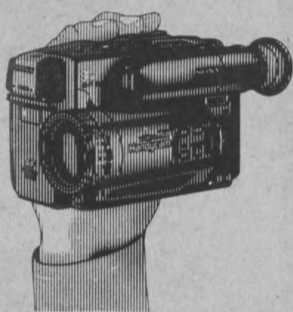
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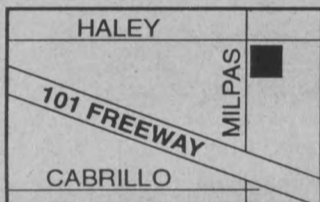
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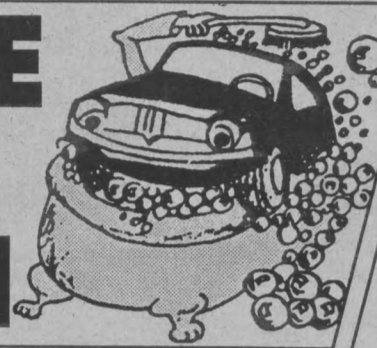
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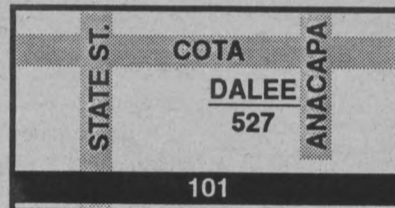
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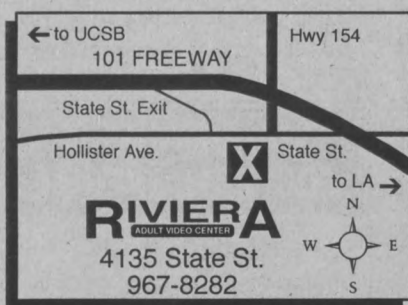
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