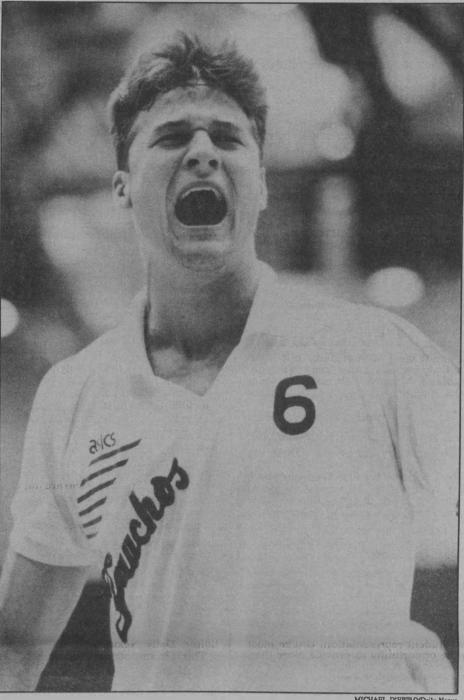
ORIS MONDAY

Daily Nexus



Sophomore Amaury Velasco lets out a yell Saturday night. In the loss to Northridge, Velasco notched a game-high 23 kills along with 10 digs for UCSB.

Softball Ends Disappointing Trip With Hard-Fought Win

By Jenny Kok Staff Writer

A four-game road trip to Logan, Utah, did not turn out quite as the UCSB women's softball team would have liked.

Short three starters and a head coach, the back-toback doubleheaders left the Gauchos 1-3, having lost three in a row to Utah State before making a comeback in the final game of series.

"We really expected to play well, especially after catcher Michelle Ray exbeating Long Beach," act-plained. "We came off of

ing Head Coach Heather one of our best games of Clark explained. "The Aggies haven't been playing really well all season and this was their first homestand so far. I think all of the happenings [the suspension of players and the coach] last week hit us full

The two games on Friday were mirror images of each other. The Aggies showed no mercy, con-necting at the plate and leaving the Gauchos defenseless.

"It was tough," UCSB

the year against Long Beach and then we just weren't ready to play."

In Saturday's games,

things did not start out too well for Santa Barbara. The Aggies took an early six-run lead after 2 1/2 innings of play. But the Gauchos responded with a little firepower of their own, scoring one in the bottom of the third and two in the fifth with the help of doubles from AJ Vitulli, Kathy Shortall and Susan Williams.

See AGGIES, p.3A

Postseason Not in the Cards for Gauchos as CSUN Rolls

Team's Chances Rested On UCSB Win, San Diego Loss

By Daniel Solomon Staff Writer

By the time Saturday evening's match against #6-ranked Cal State Northridge began, the playoff fate of the #11-ranked UCSB men's volleyball team had already been decided be-cause San Diego State defeated Pacific earlier in the

day.

Thus, with nothing on the line except a whole lot of pride against a team which is considered Santa Barbara's biggest rival, the Matadors (17-9 overall, 12-7 in MPSF) avenged an earlier home loss to the Gauchos by stealing a win away from home, 17-16, 15-13, 15-7.

With the loss, UCSB drops to 12-13 overall (8-10 in MPSF) and now must win its last match of the season tonight against #14-ranked Loyola Marymount in order to secure a .500 season.

"We have to destroy [Loyola]," middle blocker Carter Reese said. "It's disappointing, but our goal at this point is to finish .500."

In game one, UCSB appeared to be trying too hard as the overanxious squad quickly found itself

facing game point at 14-4. However, the Gauchos mounted a huge come-back in which they fought off eight game points en route to scoring 10 unan-swered points. UCSB took a 14-15 lead off a back-row attack call on CSUN middle blocker Oliver Heitmann, but teammate Jason Hughes' cross-court kill evened the score at

Hughes' brother Doug an outside hitter for UCSB — gave CSUN a one-point edge on his hit-ting error, but UCSB middle blocker Amaury Velasco retied the game on a kill. However, the Gaucho comeback was stopped just short when CSUN reached the 17-point cap first on D. Hughes' long kill attempt.

"We were trying too hard and we were too tense and aggressive," UCSB outside hitter Morgan Chapman explained. "I think we forgot to maintain our poise and relax,

and do the things that we're supposed to do.
"We have to become a little bit better starting team and a little bit better finishing team, because once we get comfortable in the middle of the game, when there's not a lot of

pressure, we start playing real well. But when the pressure comes down, we start tensing up," he

Despite a 4-12 UCSB lead in game two, CSUN constructed its own comeback as outside hitter Jon Baer sparked his squad off the bench - collecting four kills, three blocks and one service ace, thus narrowing the lead to 11-12. UCSB went up by two on a quick set kill by Robert Treahy, but the Matadors took a two-point lead by closing the game on a 4-0

"We heard that [Baer] played really well against Pepperdine and I think that was in the back of our minds," Chapman said.
"He came in and hammered a couple of balls and blocked a couple of balls and we forgot to just go after him like the scouting reports said. We knew where to block him but he hit a bunch in a row right where we were supposed to be blocking him."

Game three was all CSUN as the Matadors outhit the Gauchos .417 to .226, giving them the match edge in hitting as well, .293 to .235. CSUN

See CSUN, p.2A



AJ Vitulli was hot with the bat though the team dropped three of four.

JENNY KOK and BRIAN PILLSBURY

Athletic Dept.'s Course of Action Unsound

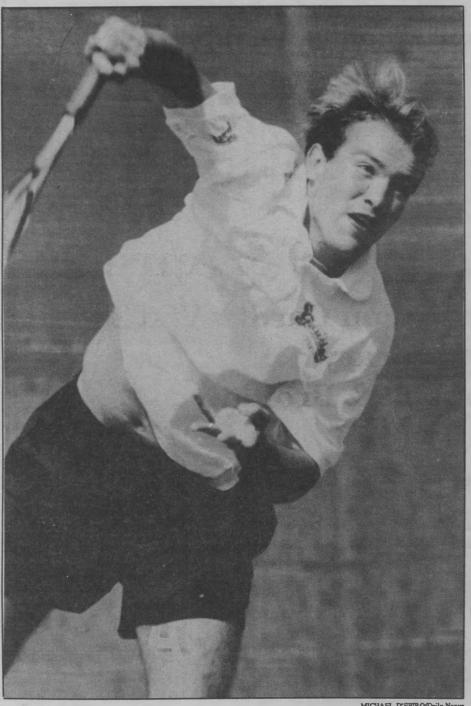
ith three UCSB softball players and their coach getting weeksuspensions last week for "undisclosed" reasons, a lot of people are wondering, "So what is the Athletic Dept. trying to hide?"

Speculation and rumors are usually the end result when any situation is dealt with in a secretive manner. Naturally, the same can be said for this instance. Rumors, ranging from a disagreement between Head Coach Frann Wageneck, the three suspended players and the Athletic Dept., to drug use while on a road trip have been buzzing

It would be almost impossible to believe that this is the first time something like this has happened, yet it leaves you wondering why the Athletic Dept. didn't just come clean and adequately explain their actions, rather than let a potentially damaging rumor mill exist. The truth in these types of things eventually comes out and it might end up being more damaging, given that it was dealt with with just a slap on the wrist and then quickly

swept under the carpet. From here, whatever happens, the Athletic Dept. has ended up looking bad. It's clear that the

See RUMOR, p.2A



MICHAEL D'EPTRO/Daily Nexus

Gaucho #1 singles player, senior Laszlo Markovits, shown here against Nevada, did not even make the trip to Fresno due to his suspension by the NCAA.

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UCSB Netters Get Doubled Up by Breakdowns; Fresno St. Wins, 5-2

By Chris Ganci Staff Writer

Frustration usually sets in when a team is not playing at full strength and has one

breakdown per match.

That is the case with the UCSB men's tennis team right now. The Gauchos played some shoddy doubles which set the tone for a 5-2 defeat at the hands of #40 Fresno State, Saturday, in Fresno.

The loss dropped the Gauchos to 9-13 for the season and left a sour taste in their collective mouths as they head for the Big West Championships in Ojai, starting Thursday with a first-round meeting with

"We competed quite well considering what we were dealt," said Gaucho Coach Don Lowry. "But we are not going to beat schools [of Fresno State's caliber], unless we go in there and play 100%.

In defense of the Gauchos, they were without the suspended Laszlo Markovits and the injured Jeff Spalinger. Also, the horrific doubles play only cost UCSB one point. However, Lowry was generally displeased with certain aspects of the Gauchos' performance, particularly the

First the positive: UCSB's John Bowerbank and Eddie Weiss did manage to defeat Fresno's Philip King and Blago Petrov, 8-5, at #3. Unfortunately, that is where the good news ends.

In the #1 doubles match, UCSB's tandem of Darren Potkey and Simon Kurth were on serve with the Bulldogs' Ryan a professional is pending. More should be and Bryan Juinio, before Potkey im- known in the next couple days.

ploded with three consecutive double faults and a botched overhead. The gift break of serve was enough to give the Juinios an 8-5 win.

In the #2 doubles match, the Fresno duo of Neil Castro and Andy Stewart broke UCSB's team of Mike Shea and Joe Barbarie an incredible five times heading to another 8-5 win.

'Getting broken five times is ridiculous," Lowry said. "I was not impressed with the doubles. It was a point we should have won. I may have to make a change for the Big West [Championships]."

In the singles, Petrov and Stewart dominated Potkey and Shea, in the #1 and #2 matches, respectively, dropping only 3 games between them. UCSB countered on the bottom part of the ladder, as #5 Weiss pounded Castro, 6-4, 6-1, and #6 Kurth bageled Bulldog Mike Marini in the third set, 6-0.

The match was decided in the middle two singles bouts, each being decided in their third sets. At #3, Barbarie made a couple of critical mistakes late in his match with Ryan Juinio, losing 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, while Bowerbank lost 6-1 in the deciding set to Bryan Juinio at the #4 singles

So the stage is now set for Nevada in Ojai, a meeting Lowry calls "the match of the year." It will be the second meeting between the teams in the last two weeks. On April 5, Nevada beat the Gauchos,

Spalinger is probable for the match, but Markovits is not. More news on his NCAA suspension for receiving money as

Continued from p.1A suspended players did something they should not have done as athletes representing UCSB. Their actions forced the Athletic Dept. to do something. But the Athletic Dept. has chosen to handle the affair on its own, secretly, making what was already a bad situation worse.

The UCSB Athletic Dept. has built a deserved reputation of being run professionally and honestly, but this time something has changed. Their actions have only fueled the fires of speculation while resolving nothing.

During the past week

several of the nation's top collegiate men's tennis players have begun serving out indefinite suspensions from the NCAA. The reason behind this recent de-cision to take away players' eligibility was that they took money for playing in professional tennis events on the side. In order for a player to have eligibility restored, he must prove that his winnings did not exceed expenses.

Here again is a case of the NCAA getting its nose into a situation that does not warrant it. Unlike the UNLV basketball program or other such scandals, the individual schools in this case did not lose institutional control over the sport. The players do not make money while they are enrolled in school.

The NCAA argues that by pocketing money during a fall or summer pro event, a player has com-promised the ideal of the amateur athlete, and therefore shouldn't play college tennis. If some guy wants to earn a few bucks out there on the tour during his summer vacation, why not let him? If that's his summer job, so be it.

And the timing of this action makes no sense. They had months to do something on this issue, yet the NCAA decides to take action now, just before league championships and the NCAAs. Maybe USC or UCLA can survive the loss of two star players, but many other schools don't quite have that luxury.

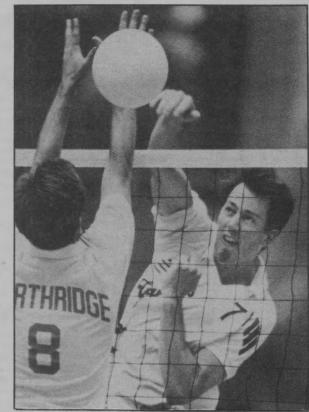
Continued from p.1A also held the blocking edge at 12-8, but UCSB outdug its opponent 50-43.

"I thought that we were all just a bit off tonight," Head Coach Ken Preston commented. "This team has had a hard time getting into matches as of late. We were down to Pepperdine. We were down to SC. We started off slowly against these guys. Basically, it came down to that we weren't very consistent."

Velasco recorded a match-high 23 kills, hitting .367, along with 10 digs. Chapman and Reese each added 14 kills, with Reese hitting .385 and blocking four balls. Setter Todd Rogers amassed 53 assists and 11 digs, and is now only four digs away from breaking the school's single season mark of 233.

For CSUN, Heitmann finished with 16 kills (.483), eight digs and four blocks, and Baer added 13

kills (.600) and five blocks. Tonight's contest



Carter Reese (14 kills) gets a ball past the outstretched block attempt of CSUN's Gary Reznick.

duled to begin at 7:05 in final collegiate match for the Events Center, and can be heard live on KCSB

against the Lions is sche- 91.9 FM. It will also be the seniors Sean Stafford and David Withrington.

Gauchos Tune Up for Ojai With Win Over Aztecs

By Brian Pillsbury Staff Writer

The weeks go by and the UCSB women's tennis team keeps on winning.

Saturday was no ex-

ception as the #15-ranked Gauchos decisively beat the San Diego State Aztecs by a score of 7-2 — the first win over the Aztecs during Head Coach Chris Russell's four-year tenure.

RACHEL WEILL/Daily I

Jean Okada rips a backhand during her 6-0, 6-0 win over San Diego State's Lisa Alipaz Saturday.

At this point, with a 17-3 record heading into this week's Big West Championships at Ojai, it seems nothing will be able to stand in the way of UCSB's date with destiny — a trip to Athens, Georgia, for the NCAA Championships.

"We're just going to take it one match at a time," Russell said after the win. "Mentally, we're very tough and we should be playing with a lot of confidence. I don't really like to say it, but I think we have an edge."

Having won the Big West Championships the last three years in a row, the Gauchos indeed played like they had some sort of edge Saturday. Despite going down early in a few of the singles and doubles matches against the Aztecs, the team showed the resilience that has helped make this season such a successful one.

At #2 singles, junior Lynn Coakley quickly fell behind 0-4 in the first set against SDSU's Tanya Lauer. But Coakley's big ground game soon got back on track, as she won seven of the next eight games to take the first set, 7-5. Lauer never recovered as Coakley went on to win the match, 7-5, 6-2.

"For some reason I was just a little nervous today," Coakley said of her slow start. "I don't

know if it was because it was Laura's [Rutledge] last match, or what. I don't usually get nervous."

Playing #3 singles in the final home match of her career, UCSB senior Laura Rutledge dropped a tough three-set decision to the Aztecs' Jen Nguyen, 1-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Nguyen, 1-6, 7-6, 6-2.

"I really wanted to win because it was my last match here," Rutledge said. "I started really well, but then she just started playing better and I got way too nervous."

Having relatively few troubles were sophomores Jean Okada and #6 Amelia White. White dropped SDSU's Shawn Egan, 6-2, 6-2, while Okada, playing at the top spot, dominated her opponent, Lisa Alipaz, 6-0, 6-0. Using her powerful backcourt game, Okada forced Alipaz into countless unforced errors, while playing a relatively clean match herself.

At #5, the Aztecs' Christy Propstra frustrated Kelly Spencer en route to a three-set win for SDSU. Playing #4 for UCSB, junior Kathy Peterson fought back from a set down to defeat SDSU's Emma Doyle, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Peterson's win gave the Gauchos a 4-2 cushion going into doubles play, with UCSB needing just one more

match to clinch the win.
"Kathy's match was

very pivotal," Russell said. "It took a lot of the pressure off going into the doubles,"

In doubles, the Rutledge/Coakley duo took care of Doyle and Tamara Bridges at #3, 6-2, 6-3, to clinch it for the Gauchos. At #2, Spencer and White overcame an error-plagued first set to win in three hard-fought sets, 2-6, 7-5, 6-4. Peterson and Okada played #1 in what was one of the more interesting matches of the day.

The UCSB duo jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the first set against SDSU's Alipaz and Nguyen. Serving for the set at 5-1, Peterson was broken. As the teams switched sides at 5-2, Okada then proceeded to serve out the game, though it appeared she was serving out of turn. Among a few other confused onlookers, Alipaz's own mother voiced her concern, but her daughter brushed her off, telling her opponents and doubles partner, "Don't listen to them."

Okada's serve was eventually also broken and the first set went to a tie-breaker. When UCSB reached set point, Okada smacked a thundering backhand for a winner. Okada and Peterson took the second set, cruising the rest of the way to a 7-6, 6-2 win.

AGGIES

Continued from p.1A

A sudden spark struck in the seventh inning, giving the Gauchos a little hope when Shortall blasted a solo home run, her fourth of the season. Unfortunately, the burst of momentum was stopped short with some tough defensive work by the Aggies.

Coming into the last game, an exhausted Gaucho squad could have thrown in the towel, but instead they came together.

"The last game was all heart for the team," Clark said. "We didn't have much strength left, but somehow we got our momentum back and played our hearts out all the way until the end. After winning that one game, all of the other games didn't matter."

Game two started out the same way game one ended. But instead of Shortall, pitcher Stacy Atwood pounded a solo shot over the fence for her third home run of the season.

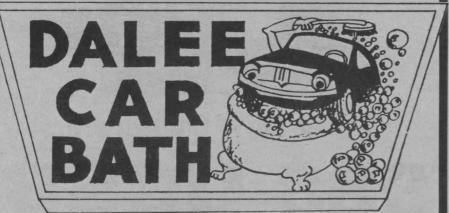
By the fourth inning, the score was tied at two apiece. Not willing to let another game slip by, UCSB scored the gamewinning run in the fifth inning.

Along with Atwood, left fielder Krissy Kyriazis led the Gauchos at the plate with two doubles.

"The one really good thing that came out of the weekend was that everyone was hitting," Clark said of their 37 hits.



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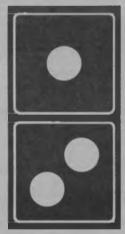
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