

SPORTS MONDAY

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UCSB Can't Stop Nygaard, #1 Bruins

UCLA Junior Outside Hitter Gets 30 Kills En Route to Three-Game Victory

By Daniel Solomon
Staff Writer

Arguably the best all-around player in the nation, UCLA's two-time All-American Jeff Nygaard almost single-handedly dismantled the #10-ranked UCSB men's volleyball team in front of its home crowd on Saturday night at the Events Center.

The junior outside hitter had a match-high 30 kills — hitting for 42.3% efficiency — and nine digs as he led the top-ranked and defending NCAA Champion Bruins (18-1 overall, 14-0 in MPSF) to their 18th straight victory, 15-8, 15-10, 15-11.

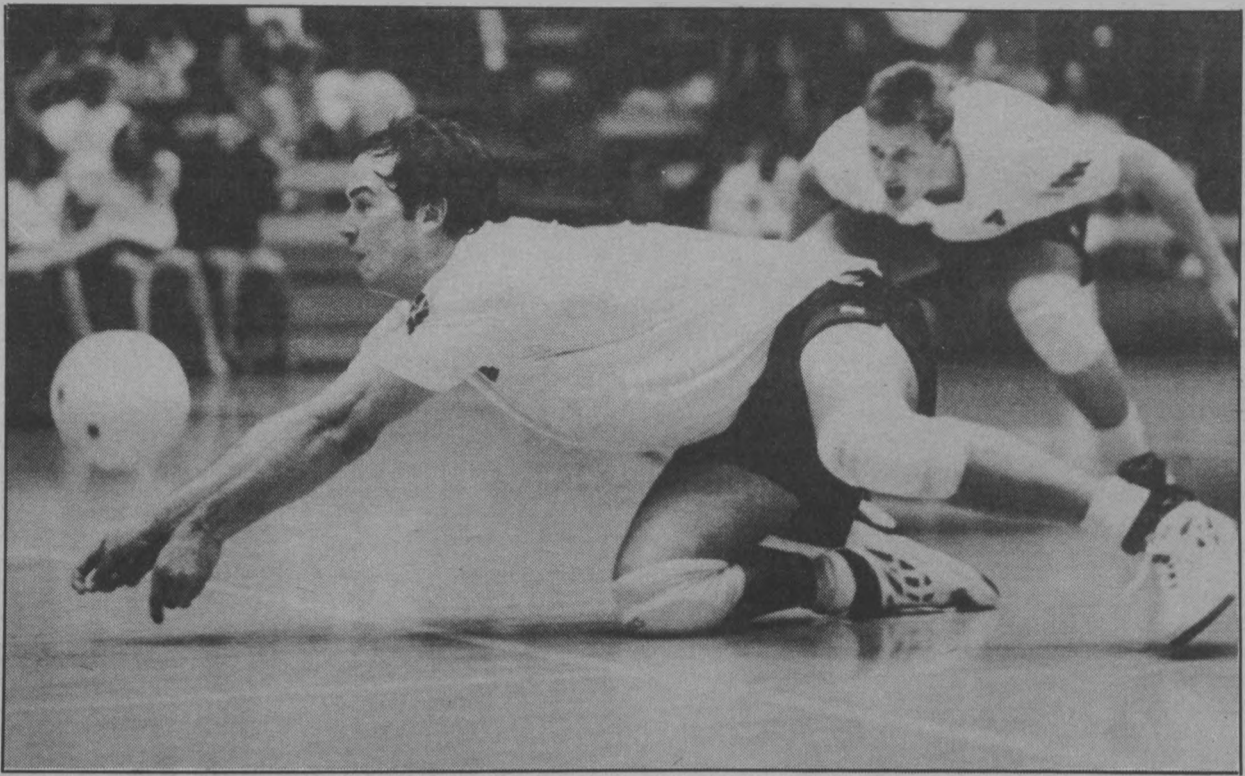
"Last time we played them they pretty much shut us down, but this time I think we played them pretty tough. I don't think

that we played that badly," said sophomore middle blocker Amaury Velasco, who led UCSB with 13 kills (.310), seven digs, and four blocks.

"We sided out really well and we played really well but we just couldn't score points when we needed them," junior outside hitter Daren Torbet added.

Having spanked UC Irvine on Friday evening, 15-1, 15-3, 15-2, UCSB's overall record stands at 11-11, 7-8 in MPSF. With four games remaining in the season, the Gauchos are in fifth place in the Mountain Division, 1 1/2 games behind their upcoming opponent on Tuesday evening, #8-ranked Pepperdine.

Against a Bruin squad which many thought would roll right over the Gauchos, Santa Barbara came out ready to fight and



GaUCHO senior Sean Stafford extends for a dig Saturday night against UCLA. However, the Bruins' All-American Jeff Nygaard who stole the show with his outstanding play as he hit for 30 kills on the evening.

MICHAEL D'EPICQ/Daily Nexus

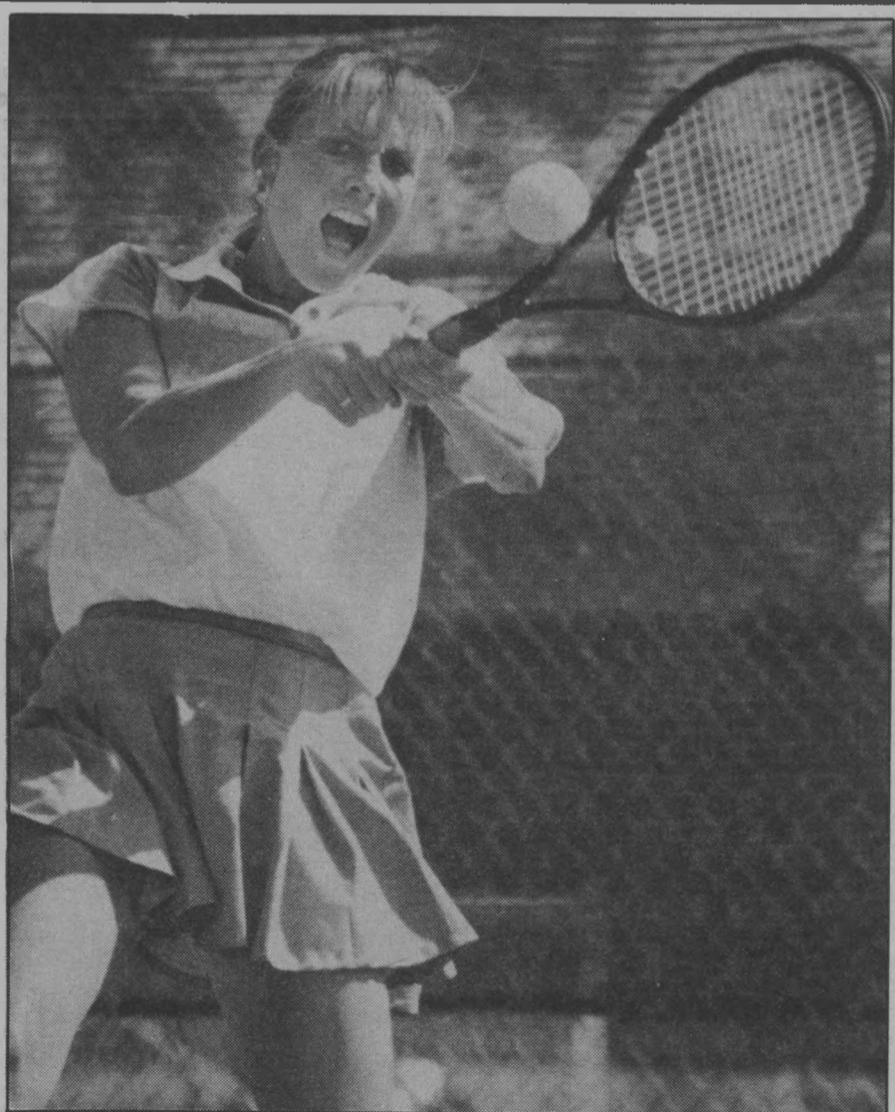
looking for the upset. However, after grabbing the first point of the match, UCLA tallied off eight straight. UCSB regained its composure and scored six straight of its own, bringing the score to 8-7. But UCLA was just too strong offensively, out-hitting Santa Barbara

.396-.188. In game two, strong GaUCHO hitting and poor Bruin passing enabled UCSB to grab a 7-2 lead. However, UCLA bounced right back, hitting .457 in the second frame, as the Bruins broke a 9-9 tie with a 6-1 run.

"I think we started out almost every game really well," Velasco explained. "I thought that we had a really good chance in the second and third games. We had the lead in the second and we were playing really well and they weren't passing that well. I thought we had them, but they came back."

Having lost a mere five games total throughout the entire season, UCLA completed the sweep in game three despite an early 4-2 UCSB lead. The Gauchos did make one final late run, getting to within one at 12-11.

See BRUINS, p.2A



Laura Rutledge straight-setted Suzy Agassi of UNLV Thursday afternoon.

RACHEL WEILL/Daily Nexus

Momentum Keeps On Building for Gauchos; Netters Win 5th Straight

By Michael Cadilli
Staff Writer

The UCSB women's tennis team is still in the process of laying the foundation for a powerhouse program.

The #18-ranked Gauchos (12-2 overall, 4-0 Big West) remained

undefeated in Big West competition by beating #40-ranked UNLV, 5-1 (no doubles competition), last Thursday and downing the #28-ranked University of San Diego, 5-4, on Saturday.

"A lot of individuals are stepping up and helping us to develop as a team," UCSB Head

Coach Chris Russell said. "Kelly [Spencer] came back in three sets, Amelia [White] was down and came back and Lynn [Coakley] won 7-5 in the second after being down 5-2."

Russell had never beaten the Toreros be-

See WAVES, p.2A

Shorthanded SB Track and Field Squads Get Second Place Finishes

By Noah Smith
Staff Writer

In preparation for their important upcoming meets, the UCSB track and field teams managed second place finishes at a four-way meet at UC Irvine this weekend.

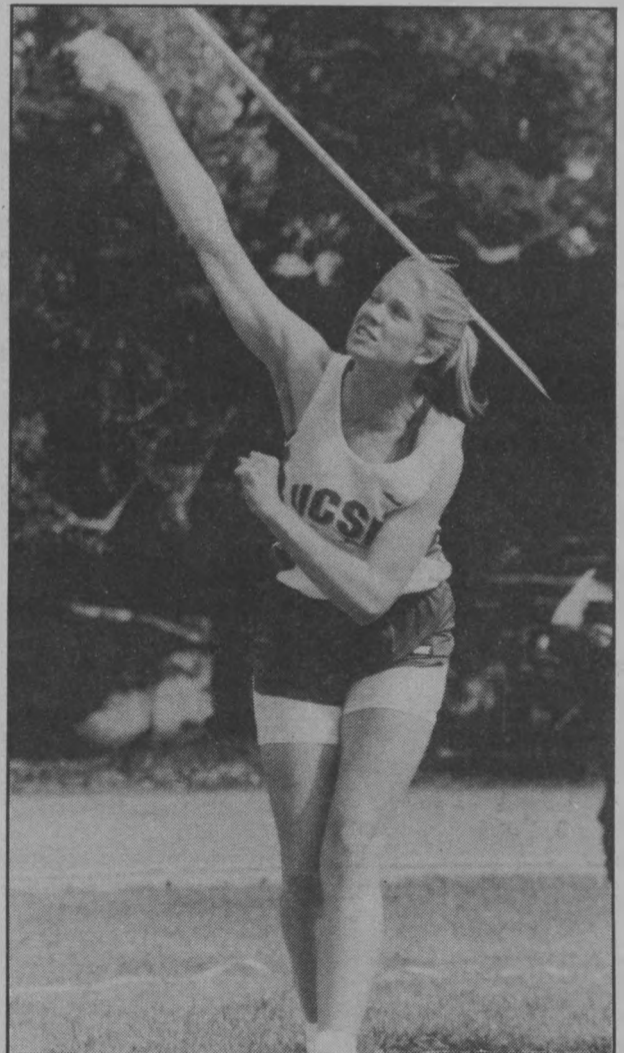
The women's team, led by a dominating field of 800-meter runners, placed respectably behind meet winner Long Beach State to tie UC Irvine. Long Beach State accomplished first place in an amazing ten events, clearly sweeping the four-team competition.

Although outdone in total points, the women's team did extremely well in certain areas. GaUCHO runner Beckie Levy led the UCSB pack to finish second through fifth in the 800-meter race, edging teammate Shira Duzman.

The jumping team did a terrific job Saturday, winning two and placing in all three events. Liz Bradley of the Gauchos had two second place finishes, one in the long jump and one in the triple jump. Julie Rusher and Kalina Freeman took first and second, respectively, in the high jump.

However, the biggest individual highlight on the day was provided by UCSB jumper Jen Lagle, who achieved a personal best in winning the triple jump event with a distance of 36 feet, 4.75 inches.

The men's team fared just as well, nearly winning the meet even without the services of mainstays Ken Reynolds, Dave Benedetto, and Gus Harper, who were given the



RICK BESSEY/Daily Nexus

The GaUCHO track and field teams took respectable second place finishes this weekend at Irvine.

events somewhat, yielding a relatively sub-par overall performance.

"It was a flat day for most of us," GaUCHO relayer Dave Hammond said. "We're looking forward to the Fresno State relays."

Because the meet was mostly a warm-up for a tough upcoming month, the UCSB squad mixed

The team travels to Fresno next weekend for a big late season meet.

UCSB Baseball Does Well to Take One From #1 Fullerton

Bazzani Powers Offense as Gauchos Continue to Improve

By Curtis Kaiser
Staff Writer

On their hottest streak of the year, having won nine of ten games, the UCSB baseball team had their winning streak challenged by a trip into the den of the nation's best team.

When the UCSB baseball team (14-19, 4-2) traveled to Cal State Fullerton (26-6, 5-1) this past weekend to take on the #1 Titans, they were faced with the challenge of playing the nation's best team on their turf. They rose to the occasion in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader, winning 4-2, despite losing the first game, 11-0, and falling on Sunday, 9-4.

"I'm pleased we got a win," UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema said. "They're an outstanding club and they're the number one team in the nation. We're not gonna cry about losing the series."

The first game on Saturday saw the Titans showcasing their All-American pitcher and Player of the Year candidate Mike Parisi (7-1). He pitched a complete game shutout, his third of the season, and threw only 86 pitches. The Gauchos were held to two singles by outfielder Wynter Phoenix. UCSB starter Jared Janke (2-4) took the loss.

"He [Parisi] was dominating," Brontsema said. "It was one of the best games I've ever seen pitched. We were fortunate to get two hits off him. For a pitching staff from top to bottom, there can't be anyone better."

The second game of the twin billing saw UCSB showcase the form that had driven them to win nine of their last ten games before the series. Gaucho starter Steve Lane (4-3) nearly matched Parisi's performance with a complete game victory of his own.

"He [Lane] has pitched well against Fullerton for three years," Brontsema said. "He had really good stuff and has pitched well in his last three outings."

Lane scattered six hits and two walks over his nine innings, allowing only one extra-base hit and one earned run. He was backed up by a solid defense that committed only one error.

The Gauchos were led offensively by Matt Bazzani, whose fourth inning two-run homer to center field put UCSB ahead to stay. Janke and Phoenix also had multiple hit games.

"I wasn't comfortable on the mound earlier in the season," Lane said. "Now after pitching a few good games, I'm starting to feel better out there."

Sunday's contest was

characterized by the eight walks allowed by the Gaucho pitching staff. The walks, together with two Santa Barbara errors allowed the Titans to score nine runs on just seven hits. Although UCSB starter Pat Treend (2-5) allowed only six hits and struck out six in 7 2/3 innings of work, he walked six and threw three wild pitches.

Matt Wagner (7-0) earned the win for CSF, and Ted Silva notched his eighth save. Once again, Bazzani provided the bulk of the Gaucho offense, belting a three-run shot in the eighth inning for his eighth home run of the year.

"Today was the day we beat ourselves," Brontsema said. "They took advantage of all the mistakes we made. We had to play close to perfect to get the win yesterday, and we didn't do that today."

UCSB 000 000 000 021
Fullerton 010 530 02X 11140
Janke, Cain (5), Salazar (8), O'Coyle (7) and Bazzani, Parisi and Hemphill. W-Parisi (7-1). L-Janke (2-5).
2B-CSF: Kotsay, Millan. HR-CSF: Ferguson (4), Millan (1).

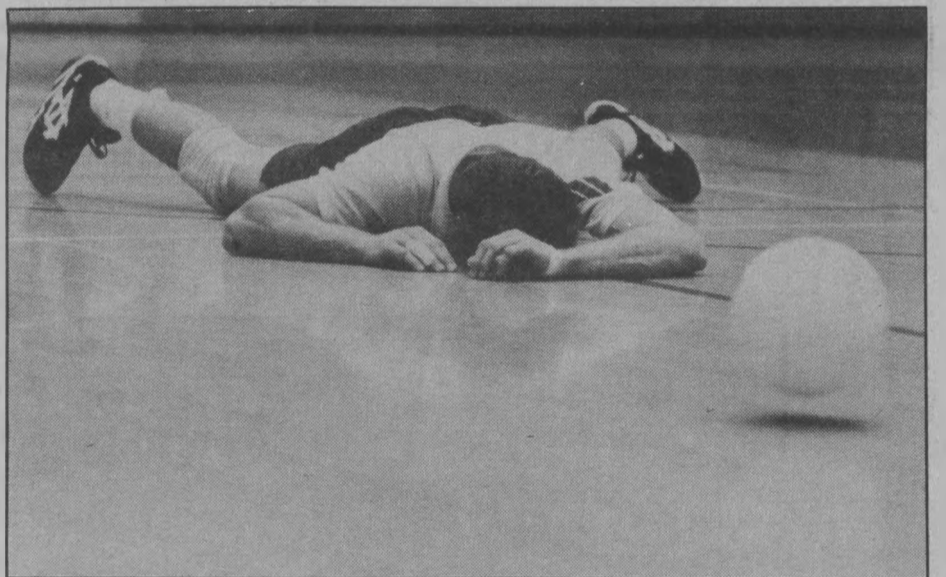
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Lane and Bazzani. Rollish, Ricabal (7), Silva (9), W-Lane (4-3), L-Rollish (4-3).
2B-CSF: Millan. HR-UCSB: Bazzani (7).

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Treend, Minton (8), Pearson (9) and Willie Wagner, Fahs (8), Silva (9) and Hemphill. W-Wagner (7-0), L-Treend (2-5).
2B-UCSB: Willie, Smailino. HR-UCSB: Bazzani (8).



MICHAEL D'EPIC/Daily News

UCSB southpaw Ryan O'Coyle gave up two runs in one inning of work during the first game of the three-game series against #1 Cal State Fullerton.



RACHEL WEILL/Daily News

UCSB put in a faultless effort Saturday night against UCLA, the nation's top-ranked volleyball program but fell short nonetheless, losing in three games.



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BRUINS

Continued from p.1A
The UCLA block, which averages 6.6 blocks per game, was not much of a factor as the Gauchos outblocked the Bruins 13-10. The digging totals were virtually identical, 34-33 in favor of UCLA, but the disparity in team hitting, .331-.187, proved

to be the key to the Bruin win.

"Their block is pretty big, but we didn't think about it that much," senior outside hitter Sean Stafford commented. "We pretty much swung away."

On Friday evening, UCSB did the same thing that 16 other opponents had done this season in destroying the Anteaters (1-16 overall, 0-14 in

MPSF). The Gauchos dominated in every category, outhitting (.605-.147), outdigging (34-19) and outblocking (18.5-2) their victim.

No Gaucho reached double figures in kills, but setter Todd Rogers had a solid match with 25 assists, six digs, and six blocks, including three solo blocks.

TENNIS

Continued from p.1A
fore Saturday, but now it seems UCSB has the better program with a higher ranking.

At #1 singles, Gaucho Jean Okada lost, 6-1, 6-2, to USD's Julie McKeon. Okada, ranked 25th, is in a mild slump, having lost her last three matches, but she has had to play them against the #33, #9 and #29-ranked players, respectively.

In the #2 slot, UCSB's Laura Rutledge fell, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, to #84-ranked

Laura Richards. At #3 Gaucho Lynn Coakley won, 7-6, 6-4, over Kristine Smith. In the #4 place, UCSB's Kathy Peterson lost two heartbreaking tiebreakers, 7-6, 7-6, to Yvonne Doyle. UCSB swept the bottom two spots with Spencer and White winning in straight sets over Kara Brady and Julie Baird, respectively.

Tied 3-3 after singles, UCSB was able to take two hard-fought three-set doubles matches to clinch the victory.

"You gotta beat them,"

Russell said. "Our gals hung in there and pulled it out. It was a very emotional match with a lot of pride at stake but we really wanted to beat them."

The Gauchos travel to Los Angeles today to take on the #15-ranked USC squad at 1:30 p.m. Russell indicated that he will move Okada down to the two slot and bump up Coakley to #1. "Lynn's earned the job, we want to move Jean down to get some of her confidence back," Russell added. "Playing at #1 takes a lot out of you."

Gauchos Bounce Back From Slow Start at Marriott Invite

Team Wins 2-of-4 Despite Absence of Markovits, Spalinger

By Chris Ganci
Staff Writer

Despite some extraneous circumstances and quality competition, the Gaucho men's tennis team managed to spilt four games at the Marriott Invitational Tournament in Irvine, for an 11th place finish. UCSB now heads into the latter stages of their season with a 9-11 record.

UCSB was shorthanded for the tournament due to an ankle injury to Jeff Spalinger and the absence of Laszlo Markovits, who was still overseas after participating on the Hungarian Davis Cup team. However, the team was still competitive.

"It was a solid effort," UCSB Coach Don Lowry said. "I'm happy to be coming back 2-2. It looked a lot grimmer when we left. It would have been easy to go 0-4, but the guys sucked it up."

As they have done in other tournaments, it took UCSB one match to get accustomed to things, and Wisconsin took advantage of a flat performance by the Gauchos to win 5-2.

The Gauchos bounced back in their next match to beat Idaho, 5-2, but the third match of the tournament against San Diego State may have been their most difficult loss of the season.

Early in the year, UCSB narrowly lost to the Aztecs in San Diego, 4-3, with a full lineup. On Friday, without Markovits and Spalinger, lightning struck again by the same score.

UCSB's #2 doubles team of Eddie

Weiss and John Bowerbank held six match points before losing their match. Without the doubles point, the Gauchos were forced to win four of the six singles matches.

The bottom half of the ladder, #4 Bowerbank, #5 Weiss and #6 Simon Kurth, all won in straight sets. However, the #1-#3 players, Darren Potkey, Joe Barbarie and Mike Shea all lost tough three-set matches.

"We had some bad luck," Lowry said. "We lost to them the first time with a full team, so this match proves that we are still competing at the same level [without two top players]."

The final match of the weekend ended with a 5-2 Gaucho win over Northeast Louisiana. In that match, Kurth and Shea clinched the victory with tough wins. Shea was down 4-0 in the deciding set before rallying to win in a tiebreaker.

Weiss also won in that match to complete a perfect 4-0 weekend and extend his match winning streak to 13 straight. The freshman's overall record of 15-3 ranks him among the great freshman Gauchos in Santa Barbara history, and has earned him the nickname of "Streak," given to him by his teammates.

Weiss spent the first half of the year in the #6 slot of the singles rotation, but the injuries as well as his phenomenal play have earned him a spot in the 3-4 range of the order.

"I had no idea this [his freshman year success] would happen," Weiss said. "I really thought it would take a while to adjust."



MICHAEL D'EPIC/Daily Nexus

Sophomore John Bowerbank, seen here smacking a forehand, won his singles match in straight sets against San Diego State. But it wasn't enough as UCSB dropped a 4-3 decision to the Aztecs.

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