

SPORTS MONDAY

Daily Nexus

April 20, 1992

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Connolly Finishes off Search, Tigers

Senior Solves Gaucho Pitching Puzzle

By Jonathan Okanes
Staff Writer

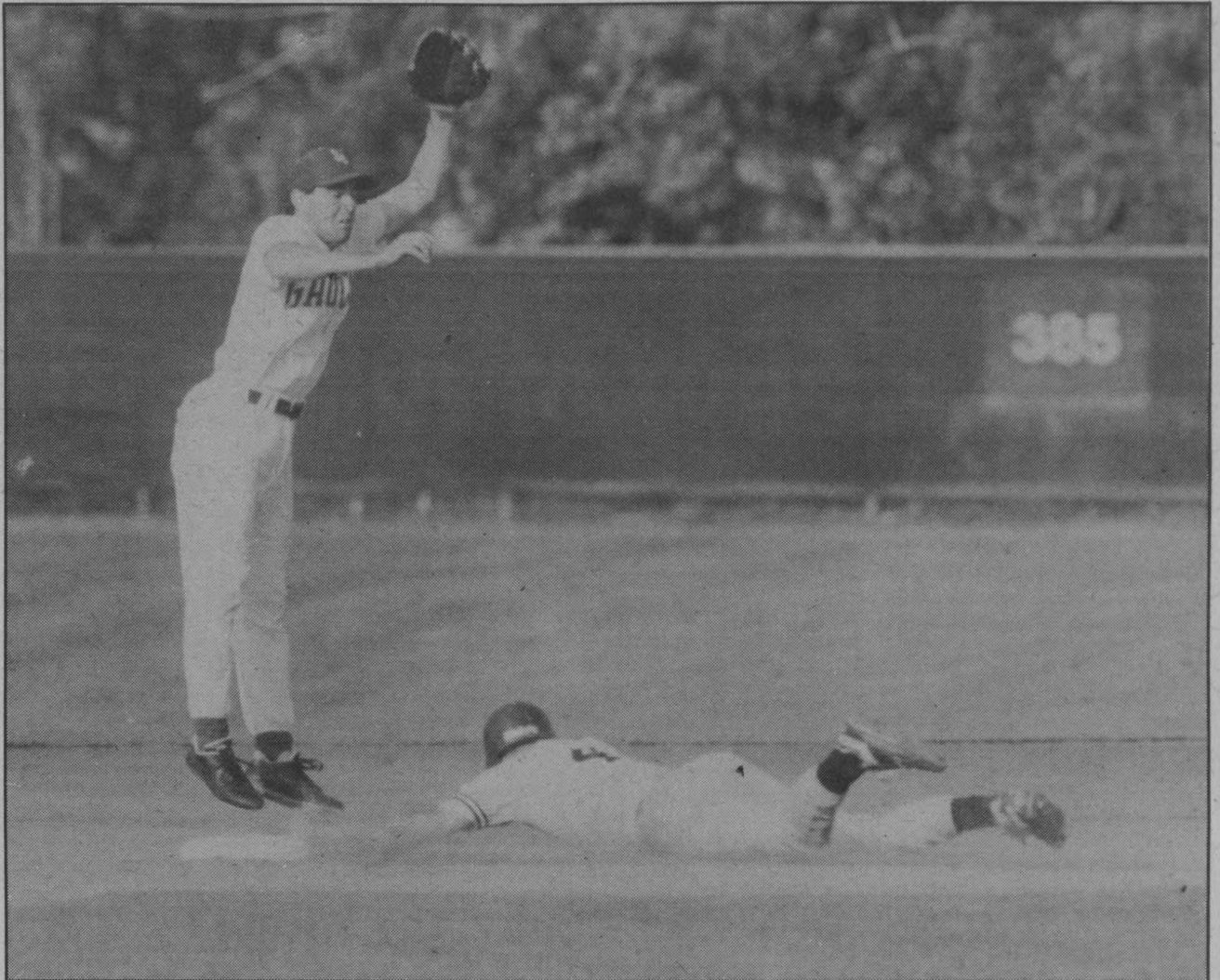
Earlier this season, after Pat Bennett had established himself as a consistent closer for the UCSB baseball team and the starting rotation began to hold its own, UCSB Head Coach Al Ferrer found himself searching only for some effective middle relief to shore up the final soft spot on his pitching staff. It took a while, but the search may finally be over.

Senior right-hander Greg Connolly emerged as the Gaucho set-up man out of the bullpen this weekend with two superb relief performances, helping Santa Barbara to 6-5 and 11-6 victories over the University of the Pacific Friday and Saturday at Stockton's Billy Herbert Field. UCSB (24-16-1, 6-9) took two of three in the Big West Conference series with the Tigers after losing the first game Thursday. UOP is 15-26 overall, 5-16 against conference opponents.

Connolly relieved starter Steve Lane on Friday in the sixth inning with the Gauchos trailing 5-2, and pitched two perfect innings while Santa Barbara staged a comeback. UCSB shortstop Danny Lane crashed a two-run homer, his sixth of the year, to cut the lead to 5-4. Lane then hit a two-run single in the ninth to drive in the game-winning runs, redeeming a costly error he made earlier in the game. Bennett (2-1) relieved Connolly to pick up the victory.

Saturday Connolly again threw well in relief after starter Chris Johnson faltered in the fifth inning. Connolly pre-

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HILLARY KAPLOWITZ/Daily Nexus

Though second baseman Dave Waco couldn't reach this throw, he and the Gauchos got back on track by taking two of three from Pacific over the weekend.

No Runs, Few Hits, Lots of Errors Against Rebels

UNLV's Harrigan Masterful; UCSB Splits a Pair With Long Beach State

By Jason Masini
Staff Writer

Why should things change?

The last four times the UCSB softball team has played four games over a weekend, it has either won three or lost three. Unfortunately, this weekend's action saw it lose three.

Sunday, #6 UNLV swept the Gauchos (16-20 overall, 8-14 in the Big West) by scores of 2-0 and 1-0 behind back-to-back shutouts from Rebel senior Lori Harrigan. Friday, UCSB fared a little better, splitting a pair with #20 Long Beach State, losing the first game, 1-0 and winning the nightcap, 2-1.

Sunday's games were dominated by Harrigan, a left-hander who was a first team All-Big West selection and a third team All-American last season. With Sunday's wins, she raised her record to 15-5.

Neither team could mount much offense in the first four innings of the first game. UCSB's starting pitcher, junior Kelli Schott (9-10), held the UNLV offense in check, matching Harrigan pitch for pitch.

Schott faltered late in the game as the Gaucho defense collapsed around her. On the day, the Gauchos committed five errors, and the Rebels capitalized, scoring single runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

Harrigan then went to work on the mound and shut the Gauchos down in the final two innings, recording eight strikeouts for the game and allowing only four Gaucho hits.

In the second game, both teams were held scoreless until UNLV broke out with a single run in the fifth inning. UCSB junior Margo Melendrez walked Rebel Cyndi Parus, who was then sacrificed to second. Parus then scored on a misplayed single to left by Felicia Benjamins, plating the only run of the game.

Harrigan continued to put down Gaucho hitters and was never really threatened throughout the game. Once again, she only allowed four hits as she picked up her 15th win of the season. Melendrez (2-4) took the loss for the Gauchos.

"Harrigan was just awesome today," UCSB Head Coach Sandy Pearce said. "I think that even though we lost both games, some good things happened today. We hit Harrigan pretty hard, harder than I think most teams do. We're a very good defensive team and the five errors in the first game was just a fluke. We would have liked to

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ALAN RITARI/Daily Nexus

Junior Margo Melendrez watches and waits for the pitcher to deliver. Over the weekend, Melendrez earned the Gauchos' only win, beating LBSU 2-1 on Friday.

Conroy, MacMillen Compete at Mt. SAC

By Robert Silk
Staff Writer

It is the stuff dreams are made of. UCSB senior Colman Conroy stands in the infield of the Mt. San Antonio Relays and watches legends Carl Lewis and LeRoy Burrell compete on the track that is encircling him. Then he looks next to him and sees American high-jump record holder Hollis Conway about to leap. A great performance here could mean instant notoriety.

"It was an incredible meet," Conroy said of Saturday's event. "I wish I'd been a little more well prepared. If I'd been more prepared it would have been more enjoyable trying to jump there."

However, for Conroy it was to be another episode of frustration, as the All-American again failed to top the 7-foot mark, settling for 6'10 3/4" for the second consecutive meet.

UCSB Head Coach Sam Adams explained that Conroy's lower scores this season were a result of mechanical problems.

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GAUCHO AIRWAVES

Monday, April 20
Baseball
UCSB vs. Pepperdine
2:30 p.m. KCSB-91.9 FM

Women Excel at Pomona-Pitzer Meet

By Scott McPherson
Staff Writer

Among a field of some 20 squads at the Pomona-Pitzer Invitational meet at Claremont last Friday, the ever-improving UCSB women's track and field team continued its rising success with strong showings in both individual and relay events.

"It went very well — outstanding, in fact," UCSB Head Coach Jim Triplett said of Friday's competition. "We were as good as any team out there — we had a strong performer in each event."

One of the top showings for Santa Barbara Friday was that turned in by Tamara Olson, who set a meet record with her 400-meter hurdles time of 1:02.25 — tops in the Big West Conference this season and within a half-second of the UCSB record.

Despite posting her best-ever time in the event, the junior runner indicated that she wasn't feeling her best before the competition.

"Actually, I've been sick for over two weeks," Olson said. "I was feeling really tired, and I didn't feel I was going to run a good race. But I was relaxed, and I just cruised through the race. I was surprised."

Triplett explained that Olson, in her first season running the 400 hurdles, has been a top performer all year.

"She's won most of her races this season, and she really understands what she's capable of," he explained. "She's really explosive. ... There's a lot of talent there, and she's worked hard."

Olson also had a hand in another big improvement for the Gauchos Friday, as she ran her best-ever split time in the mile relay and teamed with sophomore Julie Thomas and seniors Leslie Moyer and Lani Friese to cut five seconds off the foursome's previous best in the event, finishing in 3:59.50.

Another strong performer on the day for UCSB was se-

nior Micheline Sheaffer, who finished in second when her discus throw of 156 feet was edged by a mere two inches.

Thomas ran the 1,500-meter race in 4:44.25 to also garner a second place, and while she has run faster times this year, Triplett was more than pleased with her run.

"It was one her best of the season," he said of Thomas. "She ran a very competitive race. She was always near the front, out of trouble. (The race) was decided by a sprint in the end."

The 800-meter event displayed the most depth for Santa Barbara, as all four Gaucho entries ran under 2:18, taking the third through sixth places. The quartet was lead by freshman Becky Levy, who knocked two seconds off her previous best time by completing the race in 2:16.55. Moyer, Friese and freshman Kirsten Stocker finished right behind her.

Other bests registered by the team included sophomore Laura Hodnett's 1,500-meter time of 4:51.37, over three seconds off her previous top mark. Sophomore Becky Thomas' time of 15.01 in the 100-meter hurdles also topped her best.

Triplett said that his team's success at the Pomona meet did not go unnoticed at the end of the day.

"The women's head coach of UC Irvine walked up to me and congratulated me," Triplett recounted. "He was very impressed with our number of breakthroughs."

Santa Barbara will now prepare for meets this Saturday at Irvine and Sunday at UCSB, which are the final tune-ups before next month's Big West Championships. With the season nearing conclusion, the athletes are setting their goals for year's end.

"I want to improve by at least a half-second and break the school record," Olson said, referring to 1:01.8 time turned in by Linda Hightower in the 400 hurdles in 1980, which is the oldest standing record in UCSB women's track and field.

TRACK

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"Colman's having trouble with his run-up," Adams said.

"I think it's basically my approach," Conroy explained. "I haven't been able to get it down right. I've been working on it in practice and it should be coming around pretty soon."

Bryan MacMillan, the other competitor at Mt. SAC, finished the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a personal best time of 9:10.1 seconds, good for 16th place among the highly talented competition.

Meanwhile, in Pomona, the majority of the UCSB team was at Claremont College Friday for the Pomona-Pitzer Invationals. The UCSB athletes scored several personal and seasonal bests. Leading the way was sophomore Frank Smith, who set a personal best by over a foot en route to winning the triple jump with a leap of 46'10 1/2". In addition, Smith claimed second in the long jump by travelling 23'.

UCSB also took home first in the javelin as Norwegian thrower Nils Fearnley recorded a hurl of 203'10". Harold Tower finished fourth with a toss of 182'6".

Also recording personal bests were Peter Kallik, Rene Rigal and John Whitmer. Kallik, a senior from

Glendale, finished third in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles with a time of 54.87 seconds while Rigal, a sophomore, completed the 1,500 meter run in 3:54 seconds. Whitmer broke his own personal record in the discus for the second week in a row with a throw of 150'5".

The Gauchos attained two seasonal bests as well. Junior Rich Frank finished third in the 200-meter sprint in a time of 21.4 seconds. In the 400-meter run, David Hammond bettered his previous best for the year by finishing in 50.59 seconds, a time which was good enough for second in his heat.

Others who finished in the top three for UCSB included Jay Christofferson, Andy Allard and the 4x100-meter relay team. Christofferson took third in the hammer throw with a heave measuring 181'3" and Allard placed second in his 800-meter heat at 1:55.10 seconds. The 4x100-meter relay team consisting of Smith, Frank, Masaru Fisher and Ernest Morrell placed second in 42.49 seconds.

The Gauchos return home next week for the first of two home meets. They will host the first-ever edition of the UCSB Gaucho Invitational on Sunday and will host the Nick Carter Invitational the following Saturday.

TIGERS: Gauchos End Road Trip on High Note

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served a Santa Barbara lead and went five effective innings to pick up the victory (3-0).

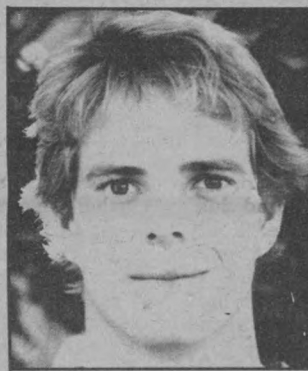
"He threw extremely well," Ferrer said of Connolly. "He kept us right there in Friday's game, and at times he was really overpowering. He's had an up and down season, but it's nice to know that I can go with him now in that situation."

Pacific, which received a strong pitching performance from senior Larry Shenk in the series opener on Thursday, again got a good starting stint on Friday from junior Bill McGowen, who went six innings while allowing just two runs on five hits. But in contrast to Connolly's performance, Pacific reliever Dan Miller (5-5) wasn't able to preserve the lead.

"I felt pretty good out there — I had all my pitches going," Connolly said. "On Friday I just wanted to keep



Greg Connolly



Danny Lane

the game close and on Saturday I was just trying to throw strikes with the lead."

Saturday's contest, which saw Santa Barbara score early and often in knocking out Pacific starter Robert Rinderknecht and bashing around reliever Butch Cain (1-5), marked the end of a grueling seven-game road trip for the Gauchos, who will play their first game at Campus Diamond since April 3 this afternoon against Pepper-

dine at 2:30.

"I'm pleased with the way we played on the road trip," said Ferrer, whose team went 4-3 on the trip. "Those were some tough opponents that we played and we're very tired right now, but I'm happy that we're playing much better right now."

Junior left-hander Greg Nealon is expected to get the start today against the Waves, but Ferrer said he plans to use four or five

pitchers if he has to. The Gauchos played Pepperdine in the first game of their recent road trip and lost 10-6 in Malibu.

TEXAS LEAGUERS:

First baseman Jeff Antoon and second baseman David Waco each made their first error of the season over the weekend. Antoon has also played third base and the outfield this season. "To make your first error after 40 games is really mind-boggling," Ferrer said. "Antoon plays high-percentage positions but to do that in five different positions is impressive. And Waco's error was even borderline — he made some incredible plays this weekend"... The tough schedule may be catching up with some of the Gauchos. Starting right-hander Travis Rodgers was sent home before Friday's game with illness, and Danny Lane is also under the weather.

WEEKEND

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come away with a split, but it's not the end of the world. I know the girls will come back strong the next time."

Friday, UCSB travelled to Long Beach to take on the 49ers for the second time this year.

LBSU won the first game, 1-0; the lone run coming as 49er winning pitcher Stacy Van Essen hit a sacrifice fly off Schott that scored Linda Lunceford, who had reached on an error.

The second game started with Santa Barbara jumping all over Long Beach starting pitcher Rae Rice, who had entered the game with a perfect 5-0 record.

Melendrez started off the game with a walk, which was followed by singles by senior Kellie Newcombe and sophomore Krissy Kyriazis to load the bases. Senior Gina Oliver then scored Melendrez with a sacrifice fly and Newcombe came home on a perfectly executed suicide squeeze bunt from junior Jennifer Gomez, giving UCSB a quick 2-0 lead.

With Melendrez on the mound for the Gauchos, Long Beach State was able



Lori Harrigan

to cut the lead to 2-1 in the third inning when 49er Amy Geldbach singled with two outs and came home on a Kim Kostyk triple.

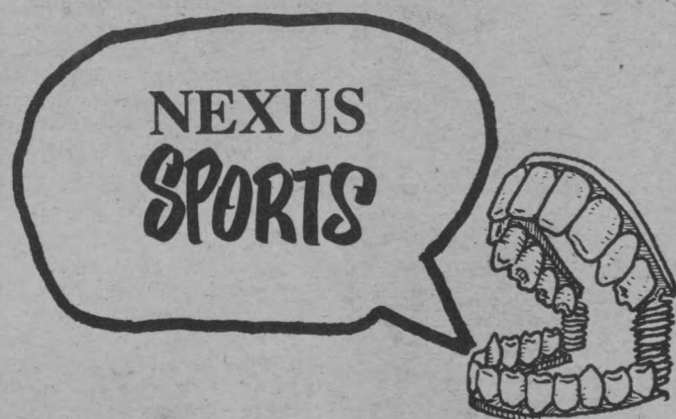
But that was as close as LBSU would come as Schott took over in the fifth inning and shut out the 49ers the rest of the way, earning her first save of the year. Schott and Kyriazis had two hits each for UCSB.

"The girls really got it together for that second game," Pearce said. "They played hard and were able to jump out on top early. We play our best ball when we get an early lead. The girls got it in their heads that they just weren't going to lose that game and they didn't."

SPORTS SLATE

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPORT	OPPONENT	DAY	TIME	SITE
Baseball	Pepperdine	Mon.	2:30 p.m.	UCSB
W. Tennis	Big West Championships	Wed.-Sat.	All Day	Ojai
M. Gymnastics	NCAA Championships	Thurs.-Sat.	TBA	Lincoln, Neb.
M. Tennis	Big West Championships	Fri.-Sun.	All Day	Ojai
Softball	New Mexico St.	Fri.	2 p.m.	Las Cruces
Baseball	UNLV	Fri.	2:30 p.m.	UCSB



Buckle Up!

Buckle Up!

Buckle Up!

Buckle Up!



GREAT DAY FOR A ROW

Fast Races, Smiling Faces at UCSB's First Home Crew Meet in Two Years

Text by Ross French, Photos by Hillary Kaplowitz and David Rosen

On the whole, the day couldn't have been much better for UCSB's first home crew meet in over two years. The breezes blowing through Santa Barbara never made it over the Santa Ynez mountains, leaving Lake Cachuma fairly calm — the only ripples coming from the boats of fishermen racing across the lake. The warm sun beating down on the many friends and family members that had made the trek to the lake made the occasional splash of water a gratifying occurrence.

In fact, the only thing that could have improved the meet from a UCSB standpoint would have been the Gauchos sweeping all 11 of the events over the visiting crews of Long Beach State and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Though that didn't happen, the majority of people were satisfied with the meet, considered to be a warm-up for next week's State Schools Championship in Sacramento.

"Beautiful day, good row, but it just wasn't enough to put us over first," said women's varsity Head Coach Jim Hanchrow of the varsity openweight women's half-a-boatlength loss to Long Beach. "We were close, we had a lot of good things going for us. We just came up a half a length short."

In the only other women's varsity race of the day, a boat of four lightweights went up against openweight competition. Though they couldn't pull off a win, Hanchrow was happy.

"I thought this was the best row that they had," he said. "When they row against their own lightweight competition, they should be pretty quick."

Next week in Sacramento, the boat will have its first opportunity to face women of equal weight and size. "They've waited all this time to get a true lightweight four race, and I'm really happy for them," Hanchrow said.

The novice women did a little better in their races. The lightweight eight took first, winning by open water over Cal Poly. The open eight took second behind Cal Poly despite having two oars come out of the oarlocks.

"I was really disappointed that we lost to Cal Poly," women's novice Coach Thien Do said. "I never lost to Cal Poly before. It's almost like a disgrace. But we'll get them next week."

In later races, UCSB women took first and third in the open four race, and the lightweight boat took first.

For the varsity men, the day's strong performances allowed Head Coach Mike Bailey to rest a little easier.

"Overall I was really pleased with the day," Bailey said. "Since we see them next weekend, we had to make sure that we beat them big. And we did."

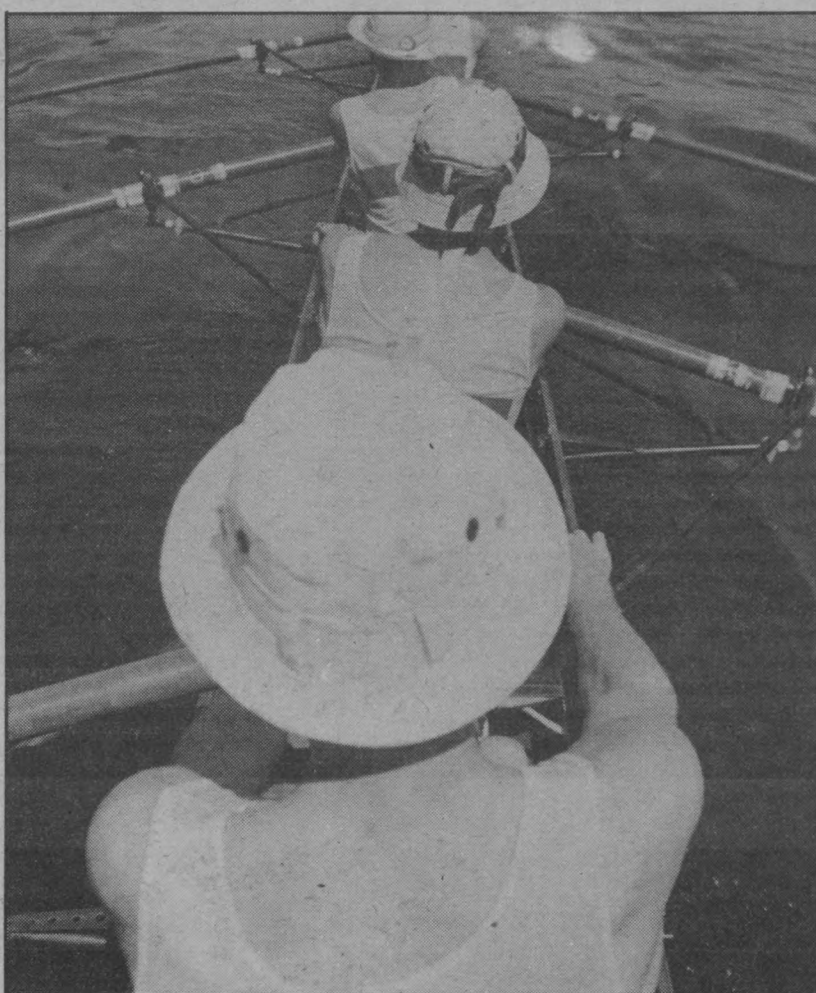
The UCSB heavyweight eight boat won by a length open water over Long Beach while the lightweight eight beat the 49er boat by nearly three lengths. The victories were doubly impressive considering that four lightweights rowed in the heavyweight boat, and the fact that the Long Beach rowers were generally bigger than UCSB.

"There is a lot of experience in (the UCSB) boat. Six of the eight guys in that boat have won a major championship. Experience is winning races," Bailey said.

The men's JV boat lost by just a few seats after making up nearly a length in the last 500 meters.

Perhaps the most exciting race of the day was the novice men's lightweight eight. At the 500-meter mark an oar came out of the lock, and the boat struggled for another 500-meters before the oar was reinserted. Despite spotting a huge lead to Cal Poly, the UCSB didn't give up, falling just a little short at the finish line.

The boat redeemed itself a little later in the novice four race, as a boat made up of the stern four of the lightweight eight took first in the race, while the bow four took third. The novice heavyweight eight crew broke out of its up and down season with open water victory.



A few of the sights from Lake Cachuma. The varsity lightweight men, top, celebrate victory by throwing their coxswain in the lake. A men's eight boat, above right, pulls hard during a race. The novice women four, above, carefully lower their boat into the water. The lightweight men, left, decked out in their "Gilligan Hats." Below, UCSB women work to make up ground against LBSU.



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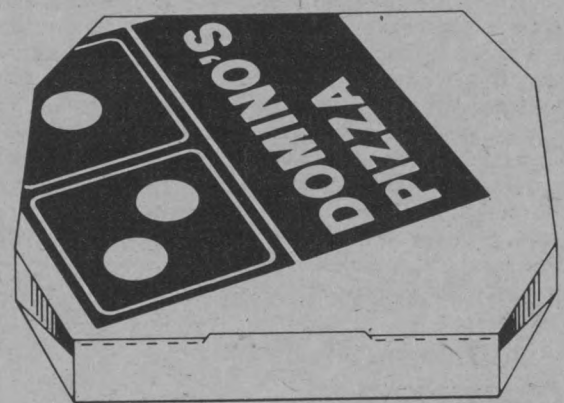


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