Gauchos Knock Out SFA

By Matt Heitner
Staff Writer

The UCSB women's basketball team played like the Gauchos of old Sunday afternoon, going on the road to upset #29 Stephen F. Austin, 62-57.

With the victory, Santa Barbara snapped the Lady Jacks 27-game home winning streak and reclaimed some confidence that had disappeared after back-to-back losses to Cal Poly and Irvine.

The Gauchos were led by sophomore guard Jess Hansen, who scored a career high 23 points and helped SFA take a commanding 35-30 lead. UCSB then extended its advantage to 42-36 and seemed poised to pull away from the Gauchos.

UCSB caught fire on a 12-0 run with Hansen pouring in eight points during the wave. The run was a huge confidence boost for us," Hansen said. "After the pounding we've had recently, this win shows that we're still the same team that beat Virginia and Kansas earlier this season."

Junior forward Kayte Christensen and the women's basketball team rebounded from two straight losses to upend SFA 62-57. Christensen scored 10 points in 25 minutes of play.

The Gauchos offense continued to get their second-straight game after the pounding initiated by Utah State last Thursday. Santa Barbara improved to 10-3 on the season, while the Highlanders fell to 7-14. The Gauchos also stymied the defense winning 23-4 in the game without nailing another extra-inning win.

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Senior forward Mike Vukovich's basket with striking out two batters.

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The Gauchos jumped all over Santa Clara in game two, scoring three runs in the bottom of the first and chasing Bronco starting pitcher Kellon McConnell from the mound. Santa Clara came out on top in the third inning, scoring two runs off of Bronco starting pitcher Rylee Ogle, who turned in his best performance of the young season. Ogle gave up only three runs in 5.1 innings of work while striking out two batters.

Santa Barbara Tells UCR to Take a Hike on High Road

By Elly Appelbaum
Staff Writer

The UCSB men's basketball team could not stand the site of losing streaks in its uphill and down season, so the team decided to get another victory.

The Gauchos tore down the stretch to pull out a 59-48 victory over Riverside at the Thunderdome on Saturday to avoid losing their second-straight game after the pounding initiated by Utah State last Thursday. Santa Barbara improved to 10-3 on the season, while the Highlanders fell to 7-14. The Gauchos also stymied the defense winning 23-4 in the game without nailing another extra-inning win.

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The Gauchos knocked out 17-3 lead bolstered by an earlier 17-3 lead ignited by made shots from seven different players. The Gauchos began to get the chinks out of their game two, scoring three runs in the bottom of the first and chasing Bronco starting pitcher Kellon McConnell from the mound. Santa Clara came out on top in the third inning, scoring two runs off of Bronco starting pitcher Rylee Ogle, who turned in his best performance of the young season. Ogle gave up only three runs in 5.1 innings of work while striking out two batters.

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Men didn’t look twice at Mary… Until she killed them all with an axe. And, boy, did it make damn fine news. The Daily Nexus

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UCSB
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armor when freshman center J.J. Todd came into the game and nailed two shots at the charity stripe to shrink the lead 17-5 with 6:27 in the opening half.

"We came out flat," Todd said. "When you only score three points in 12 minutes ... [we didn't have the rights] energy level. We can't expect to shoot 20 percent [like] vs. Cal Poly [on Feb. 10] every game."

Freshman point guard Jacoby Atako broke the field goal drought with a 17-foot jump shot with 9:0 in the first half. Atako continued his resurgence by pouring in a career-high 12 points and dishes out three assists. Atako's bucket helped keep the game in reach for UCSB, where the Gauchos eventually took the lead for good in the second half.

"Jacoby is starting to show some life, scoring half," UCSB Coach Bob Williams said in the Santa Barbara News-Press. "I think that's helping us a great deal, giving us the fifth scorer a little bit."

Santa Barbara made six of eight field goals to end the half and pulled within three at 25-22. The Gauchos went on a big run of their own, immediately following the Highlander's run with a 15-2 burst to stir the battle up, 19-18. UCSB was fortunate to be so close after so few of its shots fell, connecting on only 24 percent of their field goals.

"It was a good way we won this game after scoring three points in the beginning of the game is good to see. We feel good today, putting together," senior forward Juliano Jordan said.

"It was bad because we were supposed to win this game, but I'm glad the team is pulling together and got the win. It's good to see how team reacts in a bad situation," junior forward Matt Lowry said. "Just see J.J. step up. [You have to see] the positives after a bad performance vs. Utah State."

The Gauchos could not take the lead against Riverside for much of the game. Freshman swingman Nick Jones, who struggled with his shot all night, came up big in the clutch for Santa Barbara. Jones hit a lay-up to bring UCSB within one, 40-39, with 8:18 in the second half. Jones then snatched the ball away from Highlander Jason Labigh and had two free throws after the intentional foul to make the score 41-40 in favor of Santa Barbara with 8:08.

"It was good [to see Jones help us take the lead]," freshman forward Casey Cooke said. "Not only did Nick Jones struggle, but a lot of guys were struggling. Good shooters keep shooting and eventually the shots will fall. As long as they fall at some point, we'll be OK. Luckily, we got back into the game and got back on top." Jones completed his evening with a game-high 14 points and freshman forward Brandon Fowke scored 10 points. Along with Atako, the Gauchos had three freshmen score in double figures in the same contest.

"That's definitely a positive for us now and in the future," sophomore point guard B.J. Ward said. "Jacoby is also shooting the ball better.

The young UCSB squad will now have to go to Cal Poly on Thursday night at 7. After Saturday's performance, the Gauchos seemed primed to improve on their performances the past two games and possibly move to the 500 mark for the season.

"Being one game under 500 is a testament to how the team has stuck to it," Todd said. "For us to stick with it and start playing better basketball is really important. Now, our shot is for third place in the Big West, which is pretty respectable."

BASEBALL
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the game after only one-third of an inning.

UCSB would not score again until the sixth inning, but with sophomore pitcher Jim Bullard dominating Santa Clara, it appeared that three runs would be all Santa Barbara would need. Bullard's pitched six scoreless innings, giving up two earned runs.

"I just tried to throw strikes and get ahead," Bullard said. "I just wanted to keep us in the ballgame and get us a win."

With the score tied at three heading into the bottom of the sixth, the Gauchos offense put three runs on the board, giving UCSB a lead that would add to later on in the game.

Senior reliever Jamie Gonzales closed out the Broncos in the sixth inning, allowing the Gauchos to hold off the Trojans in a loss at Campus Pool, falling to USC, 12-5 in the team's home and season finale. USC led 6-1 after the first quarter, never relinquishing the lead against the Highlanders, 59-48, last Saturday evening in the Thunderdome.

Sophomore point guard B.J. Ward helped Santa Barbara exact some revenge against the Highlanders, 59-48, last Saturday evening in the Thunderdome.

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