

Senior guard lesha Smith puts up a shot. The Gauchos posted two crucial conference victories over the weekend, winning at home against CSU and UCI.

## **UCSB Holds On at Home to Post Vital Conference Wins**

Amy Smith Leads UCSB to Two Victories With 47 Points coming off a solid 66-51

By Deborah Rafii Staff Writer

In a 68-63 victory over the Cal State Fullerton Titans for the women's basketball team last Friday, UCSB sophomore forward Amy Smith set a career high with 23 points. On Sunday, Smith outdid herself with an outstanding 24 points in a 62-56 Gaucho victory over UC

UCSB (9-5 overall, 6-2 Big West) matched up with the Anteaters Sunday in the Thunderdome with hopes of denting Irvine's nearly perfect 7-1 conference record. UCI (10-6, 7-2) ended last season's play with a 5-23 overall record, but has taken the Big West conference by surprise in the new year, currently in the lead in conference standings.

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victory against Long Beach State University at the Pyramid last Friday. However, UCI Head

Coach Colleen Matsuhara didn't walk off the court with any prizes on Sunday. Instead, the Gauchos were the ones celebrating when the final buzzer sounded.

Throughout the game, neither the Gauchos nor the Anteaters were able to establish total dominance over the other team. Neither squad was able to take more than a six-point lead until the Gauchos pulled ahead with 24 seconds remaining in the contest.

The pace of the game remained at a high level as each team kept a fast tempo throughout the

"Irvine is a very patient team," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said. "We wanted to keep the tempo up and so did they. They controlled the offensive boards and we give credit to their offensive rebounding."

The struggle to obtain the rebound went beyond the paint as junior forward Sasha Scardino became entangled with Irvine senior forward Cher Scanlon in a battle for control of the ball.

But the Gauchos continued to play tough defensively in order to prevent the Anteaters from

pulling ahead.
"I think we played pretty ugly," Smith said.
"We played really hard, though, and our defense

was what kept us in the game. They are a real veteran team and if you let up on intensity, that's when they take control."

With the loss of junior guard Dio Aguinaldo and sophomore guard Erin Alexander, who both fouled out toward the end of the second half, the Gaucho team looked to ju-nior guard Kellie Cook to handle the ball out of the backcourt.

Cook tied the score 50-50 with 6:04 remaining, and Santa Barbara was able to hold on until the 45.3-second mark when Smith put the game out of Irvine's reach at 61-56.

Friday night, UCSB hosted its first home match since Jan. 8 against the Titans. Fullerton had been on a four-game winning streak until their loss to the Gauchos.

Despite a height advantage over Fullerton, Santa Barbara didn't perform as expected against its visiting opponent, shooting 38 percent against the Titans. Senior forward Koko

Lahanas, the Big West conference's leading scorer, paced Fullerton with 31 points.

UCSB junior center Kristine Grazzini and senior forward Iesha Smith came up big in the contest. Grazzini had two blocks, while Smith scored 11

Coming back from a 28-31 disadvantage after halftime, the Gauchos were able to stay close be-fore tying Fullerton 39-39

See WINS, p.3A

## Orange Curtain Shuts on Santa Barbara; Gauchos' Road Woes Continue to Grow

By Daniel Solomon Staff Writer

After failing to score a field goal in the final 9:36 in a 62-61 loss against Fullerton on Thursday evening, the UCSB men's basketball team picked up right where it left off on Saturday night against UC Irvine. The Gauchos' 10:20 first-half field-goal drought created a 13-point half-time deficit that ultimately resulted in a 62-58 loss.

The loss is the third straight for UCSB (9-7 overall, 4-4 in Big West), the sixth straight on the road and the fifth in its last seven games. For UCI (7-9, 3-6), Saturday's victory was the first time in nine attempts that the Anteaters have defeated the Gauchos in the Bren Events Center.

Santa Barbara opened the contest with a trio of three-pointers from junior guard Lelan McDougal, senior guard Tecon Madden and se-

nior forward Wayne Butts, giving the squad a half. However, the Gauchos would go on to miss their next 13 treys, as a basket from senior center Doug Muse with 11:32 remaining would prove to be the team's last field goal before the

UCI 62, UCSB 58 UC SANTA BARBARA
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"You have to take you and their defense was compact," UCSB Head Coach Jerry Pimm explained. "If the defense is compact, you still have to have a threat inside to keep them compact. But then you have to hurt them from the zone areas, and we just didn't do that."

"The shots were open and we just had to step up and knock them down," Madden added. "Early on we did that, but it didn't fall for us at times."

Meanwhile, Irvine capitalized off the Gauchos' shooting futility in addition to UCSB's 10 first-half turnovers, in compiling an 18-2 run. Madden's 15-footer with 1:12 left in the first half broke the spell as the Gauchos went into halftime trailing 36-23.

"Our point guards were trying just a little bit too nuch to pass the ball a little bit too deep, and then sometimes the big guys didn't catch it either," Pimm com-mented. "Eight turnovers from Phillip [Turner] and Tecon at the point is just too many against that kind of defense."

The Anteaters continued to build their lead in the second half when a three-point play from center Michael Tate put UCI ahead 47-30 with 10:53 left to play. However, Butts revived the Gauchos' horrid threepoint shooting with his third trey of the second half to cut the lead to 56-50 with 3:19 remaining.

Anteater point guard Raimonds Miglinieks countered with a 22-foot bomb of his own, as he finished with a teamhigh 15 points and five assists. Despite an offensive put-back by freshman Kealon Wallace and a pair of free throws by Phillip Turner, the Anteaters sealed the game with an offensive tip-in by forward Mark Odsather with 25.5 seconds



Junior guard Lelan McDougal puts in a layup. UCSB's road record dropped to 1-6 last weekend. For the evening, the

Gauchos shot a seasonlow 36.2 percent from the perimeter and a pathetic 8-29 (27.6 percent) from beyond the three-point line. Butts tallied a game-high 16

See LOSSES, p.3A

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46. Best Way to Save Money

**Daily Nexus** 



GERRY MELENDEZ/Deily Nexus

Sophomore outside hitter Donny Harris (left) backs up senior outside hitter Amaury Velasco. The duo led the Gauchos to a pair of wins over SDSU and UCSD.

## Men's V-Ball Spikes SDSU, UCSD in Straight-Set Wins

By Jenny Kok Staff Writer

The warm weekend sun seemed to shine on the UCSB men's volleyball team as they headed down to San Diego for this season's road opener.

The Gauchos (3-2 overall, 2-1 in MPSF) swept San Diego State University (0-2 overall) on Friday night, 15-9, 15-6, 15-13, and then continued their winning momentum on Saturday, defeating UC San Diego (0-3, 0-2), 15-1, 15-8, 15-7.

"We played very well this weekend," UCSB Head Coach Ken Preston said. "We made a lot of progress — our transition was a lot stronger and our passing was pretty good. We still need to have a better transition and get our blocking a little more consistent, but we're making steps in that direction."

On Friday, sophomore outside hitter Donny Harris continued his strong offensive effort, leading the team with 21 kills at a .474 hitting percentage. Junior outside hitter Morgan Chapman added 10 kills.

"Donny again played very well," Preston commented. "Our transition improved a lot because we set Donny and he kept hitting them down."

On Saturday, senior outside hitter Darren Torbet led the way with 11 kills and 13 digs, while junior outside hitter Amaury Velasco added eight kills to lead the team to victory.

"These two matches were the kind of matches that you really can't afford

to lose," Preston explained. "Winning these matches was very important to us. Season road openers place a lot of pressure on a team and we faced the pressure well.

"It was definitely a confidence booster because now we are going into a really big week. We've got two tough matchups and it's easier going in with a win than with a loss."

On Tuesday night the Gauchos will host Pepperdine University at 7. Friday, the Gauchos will have a chance to avenge their loss to Brigham Young University a week and a half ago as they host the Cougars at 7:05 p.m. Both games will take place in the Events Center.

## **UCSB Slips in Loss to Boise State**

By Matt Gambee Reporter

Even though the UCSB women's gymnastics team is steadily improving their team scores, a 186 last Friday against Boise State University was not enough

for a victory.

The Broncos edged Santa Barbara by three points, 189 to 186. The Gauchos have now lost to Stanford, UCLA and Boise to start their season.

"The team atmosphere was better and the girls were more cohesive this meet," said UCSB Head Coach Randy Lane. "It will matter to me if we don't keep improving. The end of the season is where it counts."

where it counts."

If anything, the balance beam event did in the Gauchos. Trailing 47.5 to 46.6 after the initial vaulting competition, the Gauchos stormed back into the meet with a stupendous effort on the uneven bars, tying a school record with a score of 48.15.

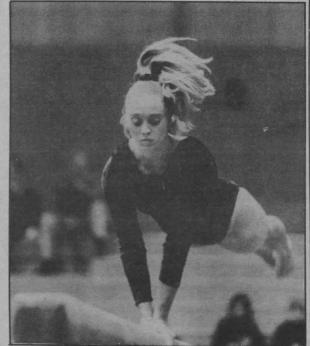
"Nothing went wrong on the beam," Lane said. "We went for hard tricks and I'm just glad the girls stayed aggressive."

After the uneven bars victory, the wheels fell off for UCSB on the balance beam, as the team posted a weak score of 44.9.

Another area that the Gauchos excelled in was the floor exercise. Dancing to a predominantly salsa beat, Santa Barbara entertained a capacity crowd at Rob Gym. The 47.0 score they received showed that the judges were impressed as well. However, Boise State edged out UCSB once again with their 47.2.

"Boise had a weak floor routine," Lane said. "Many people came up to me after the meet and raved about how we were

See BOISE, p.3A



Emily Tripiano performs on the balance beam.

Continued from p.1A at 14:32 with a layup by Amy Smith. For the remaining minutes, Santa Barbara continued to battle the Titans for the lead. UCSB put the game away in the closing sec-onds after a series of CSF fouls.

Santa Barbara will travel to the University of Hawaii on Feb. 3 before returning to the mainland to take on San Jose State University for the second time this season on Feb. 5.

The Gauchos are now tied with New Mexico State University for second place in the Big West, behind UC Irvine. UCSB 68, CSUF 63

Referees: Gary Horckey, Dennis Ackerman. Attendance: 548.



Sophomore guard Erin Alexander attempts to get past a defender. Alexander dished off six assists in UCSB's victory over UC Irvine on Sunday.

Continued from p.1A points and nine rebounds. While the Gauchos' leading scorer for the season, Muse (15 ppg) was held to less than double figures (7 points) for only the second time this season.

"Wayne is a really good

player," Muse said. "He plays his butt off and sometimes he's over-looked. He really kept us in there tonight.

"I think as a team we made strides, from the simple fact that we didn't give up tonight. We played real hard and you can't take that away from this

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CSUF 62 LICSB 61

### **BOISE**

Continued from p.2A

much better stylistically.' Lane attributes the beauty of the athletes' floor program to team choreographer Amy Thorne. She was a gymnast under Lane at UCLA and is the

only female gymnast in Bruin history to score a perfect 10 on the floor

UCSB had six women finish in the top 10 for the all-around event, compared to Boise State's four. The top finisher was Boise's Julie Wagner who took the event with a

38.825. Wagner finished eighth in the NCAA Championships in 1993.

"She is phenomenal," Lane said. "Not only is she an all-around great athlete, but the backbone to the Boise State team also."

Santa Barbara's Margie Hoeffler placed second in the all-around, scoring a

came in third at 37.07.

kinks, but we have plenty of that. The next couple of meets we are going to be

37.85, while Lauren Yee

"This meet shows us how much potential we have," senior co-captain Sarah Lucas said. "It takes time to work out all the

Montoya: Unless he has studied heeza greepa, which I have.

# by STEVEN LARGE

t started out so beautifully.

The sky was blue, the shots were falling, the wins were plentiful. It was almost too good to be true. Then the losses, much like the heavens, started to rain

down upon the basketball team from UCSB.

The Gauchos fell from 7-2 in early January to 9-7 in late January. More was lost in that short amount of time then a few games, however.

Lost were the dreams that so many Gaucho fans had of seeing their team win the Big West title.

Lost were the dreams of throwing out corn tortillas in an NCAA tournament game.

The damage done to the Gauchos, for the most part, has been on the road, away from the eyes of the Thunderdome crowd.

Thank goodness.

Like most teams who have trouble balancing between the depths of mediocrity and the heights of success, the

Gauchos have been having trouble winning on the road. UCSB is 8-1 at home. If this same team ventures outside the doors of the Thunderdome, however, its record falls to a lowly 1-6.

After suffering its only loss in the Thunderdome this season in front of a nationwide television audience against DePaul last Monday, the Gauchos were expecting to bounce back with two wins against Cal State Fullerton and Irvine over the next week.

A couple of wins against these teams would have made the Gauchos 6-2 in the Big West conference and things

would be looking up for UCSB.

So, playing at Fullerton last Thursday, the Gauchos not only shot better than the Titans (49 percent to 41 percent), they also out-rebounded their opponent 33-31.
Unfortunately for the Gauchos on Thursday night, the

only set of numbers that really counted in this game (and most of the others) was the final score: 62-61, CSUF.

The Gauchos went on to lose against Irvine as well, making it back-to-back losses against two of the worst teams in the Big West.

One has to wonder if Santa Barbara's most valuable asset is not Doug Muse but the Thunderdome fans. It seems the Gauchos can't win without them.

Fortunately, for their next two games the Gauchos will have the support of their fans. They play Utah State and Nevada-Reno at home this week

Will the Thunderdome fans continue to dream of championship tortilla throwing?

Will the lines for Gaucho tickets continue to overflow Storke Plaza even through the bad times?

If the Gauchos are to regain their early season form,

they're going to need the continuing support of the fans. Oh, and a few wins on the road wouldn't hurt either.



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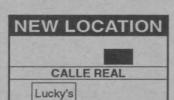
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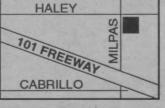
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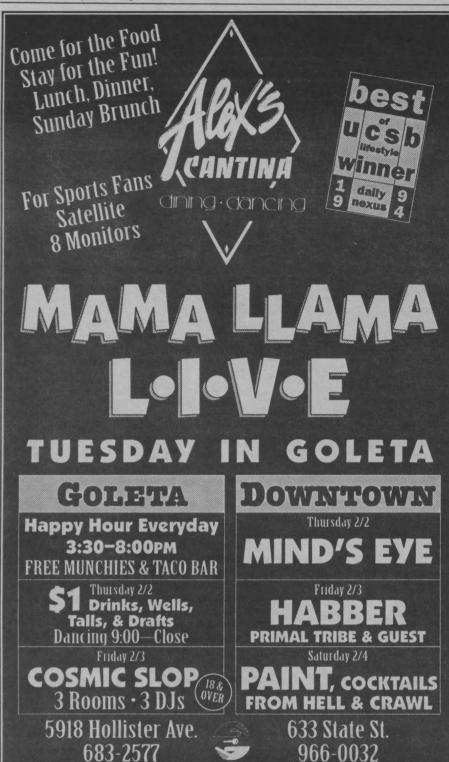
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