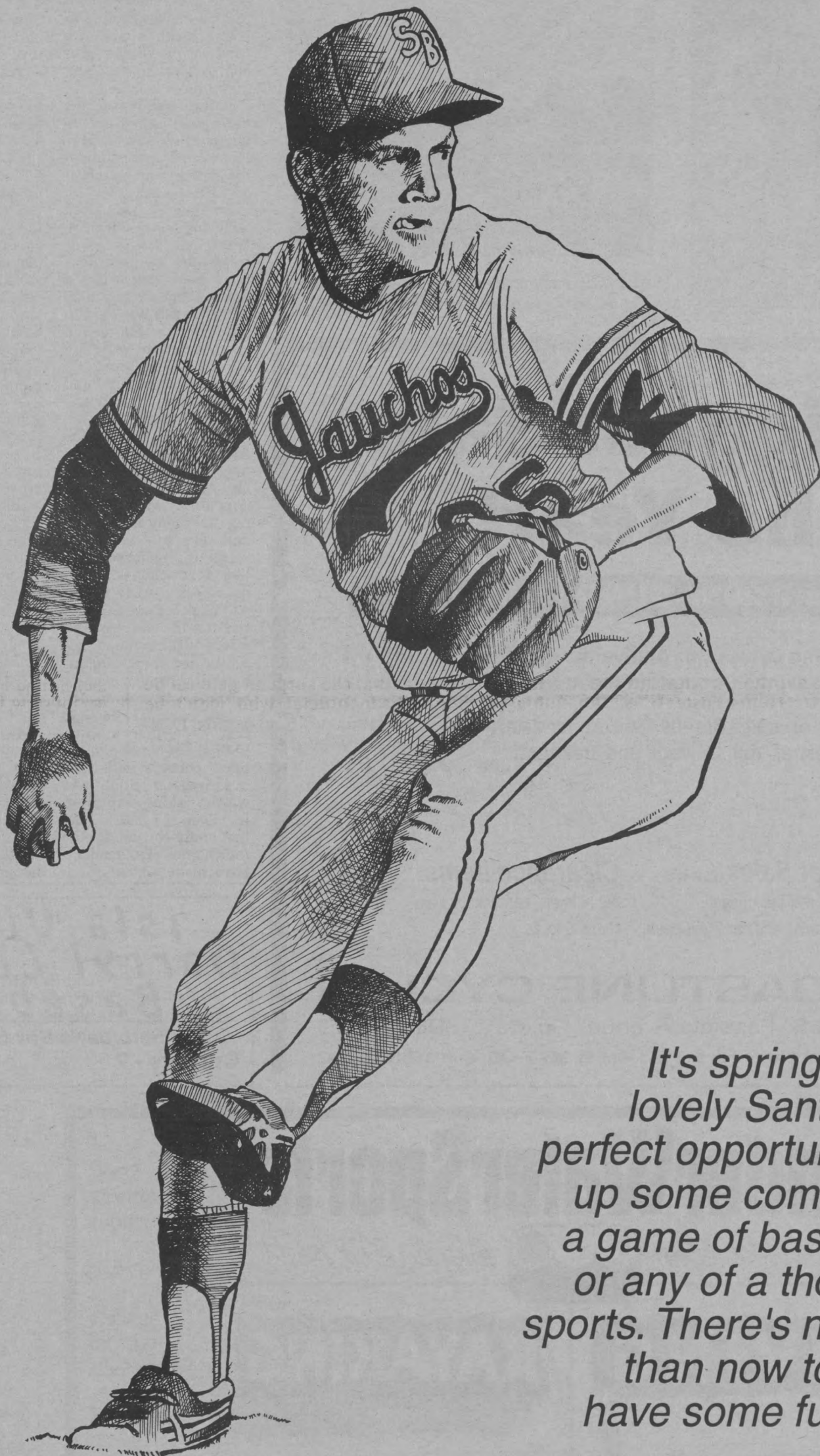


# Spring Sports Annual

A Daily Nexus Supplement for After-Winter Athletics

May 3, 1995

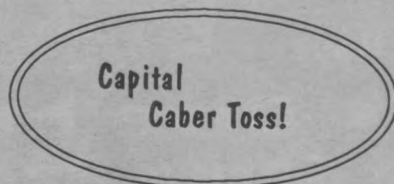


*It's springtime again in lovely Santa Barbara, a perfect opportunity to gather up some comrades to play a game of baseball, tennis, or any of a thousand other sports. There's no better time than now to get out and have some fun in the sun!*

ZACK GROSSMAN/Daily Nexus



## **INSIDE:**





# Polo Is My Life

By Mortimer Trousers

Cheating is generally considered bad form. Surely an act to be discouraged by the finer sort. Pillars of moral acumen like yours truly, an over-zealous fanatic of stick-

and-ball games, would never compromise their famous name for the sake of a mere win at a sporting event.

That said, I must now announce in the print laid before you, that the singular instance of cheating I

readily admit to having participated in at our campus by the Pacific, was all in the name of the oldest sport known to man, polo.

Persian princes have been competing in this equestrian version of lacrosse since 2,000 B.C., when as many as 100 players to a side battled with readied mallets, poised to take a rough whack at a bamboo or willow root ball. A sport so decadent that princes included it in their royal training seemed like a good enough excuse for your author, a mere Francisco Torres automaton at the time, to cheat and cheat away.

So there I was, faced with this heavy dilemma. Do I tell the gorgeous freshman communications major that it is just too bad that she has to fly to Dallas this weekend to pick up her new horse and has not time to write her History 4A midterm? Or do I accept the \$100 and begin reading Machiavelli all over again?

Up until 1936, when the American bluebred contingent won the Copa de las Americas cup from Argentina with dogged regularity, any effort in the name of polo — formerly a rough, disorganized, war-like spectacle — would have been hard to refuse. At this point, the frenzied free-for-all had evolved into a highly refined, sophisticated sport combining the excitement of horse racing, hockey and soccer.

Ultimately, I decided that to further a long-hitting, fast-moving, wide-open spectacle, with thoroughbreds to boot, was worth risking expulsion for. Even if I had to read that crafty Niccolo for the fourth time. (Yes, reader, I have made similar sacri-

fices for the deep sea snorkeling and on-site sports writing competitions before.)

While the aforementioned communications-major-cum-athlete enjoyed a wonderful season, and I splurged entirely too much on cheap beer, as did the entire North Tower, my real reason to barter was an unequivocal love for the game.

What attracts me most to polo is its quirky vocabulary, with the pony's front legs being bandaged from just below the knee running a close second.

The number two guy, for example, is the "hustler," as he requires fast ponies, a keen eye and an aggressive nature. Periods of play are called "chukkers," "chukkars" and even "chukkas!" Most pleasant, perhaps, are the "knee boards," wooden boards that surround the entire playing field that reach right up to, er, your knee.

While polo's civilized golden age was best enjoyed by 17th-century British tea planters in Assam, enthusiasts of the morbid and macabre would die to see polo in China, about a thousand years ago, where there was more than a sporting interest in the game. In A.D. 910, the death of a favored relative in a particularly taxing match prompted Emperor T'ai Tsu to order all surviving participants in the game to be beheaded.

With lazy spring mornings rolling into this quaint hamlet by the sea, one must wonder just what it is not worth to find yourself sprinting across lush lawns, a chukker at a time, on top of a black, or white, beauty. It sure beats taking History 4A, *again*.



At left and above, polo players take part in a rich history of sport. Nexus File Photos

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The Weekend Connection. In Friday's Daily Nexus.

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# Spring Sports Scottish Style

By Cleopatra McForster-Wong

Hil It's been a while since my last contribution to a supplement. These little forays into sports and the Scotland of 1977 really are a treat for me, for a couple of reasons. For one thing, I do enjoy speaking to the young people. The other reason is that, living as I do in a chest of drawers, these journalistic boondoggles are really the only chance I get to stretch my legs.

So I became agitated when a messenger opened the drawer, giving me contact with the light of day. It was Zeng Rase-Runna, with word from my editor, "Reeky" Bill Perm, who usually sends me off on these missions. The word was that I was to write about the Games.

It's the thing to do when the spring hits — go to the Scottish Games to see the caber toss (that competition of hurling giant wooden posts) and other tests of prowess.

I myself have never been to the Games — I was too busy spending my 1977 at the ASDA supermarket and playing chess at the Machine Intelligence Research Unit at Edinburgh University. "Get someone who knows," said Bill Perm. So I got on the phone, trying to enlist an authority to assist me.

The manic Scottish custodian from "The Simpsons" wasn't available, and neither was Billy Connolly. But mystresses were answered in the form of *Daily Nexus* bookkeeper Elspeth Collins.

"So how about those spring sports?" I asked her. After describing a variation on the fox hunt from her years growing up in the small town of Kilmacolm, Elspeth went on to describe her years going to school in a castle.

"We had two ghosts, Heather Jock and White Lady," she said. "We had great plans that we were going to stay up all night and find them."

My editor, Bill Perm, was so taken aback by the quality added to my oft shoddy stories by the mere attachment of a heartfelt testimonial, that she was

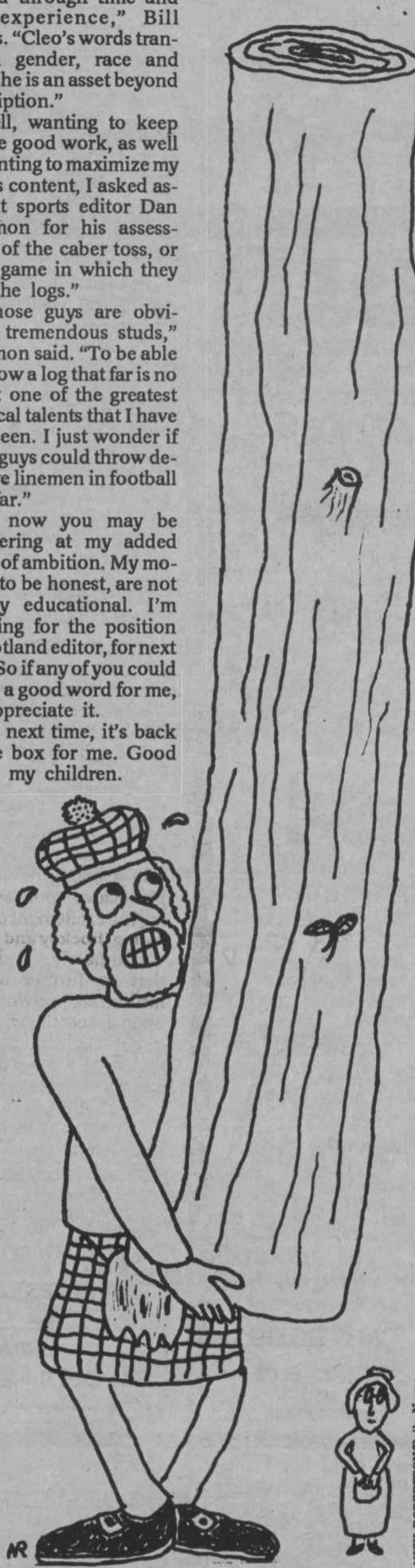
moved to pontificate about me: "She brings a wisdom to the page of our paper that can only be gained through time and life experience," Bill writes. "Cleo's words transcend gender, race and age. She is an asset beyond description."

Well, wanting to keep up the good work, as well as wanting to maximize my sports content, I asked assistant sports editor Dan Solomon for his assessment of the caber toss, or "that game in which they heft the logs."

"Those guys are obviously tremendous studs," Solomon said. "To be able to throw a log that far is no doubt one of the greatest physical talents that I have ever seen. I just wonder if these guys could throw defensive linemen in football that far."

By now you may be wondering at my added sense of ambition. My motives, to be honest, are not wholly educational. I'm applying for the position of Scotland editor, for next year. So if any of you could put in a good word for me, I'd appreciate it.

'Til next time, it's back in the box for me. Good night, my children.



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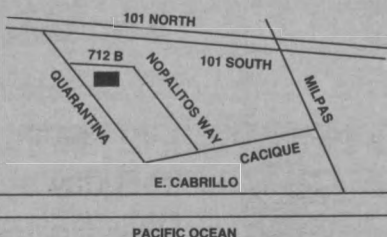
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For more information contact 1995-96 Editor in Chief Kevin J. Anderson at 893-2386



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*So remember, dear readers, if nothing else, to get out of your living room at one point in this lovely season to take a walk through the outdoors while it's in such a most prestine state.*

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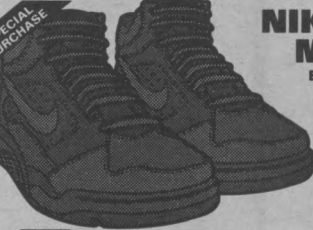
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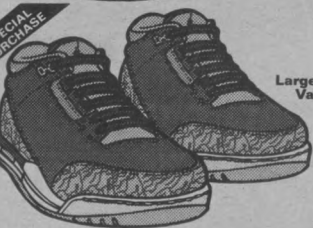
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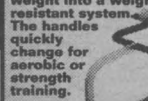


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