

Sports MONDAY

UCSB's Season of Hits and Misses Turns Out Average

Season in Review

By BROOKE ROBERTS
Staff Writer

It could probably best be described as a roller-coaster-ride of a season. The UCSB men's volleyball team had its ups, as when it kicked off the season with five successive wins, and its downs, like the match against Cal Baptist University that marked the beginning of a seven-game losing streak. However, when the final numbers came in, Santa Barbara managed to close its season close to the .500 mark, finishing with a final record of 12-13 overall, and 7-11 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.

Santa Barbara started its 2000 season on a positive note, shutting out both LaVerne University and UC Irvine. UCSB rolled past Manitoba, UC San Diego and San Diego State — bringing its mark to an undefeated 5-0 overall heading into the second month of competition. In addition, the Gauchos' win over the Aztecs gave them a 1-0 start in MPSF play. Unfortunately, things

went downhill for UCSB from there, and the month of February turned out to be a gloomy one for the Gauchos. A home match against Cal Baptist on Feb. 3 kicked off a seven-game skid for Santa Barbara, five of which came at the hands of MPSF foes.

"We started playing some of the best teams in the country, like UCLA and USC," sophomore outside hitter Andy Rivera said. "It kind of wore on us."

The Gauchos eventually dug themselves out of their losing streak by blanking Cal State Northridge and Concordia University early in March. From that point, UCSB went .500 for its next six matches.

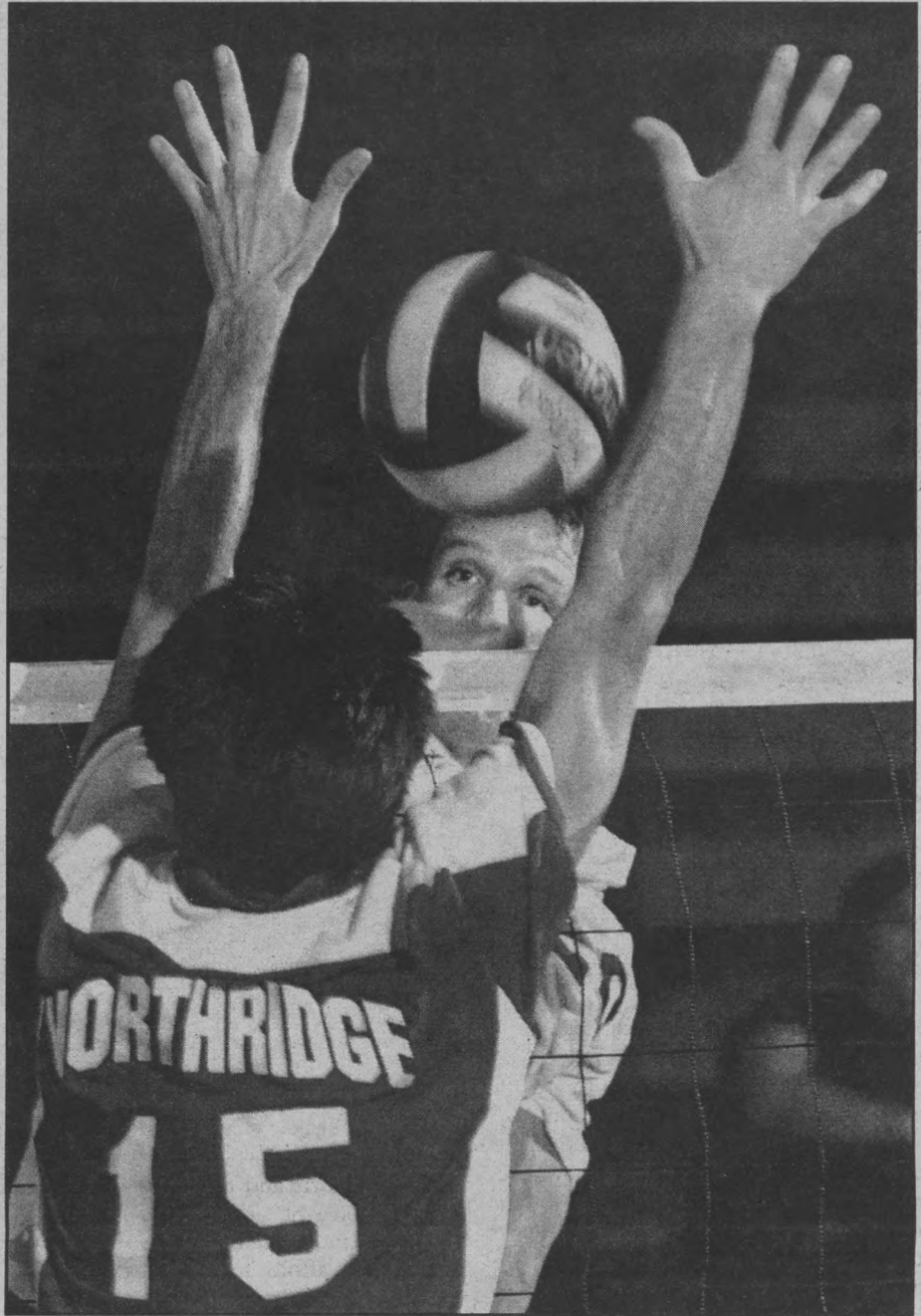
Toward the end of the regular season, UCSB had to win two of its last four to continue in postseason play. At first the Gauchos dropped two in a row when they traveled to Provo, Utah, to face up against Brigham Young University. However, Santa Barbara managed to come back with a close win over Cal State Northridge and a victory over Stanford. Much

to the team's dismay, UCSB was not invited to continue in postseason play, despite the fact that it won two of its final four contests, due to an upset victory a few days before, when Loyola Marymount University unexpectedly defeated UCLA.

"We were just having fun playing against Stanford," senior libero Blake Cantrell said. "It was just for pride. All of the seniors were playing hard and just smiling and having a good time."

UCSB will lose five graduating seniors this year: top hitters Andy Tomkinson and Chris Komer; as well as opposite Kevin Collins, Cantrell and middle blocker Luke Carlson. However, the Gauchos are a young team for the most part, and they are looking forward to next season.

"Our motto for next season is 'up the ante,'" freshman middle blocker Justin Adams said. "If we are presented with a challenge, we want to not only meet the challenge, but to surpass it."



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

COULDN'T SEE IT THROUGH: Senior opposite Kevin Collins and the UCSB men's volleyball team were unable to go to the playoffs with a 12-13 overall and 7-11 conference record.



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

MISSED OPPORTUNITY: The UCSB baseball team lost two of three games to Cal State Fullerton over the weekend, dropping it to fourth place in the Big West Conference.

Gauchos Blinded by Titans' Lights

By BRIAN CHONG
Staff Writer

Was it the lights?

The powerful offense, spectacular defense and overwhelming pitching the UCSB baseball team displayed in its three-game sweep of Long Beach State from April 21-23 seemed to be nowhere in sight during the first two games of this past weekend's series with Cal State Fullerton, which were played at night. However, these strengths reappeared in the final game Sunday, a daylight affair.

UCSB (21-22 overall, 11-10 Big West) traveled south to take on the Titans (28-14, 16-5) this weekend, but for most of the series, the Gauchos struggled against the tough pitching and powerful hitting of Fullerton and dropped the first two games with scores of 6-1 and 4-1. Santa Barbara then avoided being swept by taking game three 11-7.

Junior second baseman Chad Peshke ignited the offense right away in game one by hitting a solo shot over the left field fence, giving the Gauchos an early lead. That home run proved to be the lone run for the Gauchos in the first game.

The rest of the story belonged to Titan

starting pitcher Adam Johnson. Johnson took the mound and control of the game by going eight strong innings, allowing five hits, striking out 14 batters and walking only two.

"He's probably the best arm we've seen since we saw Ben Diggins in Arizona," UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema said. "The momentum belongs to the guy on the hill, and he shut us down. He had great command of all his pitches."

Fullerton's offense came around and supported Johnson by racking up 11 hits against the Gauchos' starting pitcher, senior Gabe Neboyia, who went the distance once again, but ended up taking the loss. The Titans scored three of their six runs in the bottom half of the first with three hits, a sacrifice, a walk and an error. They scored once again in the fourth and seventh to take game one from UCSB.

Game two proved to be a similar performance to game one for the Titans, as they took advantage of UCSB errors for three unearned runs. In the bottom of the second an error, followed by a single and then a double-steal allowed CSUF to take a 2-0 lead.

UCSB, for the second-straight game,

See BASEBALL, p.3A

Sporting Events Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
No events scheduled	No events scheduled	No events scheduled	No events scheduled	Baseball @ New Mexico State 7 p.m.	Baseball @ New Mexico State 7 p.m.	Baseball @ New Mexico State 7 p.m. Softball vs. Utah State 4:30 p.m. Campus Diamond



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Gauchos Can't Quite Tame Tigers

BY BECKY FREEMAN
Staff Writer

Sometimes your best just isn't enough.

The UCSB men's tennis team went into the Big West tournament knowing that to win its quarterfinal match against Pacific, it would have to play its best tennis, and that's exactly what it did. The Gauchos lost the heartbreaking match, 4-3.

On Friday in Ojai, UCSB Head Coach Marty Davis knew his team needed to win the doubles point to secure the match. In the end, that is exactly what did not happen and exactly what would have given the Gauchos the victory and a semifinal berth.

"We planned all year, practicing with a conference championship in mind," Davis said. "We did play the best tennis here and gave it everything we had."

Since Plan A did not go over as intended, and the only Gaucho pair to win a

match was that of senior Simon Shen and sophomore Marcin Kosakowski, who made quick work of UOP's #1 team (8-3), UCSB was forced to jump to Plan B: win at least four singles matches, which they almost accomplished.

Shen cruised to a 6-3, 6-4 drubbing of UOP's Dietrich Haug, and Kosakowski killed his Big West foe Alexander Fiedler, 6-3, 6-3. Next up was #3 freshman J.J. Stewart, who also won his match in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5, over Thomas Guilloteau.

It looked positive for the Gauchos, although they lost matches at the #5 and #6 spots. Playing in the #4 spot was senior Mike Ortiz, who had the momentum going his way when he won his second set, 6-4, after losing the first, 7-5. Ortiz was unable to pull it out in the third set, and eventually lost to Tobias Abramsson, 6-2.

"The guy didn't miss for a half an hour straight," Ortiz said. "I kept playing my best, but sometimes

your best just isn't enough. What it really came down to was that both teams were ready to play and they came out playing just as well as we were."

Ortiz's match may have been the deciding factor at the end of the battle.

"It came down to Mike Ortiz," Shen added. "And he gave everything. In my mind he didn't lose the match, he just ran out of time to figure out how to win. He fought really hard, but sometimes [losing] just happens."

Shen ended his reign as #1 for UCSB with an unprecedented 20-0 dual-match record, but his season is far from over. The top 64 individuals in the nation go to the NCAA Championships in Athens, Ga., starting May 20.

"I've been here for five years and it's been incredible," Shen said. "Especially the last two years. The guys have been great and if I had to do it all over again, I'd go out on the court with them."

BASEBALL

Continued from p.1A

managed to score only one run. With the bases loaded in the third, Peshke's fielder's choice allowed a run to come across. The Gauchos had another chance to score when the bases were loaded again in the fifth, but two pop-ups stranded the runners. Fullerton then capitalized on another Gaucho error in the seventh to take game two, 4-1.

Sunday the pitching and hitting came alive for UCSB, giving the Gauchos an

11-7 victory.

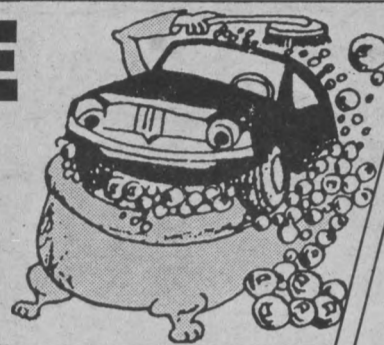
Junior left fielder Jeff Carter led the way for the Gauchos' offense and ended the day with four hits. Junior third baseman Dave Molitor, who has been suffering from pain in his lower back, came through with a homer along with Bannon, who hit a long ball of his own.

"I think what was different today from the first two games was that it was a day game," Carter said. "Our players were not used to that, but today we proved [ourselves] once again with our offense against a team like Fullerton."

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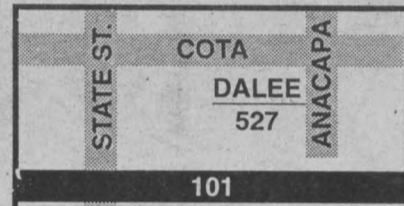


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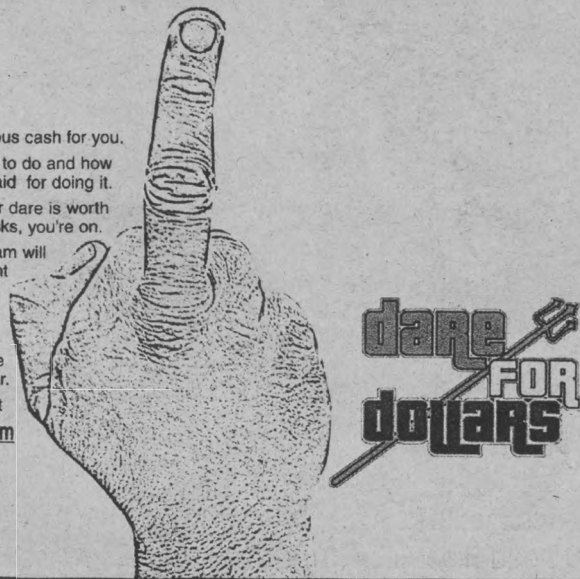
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