UCSB Tramples Riverside

By Matt Heitner
Staff Writer

Winning never gets old, but the UCSB baseball team may soon force the accomplishment into early retirement. In a season already filled with victories, the Gauchos added three more W's to the win column this weekend, sweeping their series against Riverside, Santa Barbara destroyed UCR 15-5 in the first game on Friday and followed that up with a 7-2 victory in game two. UCSB then brought out the brooms for game three on Sunday, topping the Highlanders 14-4.

"We've been putting everything together lately," senior third baseman Dave Molider said. "We finally have everybody healthy, and everybody on this team gets along."

Spilborough then drove in Bannon with a double of his own, giving Santa Barbara a 2-0 advantage. Ogle pitched six innings and struck out four, while giving up four runs. In the second game of the series, UCSB lacked its game of firepower. It found a way to win, nonetheless. The Gauchos jumped out of the second inning with a double by senior catcher Donovan Wurzler, scoring senior shortstop Jeff Bannin. Sophomore right fielder Ryan did. "It's given me a lot more confidence, and I've been playing a lot better." Kosakowski and sophomore J.J. Stewart have also been playing extremely well as a doubles duo. The two have won nine of their last 12 doubles matches, and they defeated San Diego junior Juan Cerda and Tangeford on Saturday, 8-6.

"Stewart and I weren't clicking early in the season," Kosakowski said. "But we've really gelled since, and we've been more confident." Senior David Angert defeated San Diego junior Steve Taylor in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3. UCSB freshman Andy Yaftali's singles match against San Diego freshman Jason Pongratz was done in by the rain on Saturday. Yaftali narrowly lost the first set 7-6 before play was stopped early in the second set because of rain. The match was eventually canceled.

"The weather was looking kind of shady," Yaftali said. "The match had already been decided, and the coaches wanted to get home, so we just decided to stop."

"In other singles play, Stewart lost to San Diego junior Ricardo Rizo in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2. UCSB junior co-captain Marc Kosakowski lost to San Diego senior Ross Bourne in two sets, 6-3, 6-4. Pepe and Yaftali lost to Rizo and San Diego junior Ted Burghart in doubles play 8-3. Freshman Jerome Chan were defeated by Bourne and Taylor in their doubles match-up 8-2."

Santa Barbara erased an early 1-2 lead. The home run run of their own in the bottom of the inning, giving the score at one. Riverside posted another run in its portion of the second before Santa Barbara's offense took over. The Gauchos scored three runs in the bottom of the second and two more in the third, the latter coming on a home run from junior first baseman Tyler Von Schell. UCSB added two more runs in the fifth and sixth innings, four in the seventh, and a final run in the eighth inning to finish the barrage.

"Today was an offensive day," UCSB Head Coach Bob Brinson said Friday. "Hitting is a contagious thing, and I guess you could say that we're a pretty sick team right now."

Ogle, improving to 8-1 on the season, picked up the victory for 8-2. Ogle pitched six innings and struck out four, while giving up four runs.

"I'm going in we were feeling confident," Faust said. "But [San Diego] is a good team. It was fun playing, but the rain wasn't good. I guess [San Diego] had to deal with the rain too, but it wasn't made it tough." Up next for the Gauchos is a crucial Big West Conference match-up against Irvine this Friday. Over the years, Santa Barbara and Irvine have developed a heated rivalry. This upcoming game is significant because the outcome will have a direct effect on the Gauchos seed in the Big West Tournament. "[San Diego] left a sour taste in our mouths," Kosakowski said. "We need to win against Irvine, especially with the tournament coming."

The UCSB men's tennis team came up short this weekend against USD. The Gauchos will next square off against UCI.

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Continued from p.1A would be a sign of things to come, as UCSB would drop two more bombs before the game was over. The next blast came courtesy of senior designated hitter Jed Stringham, who gave UCSB a 4-1 lead with his two-run homer. "[Riverside pitcher Mike Garner] was a soft-throwing lefty," Stringham said. "I was looking for a curve ball, and he threw me one. I just went the other way with it." Following the Stringham homer, UCSB scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, as both Molidor and von Schell picked up an RBI. At this point, the Gauchos were far from done and tacked on two runs in the fifth inning, the second run coming on a single by junior left fielder, Andy Campenella. The Gauchos added another run in the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly from Bannon, taking a comfortable 9-1 lead. Riverside then staged a rally by scoring three runs in the seventh inning. But UCSB answered right away and put five runs on the board, including a three-run bomb from Von Schell, which ended the scoring. "I was started off with a slider, and then he threw me a fastball," Von Schell said of his home run. "I was looking for a fastball, and I just got lucky, I guess." Santa Barbara will head back into action this Tuesday, facing off against USC. The Gauchos lost at home to the Trojans earlier this season and will be looking for a little payback in Los Angeles. "We feel like we can hang with them," Brontsema said. "It would be nice to go down there and get a win."
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RUSH

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