

Sports MONDAY

UCSB Tramples Riverside

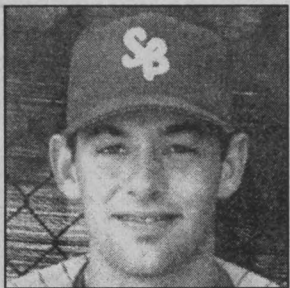
By MATT HEITNER
Staff Writer

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 Molitor said. "We finally have everybody healthy, and everybody on this team gets along."

In game one, UCSB fell behind early as UCR notched a run in the top of the first inning off senior southpaw Rylie Ogle. The Gauchos came back with a



Dave Molitor

run of their own in the bottom of the inning, tying 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 runs in the seventh and a final run in the eighth inning to finish the barrage.

"Today was an offensive day," UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema 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 UCSB. Ogle pitched six innings and struck out four, while giving up four runs.

In the second game of the series, UCSB lacked its game-one firepower but found a way to win, nonetheless. The Gauchos jumped on top in inning two on a double by senior catcher Donovan Warrecker, scoring senior shortstop Jeff Bannon. Sophomore right fielder Ryan



TRUC BUI / DAILY NEXUS

Junior first baseman Tyler Von Schell hits his team-leading 14th home run of the season. The UCSB baseball team has been on fire, compiling a 25-8 record, its best since 1984.

Spilborghs then drove in Bannon with a double of his own, giving Santa Barbara a 2-0 advantage.

UCSB finished off the Highlanders in the eighth inning when, leading 5-1, it scored two more insurance runs to put the game out of reach.

The seven runs were

more than enough for junior starter James Garcia, who turned in another stellar performance in his first season as a Gaucho. Garcia pitched seven innings, giving up only one earned run, while striking out eight.

"We've been getting great pitching everyday,"

Von Schell said. "Everything is starting to click, and we're really starting to hit our stride."

In game three, Santa Barbara erased an early 1-0 deficit on a two-run blast from Molitor and took a 2-1 lead. The home run

See GAUCHOS, p.3A

Gauchos Come Up Short vs. San Diego

By JOHN LIU
Reporter

The UCSB men's tennis team fell victim to the rain as well as to #53 University of San Diego on Saturday, losing a hard fought match 4-2.

Though Santa Barbara played very tough against nationally ranked San Diego, it was unable to come through with a victory. However, several Gauchos did have excellent individual performances.

Junior co-captain Marcin Kosakowski continued his superb play Saturday, beating San Diego's top player, senior Mattias Tangejord, in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4. Kosakowski has now won five of his last six singles matches.

"I've been serving really well recently," Kosakowski

[San Diego] left a sour taste in our mouths. We need to win against Irvine, especially with the tournament coming.

— Marcin Kosakowski
junior

said. "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 Tangejord 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 got a lot more confidence."

Senior David Angert defeated San Diego junior Steve Taylor in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3.

UCSB freshman Alex Yaftali's singles match against San Diego freshman Jason Pongsrikal 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 shaky," 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, 6-0, 6-0. Santa Barbara sophomore Michael Faust didn't fare much better, falling to Cerda 6-4, 6-2. UCSB junior co-captain Marcio Pepe 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. Faust and freshman Jerome Chan were defeated by Bourne and Taylor in their doubles match-up 8-2.

"I guess 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 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."

Santa Barbara Cannot Find Winning Combination

By CLANCY ROBERTS
Reporter

The UCSB softball team drove north to take on central coast rival Cal Poly this weekend in a three-game series.

The bad weather that has plagued California this early spring followed the Gauchos to San Luis Obispo and caused Friday's game to be canceled. After an early delay on Saturday, Santa Barbara was able to play one game of its scheduled doubleheader. The result of the game was just as stormy as the weather, as the Mustangs blanked UCSB in a 4-0 decision.

The sun came out bright on Sunday, but the day was bleak for the Gauchos as they came up empty in the rescheduled doubleheader. In the first game, Santa Barbara lost a tough 5-4 battle before being shut out again in game two, 8-0.

"We played a decent game [in game one of the double header]," sophomore outfielder Ashley Groefsema said. "We scored first and were winning until the fourth inning. When we were behind we fought back."

In the second game of the day, the Mustangs came out on fire from the start, eventually routing Santa Barbara.

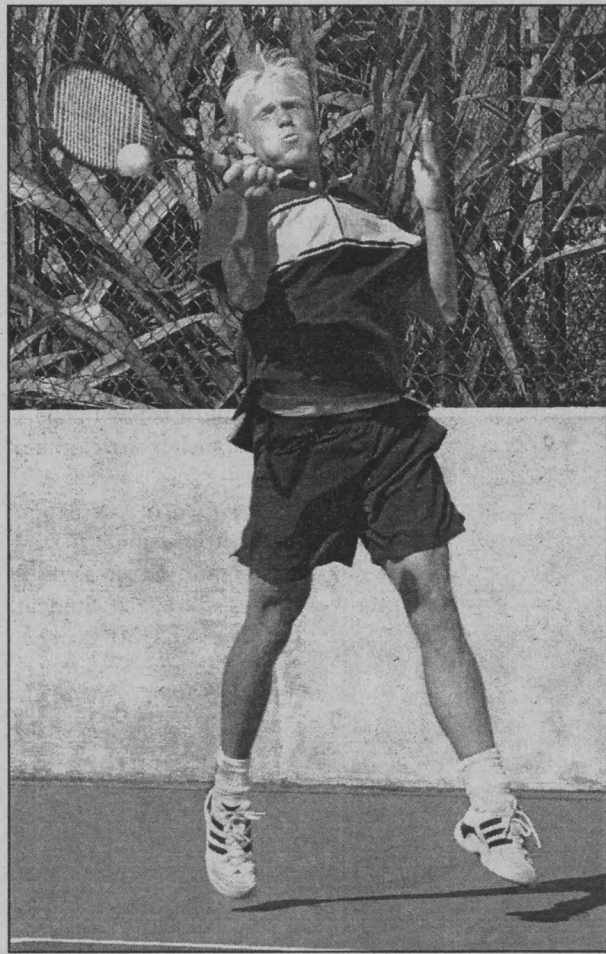
"The fact is that we aren't hitting," sophomore outfielder Natalie Adame said. "We all know what we are capable of doing, it's just a matter of actually pulling it all together."

As shown by this weekend's results, Santa Barbara has resumed its early season form, showing an inability to produce offensively. The inconsistency in the box is one of the main reasons for their dismal 13-22 overall record and 1-6 mark in the Big West.

"One of our main problems is that we cannot get RBI's," Groefsema said. "We get runners on base. We get hits, but not always at the right time. We haven't been able to string enough hits together to get runs across the plate."

Despite a tough weekend on the road, UCSB will continue to have faith for the remainder of the season, and the Gauchos remain confident in their ability.

"We are a good team with a lot of skill," Adame said. "We just have to overcome our performance from last weekend and look forward to the next. This team is definitely capable."



NEXUS FILE PHOTO

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

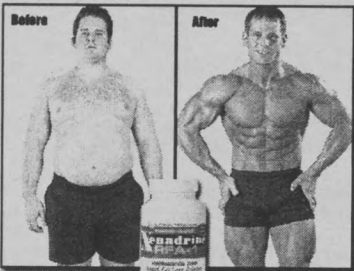
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

GAUCHOS

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 junior 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.

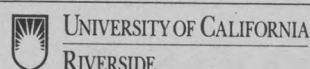
Riverside then staged a rally by scoring three runs in the seventh inning. But UCSB answered right away and put five runs on the board, including a three-run bomb from Von

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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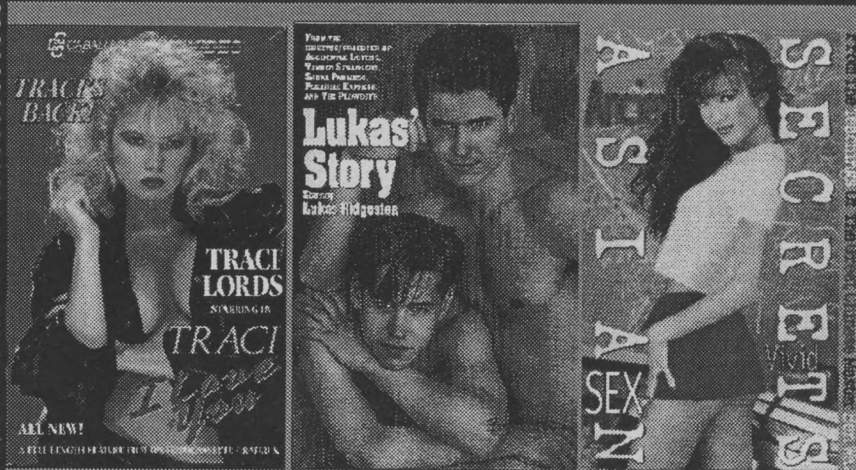
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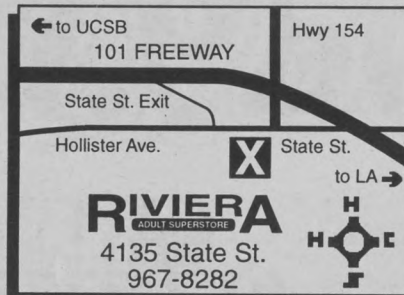
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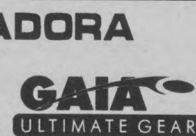
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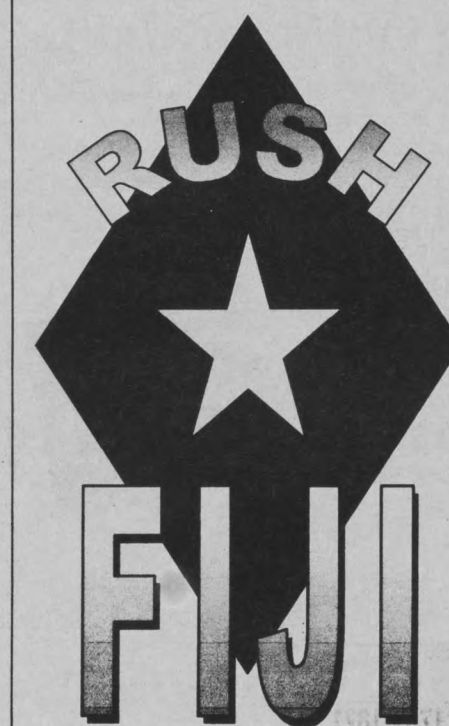
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