

Sports MONDAY

UCSB Redeems Itself in OT

■ Gauchos in Sole Possession of 1st Place

By **MATT HURST**
Staff Writer

UCSB must enjoy the idea of being in first place. Duh, who wouldn't? But when it appeared the UCSB men's basketball team was going to drop from first place last weekend, it won what seemed like an improbable victory to maintain the #1 slot.

The Gauchos headed to Stockton to battle for the top spot in the Big West's Western Division on Saturday night, and they pulled off a



Josh Merrill

thrilling overtime win, 58-53, over Pacific in front of 4,506 people at the A.G. Spanos Center. UCSB's win was the first Big West vic-

tory over Pacific in 27 games at the Spanos Center.

With the Gauchos (9-11 overall, 7-3 in the Big West) coming off a last-second, one-point loss to Long Beach State on Thursday night, it was final-second heroics by UOP (11-9, 6-4) that put the game into the extra period.

Tigers' senior Jason Williams hit a short jumper with half a second left in regulation to tie the game at 46 and send it into OT.

"They made a phenomenal shot to tie the game at the buzzer," UCSB Head Coach Bob Williams said. "That's the kind of play that can rip your heart out. But our guys hung in there, and they understood how the ebb and flow of this game can turn around in their favor."

Senior Josh Merrill was the difference in the five-minute extra period, as he scored eight of his game-high 21 points in OT on four consecutive buckets. Merrill also pulled down eight rebounds and had three steals.

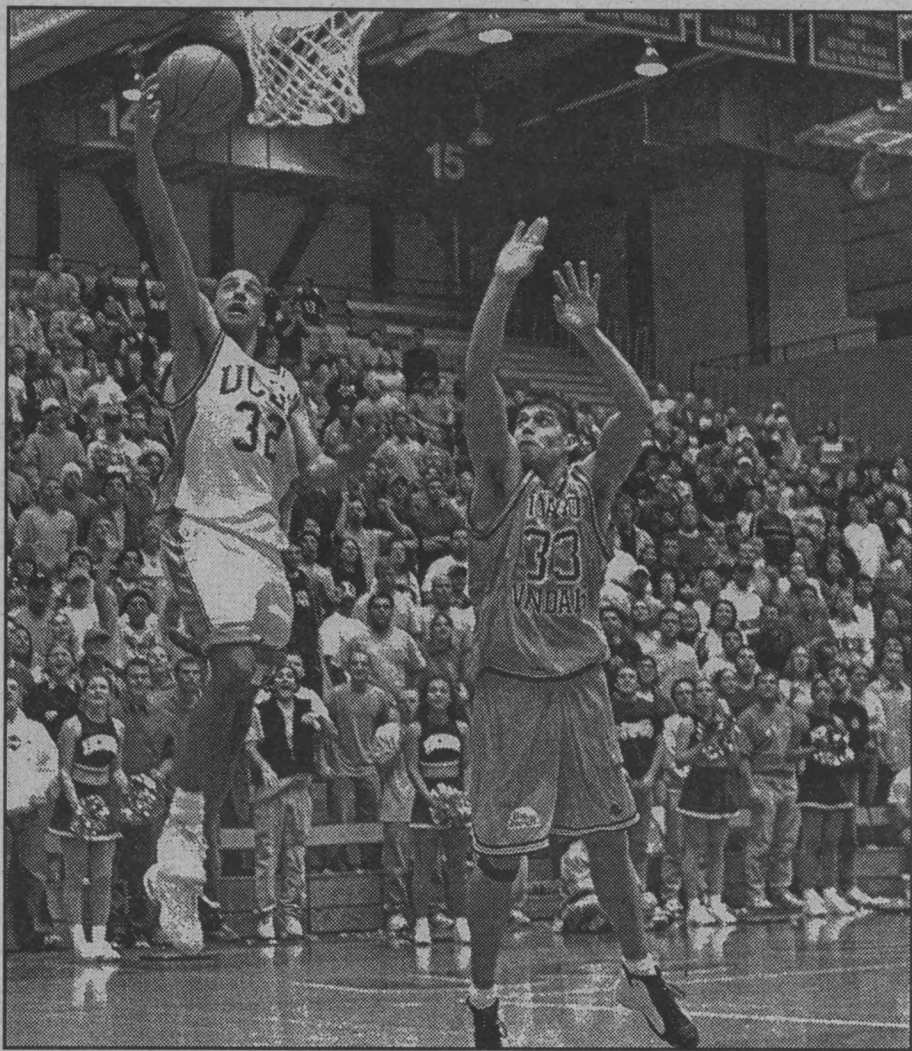
"I was feeling it [in OT],"

Merrill said. "The ball was in my hands at crucial times, and I was able to make the plays. This was my career-high. This was one of my better performances, especially in overtime."

The buzzer beater by Williams wasn't enough to keep the Gauchos down after they had fought so hard to get to where they were.

"We had the same kind of feeling we had in Long Beach," Merrill said after UCSB gave up the last-second shot. "It broke our spirit for a second, but only for a second. We've been in a lot of close games, so our team feels comfortable playing close ones to where we feel we can win them."

Both the Tigers and the Gauchos shot miserably from the floor. Santa Barbara hit only 36 percent of its shots while UOP could only will 28 percent to fall. Only one player on each side shot over 50 percent: Merrill hitting 9-16 and Pacific freshman Nathan Davis hitting three-of-five from the floor. The two teams ended the first half in a 18-18 deadlock thanks to poor shooting and



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

CAN OF WHOOP-ASHE: Junior Erick Ashe scored 13 points, helping the UCSB men's basketball team achieve an overtime victory Saturday night.

tough defense.

"Coach emphasized for us to play 'D,'" said junior Derrick Allen, who finished with nine points, six assists, eight boards and four steals.

"He said he didn't care if it was a 31-30 game. After that Long Beach loss, we had it in our minds to play defense. But then, [Pacific] played great defense against us too."

Santa Barbara will play host to Long Beach State on Thursday night and then face Pacific again on Saturday night. Both games are in the Thunderdome at 7.

Gauchos Lose Cooper on Friday, Win Tight Games Last Weekend

By **STEVE WENDT**
Staff Writer

The #19 UCSB women's basketball team did something it's not used to last weekend: It had to sweat out some conference games. Santa Barbara fought through Big West Conference upset bids from two hot-shooting visitors last Friday and Sunday in the Thunderdome to raise its season record to 17-3 overall and 9-0 in the Big West.

UCSB staved off Long Beach State 92-85 in a game that sowed the seeds of rivalry with its physical play. The Gauchos' Sunday contest was tight as well, as UCSB escaped with an 84-76 victory over the University of the Pacific.

Long Beach State sophomore guard Reta Sula fueled the 49ers' upset bid last Friday night. She hit seven three-pointers in the game, six of which came in the first half. Santa Barbara trailed by as many as 10 points in the first half.

"We thought if we forced them to shoot from perimeter that we'd be fine, obviously we were wrong," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said of Long Beach's 71 percent from behind the arc. "They just shot the lights out; Sula in particular was just brilliant."

French also feels that his nationally ranked team can't overlook teams like LBSU

(11-8, 5-3) in an improving conference.

"I always hope the Big West gets better," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said. "At least one team has, and I think it's up to us now to make ourselves even better."

Junior guard Stacy Clinesmith led the UCSB attack with 21 points and eight assists. The 5'5" All-Big West performer sank all 10 of her free throws and added two blocks. She joined fellow junior Kristi Rohr by reaching the 1,000-career-point plateau this season.

Of concern for the Gauchos is an injury to junior wing Tawneé Cooper. The Simi Valley native was fouled hard by LBSU center Jackie Moore on a breakaway with five seconds remaining in the first half. Moore was assessed a deliberate foul, and Cooper was left writhing on the floor clutching her left knee. Cooper's status is up in the air; she will have an MRI today.

LBSU Head Coach Dallas Boychuck called the play "a questionable call," but the UCSB crowd felt differently and peppered Moore with a chorus of boos throughout the game.

Sophomore wing Rachele Rogers had a career-high 19 points for the Gauchos. Sophomore Erin Buescher also scored 19 points, grabbed eight boards, six assists and

See SWEEP, p.3A



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

OUCH: Junior Tawneé Cooper was hurt in Friday night's Gaucho win. She will have an MRI today to determine the extent of her knee injury. Even without Cooper's presence, UCSB was able to remain undefeated in the Big West.

Sporting Events Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
No events scheduled	Baseball vs. UCLA 2 p.m. Caesar Uyesaka Stadium	Men's tennis @ St. Mary's 3 p.m.	Men's basketball vs. LBSU 7 p.m. Men's volleyball @ Pacific 7 p.m. Men's tennis @ Cal 1:30 p.m. Golf @ Taylor-Made Classic in Hawai'i thru Sunday	Women's basketball @ LBSU 7:30 p.m. Baseball @ LMU 2 p.m. Women's water polo @ UCSD Tourney thru Sunday Men's gymnastics vs. USAF, Cal 7:30 p.m.	Men's basketball vs. Pacific 7 p.m. Softball vs. Fresno State 1 p.m. Men's volleyball @ Stanford 7 p.m. Baseball @ LMU 1 p.m.	Women's basketball @ Pacific 2 p.m. Men's gymnastics @ Stanford 2 p.m. Baseball @ LMU 1 p.m. Men's tennis @ Fresno State 1 p.m. Softball vs. SDSU 1 p.m.



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

BING-O: Sophomore Bing Cain pitched the baseball team to its only victory in a three-game set against UNLV this past weekend.

Baseball Unlucky in Vegas, Dropping a Pair to UNLV

BY MARVIN GAPULTOS
Staff Writer

During a trip to Las Vegas this past weekend, the UCSB baseball team rolled snake eyes and could only muster one win out of a three-game series against the UNLV Rebels.

Senior pitcher David Uris got the start on the mound for the Gauchos on Friday afternoon, pitching for 4 2/3 innings, giving up eight hits, seven runs (four earned), and walking three. Junior Matt Dailey relieved Uris but gave up four hits and two earned runs.

Santa Barbara would strike first, with four runs in the fourth inning, but would only be able to score one more run in the fifth. However, the Gauchos had a chance to tie the game in the final inning with the bases loaded and sophomore second baseman Chad Peshke at the plate. Peshke was unable to connect, making the last out for UCSB in the 9-5 defeat.

"I was pleased with the way we battled after we fell behind," UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema said. "We got the tying run to the plate, but we just couldn't get the big hit."

Saturday's matchup would prove to be a different story for Santa Barbara as UCSB exploded for 19 big hits over the Rebels. The Gauchos were behind 5-4 after three, but shelled out 20 more runs over the next six innings. The Rebels' Tony DeMarco contributed five hits and three RBI's, and Jesse Pryor hit a home

nings and giving up nine runs on 12 hits. Freshman Chris Quiroz picked up his second save of the season, giving up five runs on eight hits.

"I was pleased with the way we played for nine innings," Brontsema said. "That's what you have to do on the road, I am just very proud of our effort."



Bob Brontsema

run. It was not enough for UNLV, however, as they lost 25-14.

Senior first baseman Bryan LaCour went 3-6 from the plate, had two doubles and brought home six runs for the Gauchos. Sophomore shortstop Jeff Bannon went 3-4 from the dish with five RBI's and a home run.

Sophomore righty Bing Cain got the win for the Gauchos, pitching 5 2/3 in-

Sunday's rubbermatch between the two teams was another hit-filled game, the Gauchos with 14 and the Rebels with 16. Senior right-fielder Brad Wright hit 3-4 with three RBI's. However, Santa Barbara also committed five errors and managed to score only six runs for a 13-6 loss to Las Vegas, bringing UCSB's record to 2-4 on the year. UNLV picked up its only two wins of the year and now stand at 2-3.

Junior Gabe Neboyia picked up his second loss of the year, pitching the first 5 1/3 innings, having eight runs score on 10 hits against him. Senior Daniel Martinez pitched one inning, giving up two runs on two hits. Junior Peter Dyball finished the game giving up three runs on four hits for the final tally.

Play Ball!

The UCSB baseball team will host UCLA on Tuesday afternoon at 2 in Caesar Uyesaka Stadium.

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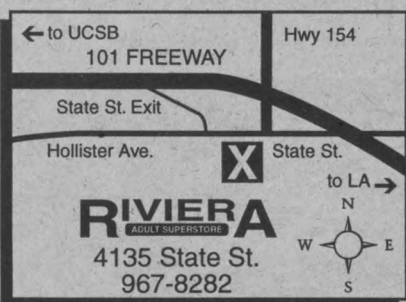
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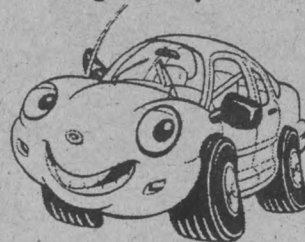
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UCSB Too Much for UCSD

By JUSTIN MAUCH
Reporter

The #15 UCSB men's volleyball team traveled to UC San Diego last Friday to face the Tritons, hoping to redeem itself after a disappointing loss to Pepperdine on Thursday.

Santa Barbara bounced back from Thursday's match and soundly defeated UCSD in three games, 15-10, 15-10 and 15-8, improving its record to 3-3 overall, 2-3 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. UCSB remains undefeated against UCSD (2-8, 0-8 MPSF), dominating the overall series 8-0. Adding to their credit, the Gauchos have not let an opponent win a single game in all three of their victories this year. In this match, UCSB Head Coach Ken Preston opted to change his starting lineup to get a look at some talented players that have not seen much action recently.

"I put in some different guys against UCSD to see how they would play," Preston said. "I decided to start [freshman Andy] Rivera and [junior Andy] Tomkinson, and I thought that [junior] Chris Komer came in and played really well."

Junior opposite Kevin Collins led Santa Barbara with 20 kills and recorded a hitting percentage of .239. Sophomore middle blocker Wes Badorek had 11 kills, a .400 hitting percentage and assisted with eight blocks. Junior outside hitter Rick Rauth

played a well-rounded match, leading the team with seven digs, and he posted ten kills and a .368 hitting percentage.

Overall, the Gauchos hit .317 for the match, compared to .154 for the Tritons. The Gauchos also tallied a season-high 13 service aces. Even though the Gauchos trounced UCSD in many offensive and defensive categories, Preston believes UCSB has not reached its potential.

"I don't think we played as well as we did against Pepperdine," Preston said. "I know we can play better. I thought we played with good intensity and enthusiasm. It looked like the guys were having fun out there."

Komer — a middle blocker who had three kills, two digs and a .500 hitting percentage — noted that good serving and passing was vital to ensure the win.

"I thought our passing was really good, it was key," the Golden West JC transfer said. "I also thought our serving was tough, and our blocking has been improving. Overall, we played really well."

Winning on the road is difficult; however, the win over the Tritons reestablished UCSB's confidence away from Rob Gym.

"It's always good to come away with a win," junior middle blocker Luke Carlson said. "We did well enough to beat them fairly easily. They are not nearly the team that Pepperdine is."

Up next for UCSB is Pacific on Thursday night, then the Gauchos will travel to face Stanford on Saturday.

SWEEP

Continued from p.1A

four steals. Rohr had 16 points and seven rebounds.

Sunday marked another close call for the Gauchos. UCSB fell behind Pacific by as many as 12 points in the first half, thanks to a hot-shooting guard. UOP (9-11, 5-4) freshman Selena Ho

shot nine of 12 from the field for a team-high 22 points.

UCSB trailed 34-39 at halftime, and the Gauchos got an earful from the coaching staff.

"They weren't too happy," Buescher said. "They told us we were playing too soft and giving up too many turnovers."

When Ho picked her fourth foul 42 seconds into the second half, the Gauchos turned on the juice. Five UCSB players scored in double figures: Buescher, 25; Rogers, 15; Rohr and freshman Kayte Christensen, 12; and Clinesmith, 11. Clinesmith dished seven assists while Buescher cleared 10 boards.

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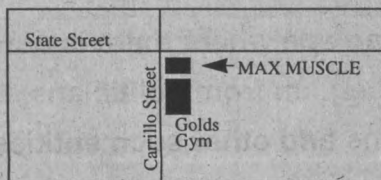
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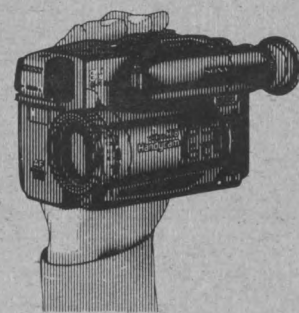
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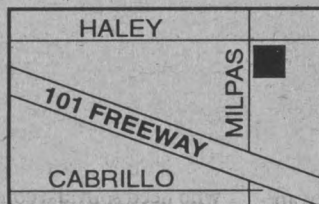
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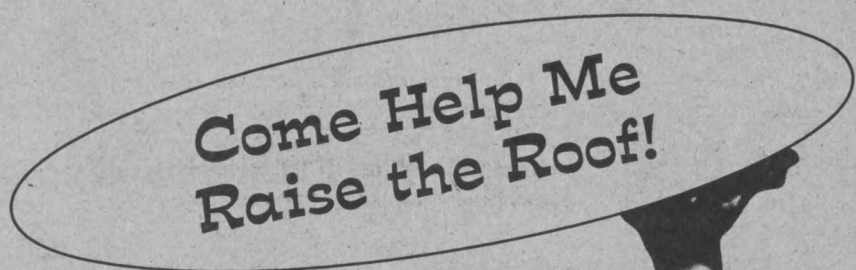
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