

# Sports MONDAY

## Showtime at the Thunderdome

By ZACK O'NEILL  
Staff Writer

The 1999 Los Angeles Lakers were unveiled at the Thunderdome Sunday night, conducting a scrimmage in a packed house of Gauchos undergrads, little league dads and kids with jerseys of their favorite players. Under a new coach with new players and a new system, on Sunday the Lakers made the first incision in what promises to be a complete facelift for a franchise that has not captured a National Basketball Association title in over a decade.

Unfortunately, the potential of the renovated Laker team was indecipherable in an awkward, often-dull spectacle that was half pep rally, half lopsided scrimmage; a strictly through-the-motions hoop session earmarked by 30 minutes of sloppy, showcase basketball.

"They may be one of the best teams in the NBA, but they sure looked sorry tonight," said Tracey Hoffman, a sophomore horticulture major unimpressed by the scrimmage. "I've heard [Laker Head Coach] Phil Jackson is a great coach, but it's going to be hard for him to teach

the triangle to a [new] team."

The evening began with the appearance of several members of the Laker family, including Magic Johnson, owner Jerry Buss and Vice President Jerry West. Minutes later the players filtered onto the floor, huddling at center court while the Santa Barbara fans cheered. After a brief warm-up session the team proceeded to cut, slash and showboat their way through several training drills, peppering their pregame routine with monster dunks that repeatedly sparked a reaction from the crowd.

Sunday was the first time the Lakers have publicly performed under the influence of the much-heralded and highly anticipated Triangle offense, the offensive system famous for bringing multiple NBA championships to the Chicago Bulls, who were also coached by Jackson. The scrimmage was also the first time Laker center Shaquille O'Neal ever took the floor in the Triangle, which flourished in Chicago without the presence of a real center. When asked if he had concerns about his role in the offensive flow of the team, O'Neal insist-

ed he would not let past experience influence how he feels about his current, slightly altered role.

"I don't like to compare coaches and camps and all that, but I'm glad to be in this position," O'Neal said. "I'm glad to be in the position to play for Phil. Now it's up to me and my teammates to keep his resumé intact."

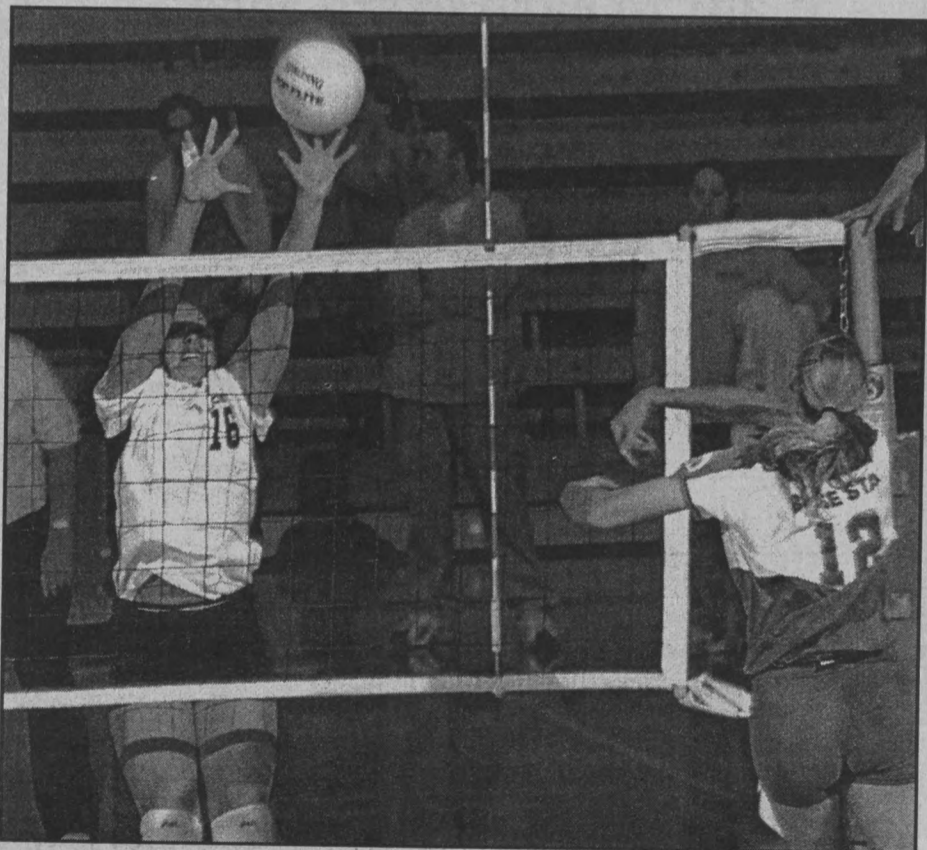
The Lakers, who held a brief training camp at UCSB in the lockout-shortened season of '98-'99, may be visiting Santa Barbara for the last time. A permanent practice facility is currently being built for them in El Segundo, Calif., and the team is considering holding next year's camp in Hawai'i if the El Segundo facilities are not completed in time. However, Laker forward A.C. Green believes that the location of the camp - wherever it may be - is secondary to the goals the team must achieve while training.

"This is training camp, there are no added pluses or minuses to where it's at," Green said. "It can be in the middle of the freeway, Hawai'i or the Forum. It's all focused on hard work, so the atmosphere has nothing to do with it."



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

**AND ONE!** Kobe Bryant converted on this reverse layup despite drawing a hard foul across the face. This was just one of the many highlights that the Lakers brought to the Thunderdome Sunday night.



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

**SWEET SIXTEEN:** Freshman outside hitter Brooke Niles gets up for a block against a Boise State Bronco as the UCSB women's volleyball team swept the Broncos in three games on Saturday night.

## Gauchos Gallop to Win Over Broncos

By MARVIN GAPULTOS  
Staff Writer

After a five-game loss last week to the Cal Poly Mustangs, the UCSB women's volleyball team returned home Saturday night and refused to be horse-whipped again by defeating the Broncos of Boise State at the Thunderdome in a three-game sweep 15-10, 15-5, 15-5.

The Gauchos (13-3 overall, 4-2 in the Big West Conference) fought their way back from a 6-3 deficit in the first game to beat the Broncos 15-10. Boise State (4-12, 1-5) recorded 20 kills in game one but hit at a .229 hitting percentage compared to 18 kills and a .421 clip by Santa Barbara. UCSB Head Coach Kathy Gregory attributed the Gauchos' slow start to the quickness of the opposition.

"I thought that Boise State came out very aggressive," she said. "They had a fast four, and their offense was a little quicker."

Despite the slow start, Santa Barbara kick-started its offense and took the next

two games at 15-5, each thanks to sophomore middle blocker Jutta Weissenborn. The Duesseldorf, Germany, native led the Gauchos with 15 kills. Weissenborn also added 11 digs and had only one error on 26 swings for a .538 hitting percentage.

"Jutta had one of her best games," Gregory said. "She got a lot of over-passes, which she loves. She seemed a little more animated and she is a great defensive player, so I thought she did some good stuff out there [defensively]."

Weissenborn felt that communication was a key factor in the Gaucho victory.

"You never have a perfect game; there are always little mistakes," she said. "And when you keep on talking, it just helps the team know what we did wrong and how we can help each other."

Weissenborn was not alone in the Santa Barbara attack, however; freshman outside hitter Brooke Niles recorded nine kills, 11 digs, and hit at a .320 clip. Senior outside hitter Roberta Gehlke posted 10 kills and 12 digs while hitting .333 on the night. Gehlke was far below her usual 20-

See VOLLEYBALL, p.3A

### Sporting Events Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
No events scheduled	No events scheduled	No events scheduled	Women's volleyball at New Mexico State, 7 p.m.	Men's soccer at San Diego State, 3 p.m. Women's soccer vs. St. Mary's at Harder Stadium, 7 p.m.	Men's water polo at Pepperdine, noon. Women's volleyball at North Texas, 7 p.m.	Men's water polo at UCLA, noon. Men's soccer at UC Irvine, 2 p.m. Women's soccer vs. Cal Poly at Harder Stadium, 1 p.m.



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## UCSB Splits With Anteaters and Titans

BY ZACK O'NEILL  
Staff Writer

For the second-straight weekend, the UCSB women's soccer team split a pair of Big West conference games, defeating UC Irvine 4-3 and losing to Cal State Fullerton 2-1 at Harder Stadium. Although the Gauchos (6-5-1 overall, 4-2 in the Big West) will still remain near the top of the Big West standings after the two games, they were that close to sweeping the weekend series, before letting one get away in the final minutes against Fullerton.

Before the games of the weekend, UCSB Head Coach Paul Stumpf stressed that the improved Gaucho defense has been most important in enabling Santa Barbara to win three of its first four league games.

"We have three very experienced defensive players in April Loveland, Jana Matteoli and Meghann Phillips," Stumpf said. "They've really solidified our defense. If you take away our opening game against San Diego State (where the Gauchos allowed five goals), we've only allowed about one goal per game."

In the first half of Friday's game against Irvine, the Gaucho defense got off to a rough start and had a shaky finish, but everything in the middle seemed to be okay. UCSB allowed the first goal of the game right out of the gate, in the fourth minute. However, the Gauchos went on a scoring tear, knocking in four straight goals (including three in 17 minutes) to take a 4-1 lead.

"It felt like a huge accomplishment to score those goals," said sophomore midfielder Brianna Preis, who scored the first of the four goals. "We had been working so much in practice on getting more scoring opportunities, and it was great to actually do it in a game."

However, even after the Gauchos raced out to a three-goal advantage, the game was far from over. The usually solid defense had an unusual breakdown, allowing two goals in the final five minutes. Luckily for UCSB, the lead they had built was too much for the Anteaters to overcome, and they stumbled to the finish line with a 4-3 victory.

"It was a huge rush to win against Irvine," said sophomore forward Tiffany Dawson, UCSB's leader in goals scored (5) and overall points (12). "It's been a long time since we've had a serious shot at

See GAUCHOS, p.3A



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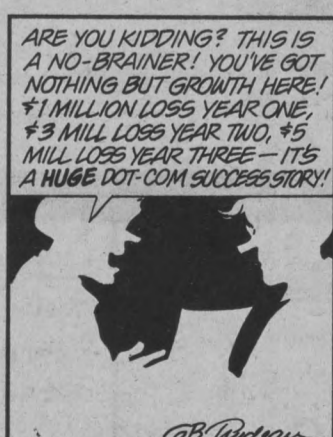
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BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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# GAUCHOS

Continued from p.2A

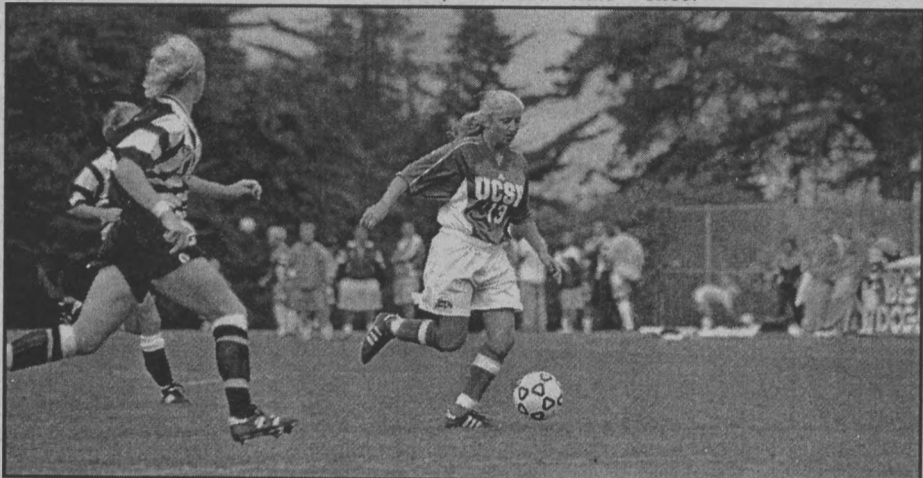
playoffs. Even going into the game against Fullerton, we still had a rush from the win Friday."

Against CSUF it was the Gauchos who struck first in a very evenly matched game, when senior midfielder Kelly Mochel scored in the 23rd

minute. After Mochel's goal, the two teams traded the ball back and forth for over an hour without scoring. But with five minutes left in the game, Titan midfielder Kris Quiroz scored on a penalty kick to even the score at 1-1. Three minutes later, Kassie Rypel, another Fullerton midfielder, scored on a header to give CSUF a 2-1 lead that

Santa Barbara would not challenge.

"We didn't play our best game against Fullerton," Preis said. "But we were holding our own. The refs didn't help us by giving them a penalty shot with five minutes left. We might have panicked a little in the end, but we'll use it as a learning experience."



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

**SHE'S GOING THE DISTANCE:** Sophomore forward Annika Wright was able to avoid these defenders. However, the UCSB women's soccer team could not outrun Cal State Fullerton, losing 2-1

# VOLLEYBALL

Continued from p.1A

plus kills and 20-plus digs not because she had a bad night, but because the Gauchos' performance was so good. Since Santa Barbara had the match in hand, Gregory took Gehlke out to rest — something that doesn't happen too often.

"We played with a lot more fire tonight,"

Gregory said. "That just gave me an opportunity to play a lot of freshmen and, more importantly, to take Robi out. When you feel like you can take Roberta Gehlke out of a game, you feel like you're playing pretty good."

One of the freshmen whom Gregory played was setter Bridgett Geddes, who started in place of the usual starting setter, sophomore Brooke

Rundle, in order to get Geddes a little more experience and a chance to settle her game, Gregory said. Rundle saw the importance of the freshmen getting experience now in preparation for the future.

"They've been working real hard," Rundle said. "They need to feel the pressure of playing so that when we get into the playoffs they will be able to step up their level of play."

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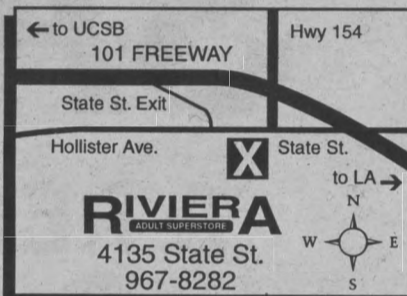
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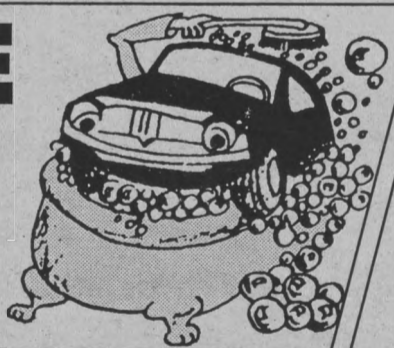
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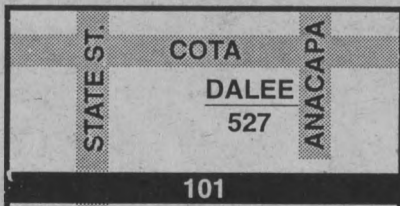


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