

SPORTS MONDAY

Daily Nexus

October 30, 1995

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Gaucha Soccer, V-ball, X-Country Win

■ UCSB Soccer Squad Secures First Ever Playoff Berth With 3-1 Win

By Brett Lindstrom
Staff Writer

In a battle for the final playoff spot in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation conference, the UCSB men's soccer squad took advantage of life's strange twists of fate and took a giant step through a wide-open door.

The Gauchos' (12-4-1 overall, 4-3 MPSF) thrilling 3-1 win over visiting Cal State Northridge (7-7-2, 3-3-1) on Friday night at Harder Stadium not only secured a second-place finish in the Pacific Division, but also secured Santa Barbara's first-ever playoff berth.

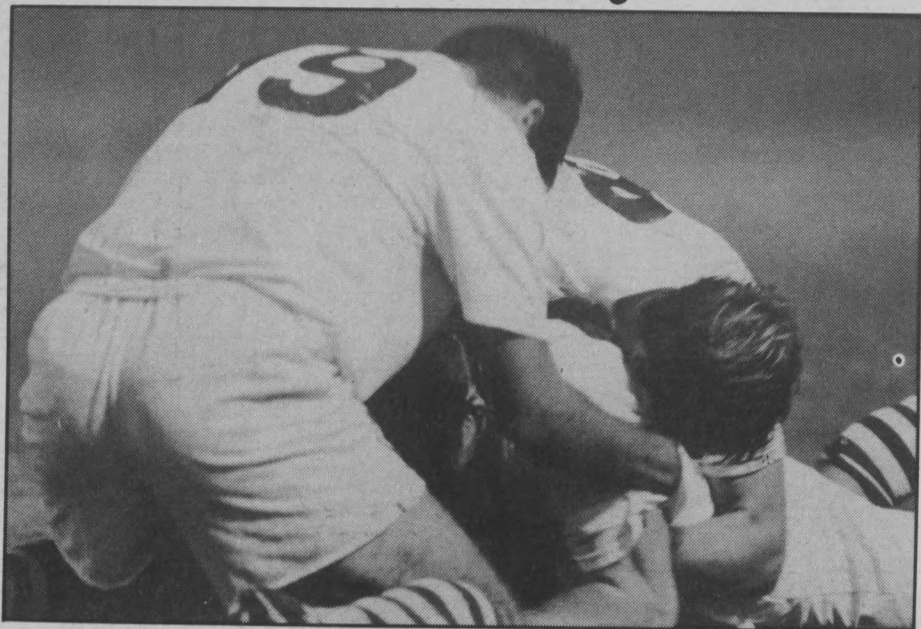
UCSB will head south to UCLA on Friday, Nov. 10 to take on the Spartans of Fresno State — the first-place team from

the Mountain Division. The Gauchos defeated the Bulldogs in a 3-2 overtime game at home in early September.

The Gauchos' must-win victory over the Matadors was especially sweet for UCSB Head Coach Mark Arya, as he summed up his emotions in the simplest of words.

"I haven't felt this good in years. I'm going to celebrate and just enjoy it right now," he said.

Sophomore forward Danny Mann opened the scoring for Santa Barbara in the eighth minute of play when he took a cross from senior forward Jeff Johnson, who was positioned out on the right wing. After the ball was crossed to the far left post, Mann simply out-jumped defender



ERIN DERBY/Daily Nexus

GOOOOAAALLL! Senior forward Jeff Johnson (under pile) gets mauled by his teammates after scoring the eventual winning goal against Northridge.

See WIN, p.2A

■ Gauchos Dig 49er's Gold in Five-Game Triumph

By Michael Cadilli
Staff Writer

The #12 Long Beach State women's volleyball team beat the #11 Gauchos in almost every meaningful statistical category, yet lost the emotional five-game match in front of 1,550 Thunderdome fans on Friday.

Santa Barbara (19-4 overall, 12-0 in the Big West) also downed the lowly Anteaters (4-16, 1-12) in three straight games at home on Saturday to extend its winning streak to 13 matches, tying a school record it set last season. More importantly, UCSB keeps pace with #2 University of Hawai'i, deadlocked for the top spot in the Big West.

In the 15-7, 15-9, 8-15, 2-15, 15-13 Gaucha win over the 49ers (14-5, 9-3), Santa Barbara found itself out-hit .193 to LBSU's .300, out-blocked 26 to 15 and out-set 42-43, but was able to score when it counted the most — in the rally-scoring fifth game.

"Oh my God, it was unbelievable," said UCSB Asst. Coach Heather Collins. "We weren't siding out before really well, so I had a hard time believing that we were going to pull that off, but they did it. They worked together and held in there on the last two points."

With the fifth game tied at 13-13, senior middle blocker Tammy Stiner came up with a big kill off a nice quick-set from sophomore setter Maile Mortensen to give the Gauchos match point. In true veteran fashion, Santa Barbara senior outside hitter Kim Keys came up with a dig that freshman outside hitter Erin McCown eventually hit off the Long Beach block to seal the victory.

"First I had to serve it in, and then she hit it right into my arms," said Keys of her defensive gem. "It was probably my biggest dig of the season."

UCSB came out of the blocks slow in game one, as the 49ers put up a quick 7-0 start. LBSU served

well in conjunction with Santa Barbara's poor passing and rotation violation to take the early lead.

Then Gaucha Head Coach Kathy Gregory substituted in 6'3" freshman middle blocker Katie Crawford, who immediately sparked the offense by putting down three spikes in a businesslike manner.

"Being down 7-0, you come in fired up, but you still have to be a little bit calm," Crawford said.

Santa Barbara, with the help of two kills and two blocks from Stiner and two service aces from McCown and senior middle blocker Jennifer Kaylor, rung up 15 straight points to win game one.

In game two, UCSB used a balanced offensive attack (kills from Kaylor, Stiner, Crawford) and solid defense (blocks from McCown, Stiner, Keys and two big digs from freshman defensive specialist Tania Yamashita) to dismantle the frustrated 49ers.

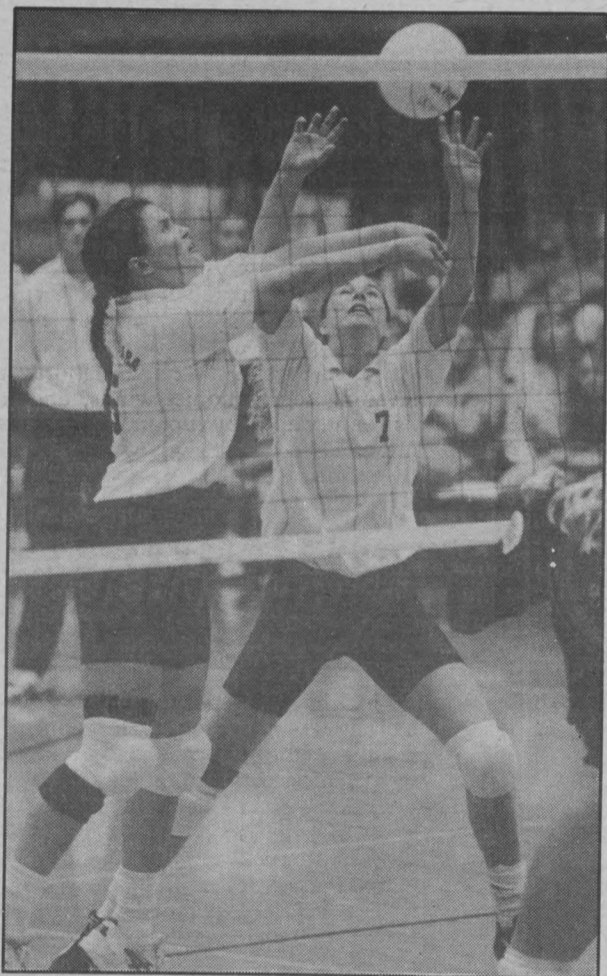
However, Long Beach

moved setter Misty May to outside hitter, and things began to fall apart for the Gauchos, who were out-scored 30-10 in games three and four.

"I've been waiting for [LBSU] to move Misty May, because she's the #1 recruit in the nation and the best all-around player," Gregory said. "So once I saw her hitting, I thought we were in trouble. What it did was stabilize their passing, and enabled Brita [Schwerm] and her to cover 70% of the court and it gave them three hitters. It completely affected us."

Schwerm led all players with 21 kills at .400, while Stiner led UCSB with 13 kills at .212.

"In games three and four I think we had a mental letdown," Keys said. "We were pumped and thinking we had already won, but we had to win one more game. They came out and switched their lineup up and we didn't play as a team."



SCOTT DRAPER/Daily Nexus

TEAMWORK: Kim Keys (right) sets the ball over the net in front of Jennifer Kaylor versus LBSU.

■ Men Take Big West Crown, While Women Finish Second

By Michael Cadilli
Staff Writer

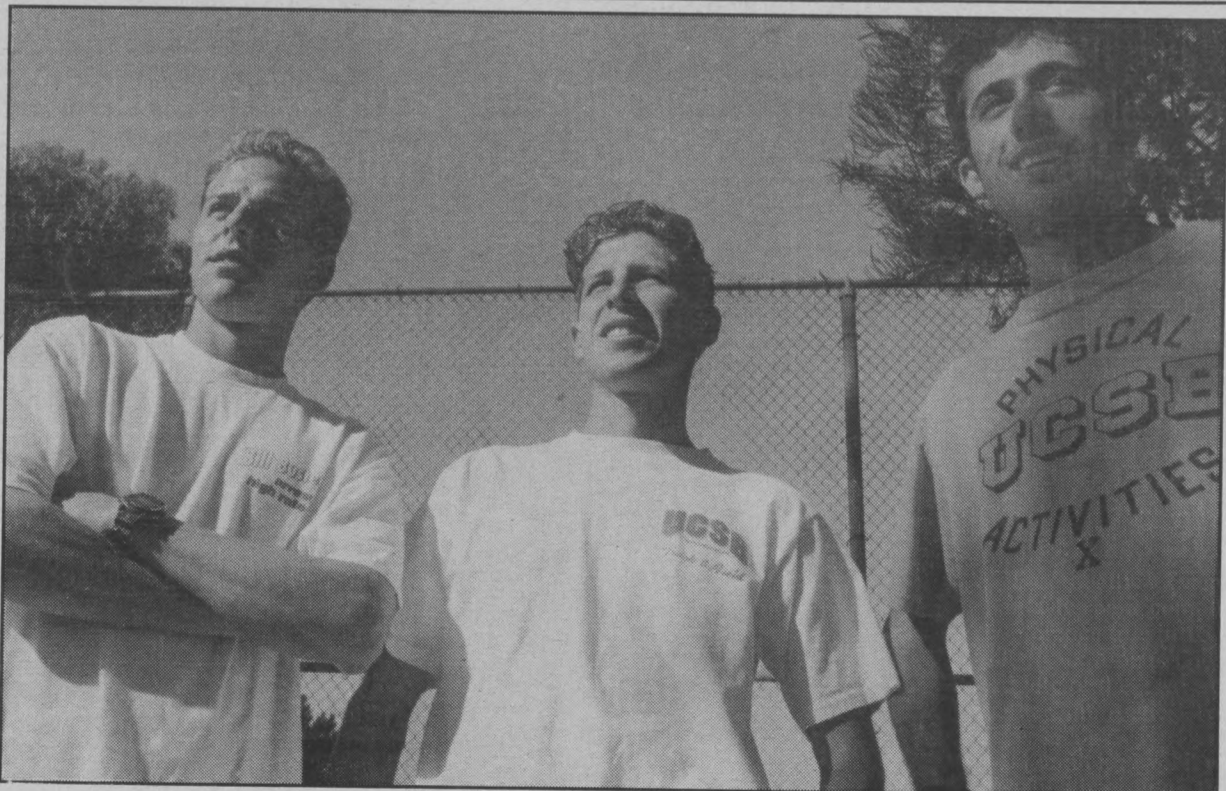
The UCSB cross country teams finished about as well as could have been expected at the Big West Championships held Saturday at Central Park in Huntington Beach, with the men capturing their first title since 1979 and the women taking second.

Gaucha senior Brad Glosser finished first overall in the conference in 25:21, while junior Eliza Alexander took second overall on the women's side with a time of 18:16.

Men

Entering the 8 km meet as the favorite over Utah State, Santa Barbara completed its fine season with the first conference title in 16 years and a first ever one-two finish. In addition to Glosser's first-place time and Big West Athlete of the Year award, senior Dave Cullum (25:43) battled the Aggies' Toby Conley (third place, 25:52) to take second.

"I don't know if it was destiny or what, but this whole year it's been like, 'We're gonna take it,'" said UCSB Head Coach Pete Dolan, who also won the Big West



DAN THIBODEAU/Daily Nexus

POISED: Seniors Dave Cullum (left) and Brad Glosser (middle) and junior Ben Flamm placed second, first and eighth, respectively, in the men's Big West victory, while the women took second place to UCI.

See CHAMPS, p.3A

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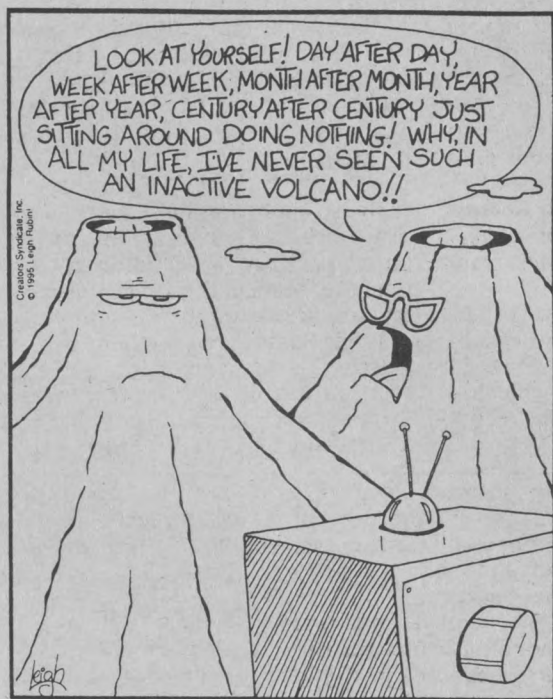
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WIN: Santa Barbara Beats Northridge at Harder

Continued from p.1A
Ross Linhart and headed it past the diving Northridge keeper Zoltan Nagy.

"That's what we've been working on at practice all year. Get the ball out wide, make a good cross to the far post, step in front of the defender and then put it in," Mann said. "It was just a big boost to come right out and get a goal — exactly what we needed."

"Danny showed incredible courage and bravery," Arya added. "He's just a player that somehow finds the back of the net."

The Gauchos hoped their early goal would somewhat demoralize the spirits of the Matador players, but soon realized that it only made them play harder.

"We knew that whoever was scored upon first would have to lift their level of play," Arya said. "[The Matadors] did just that."

Northridge quickly

evened the score at one in the 14th minute of play on a goal by midfielder Matt Davis. Standing at the top left corner of the penalty box, Davis collected a pass from defender Danny Nishiyama and blasted the ball past the outstretched arms of freshman Gaucho keeper Stewart Sanders.



Danny Mann

The Matadors kept up the pressure throughout the first half, posting several more scoring opportunities, but in the end, failed to convert. The

Gauchos took advantage of Northridge's inability to put the ball in the net. UCSB scored the go-ahead and eventual winning goal with only two minutes remaining in the half, on a little razzle-dazzle play by senior forward Jeff Johnson.

Finding himself near the CSUN end line, Johnson performed some of his dribbling magic, leaving several opposing players in his dust, and then bent a left-footed shot off the far post into the net.

Senior midfielder Greg DePaco sealed the victory for the Gauchos in the 66th minute of play, after chest-trapping a pass from junior defender Mike Squellati and lobbing it over the head of Nagy to give UCSB an insurmountable 3-1 lead.

"This is something I felt was long overdue," said senior midfielder Ralph Robertson. "The guys on the team have been bust-

ing their butts all season. It's finally paid off."

Five Gaucho seniors (Johnson, DePaco, Robertson, Kristian Berre and Patrick Griffin) took the field Friday night for the final time in their careers at Harder Stadium.

"It was our last game as a Gaucho at Harder Stadium," Robertson said. "It was our seniors game, so we had to take it to them."

Although the loss of the five seniors will inevitably hurt the team next season, coaches remain confident that the future of UCSB soccer looks promising.

"It's not like this is a one-shot hurrah. I think we are at the point where we are developing a tradition," Arya said. "We know how to win now, whereas the first couple of years we didn't know how to win. We know how to get results. We know how to play ugly at times, and we also know how to play very beautifully."

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Trojans Don't Break Under UCSB Pressure in a Rough 16-10 Match

By Brian Berger
Staff Writer

When the final horn sounded at Campus Pool on Sunday, the #10 UCSB water polo team had some good news and some bad news.

The good news was that Santa Barbara was able to hold USC's top scorer, Mateo Juric, scoreless. The bad news was it could not contain the rest of the #2 Trojan squad, which walked away with the 16-10 victory.

The Gauchos (6-14 overall, 1-6 in Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play) entered the match as a heavy underdog, but the team managed to stay competitive through most of the very physical match.

Southern Cal (14-3, 4-3) opened the scoring early as Neal Brockmeier placed a two-point shot behind freshman UCSB goalie Lance Wahlert 93 seconds into the contest. Junior driver Tyler Rameson trimmed the USC lead to one as he scored his 14th goal of the season 1½ minutes later. The two squads exchanged goals until Marko Zagar and Brockmeier each scored in the last 1:07 of the first period to give the Trojans a 5-2 lead.

Southern Cal built on its lead as Zagar and fellow Croatian Hrvoje Cizmic added a goal. Santa Barbara was able to counter the USC attack when seniors Adam Estabrook and Kevin Eggert each scored midway through the second quarter. Eggert netted his third goal of the match with just

17 seconds remaining in the half. However, it was before Aaron Wooler added another score for USC, giving the Trojans an 8-5 halftime advantage.

As the second half opened, Southern Cal showed why it is ranked second in the country, putting on an offensive clinic while demonstrating a rough and physical defense.

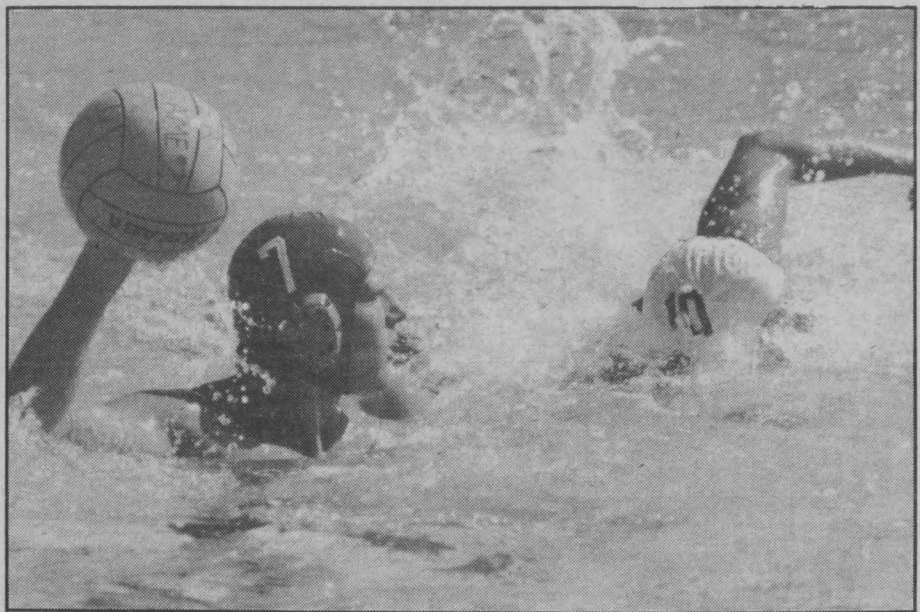
"We knew that [USC] would come out tough," said UCSB Head Coach Joe O'Brien. "I have to give them credit, they countered better than any team I have seen all year."

USC received goals from Dan Cherrie, Shad Wicker, Cizmic and Zagar in the first five minutes of the quarter. The scoring output lifted the Trojan lead to seven, and in the process demolished Santa Barbara's morale.

"They out-muscled us," Estabrook said. "We didn't play to our game plan so we didn't get as many kickouts. Their size and their strength really limited us on offense."

The Gauchos were able to put one point on the board in the third period as Eggert once again beat Southern Cal goalie Brendan Grubbs, scoring his fourth goal of the game and 52nd point of the season.

Following the example of games in the past, UCSB attempted to muster a fourth-quarter comeback. Unfortunately for Santa Barbara, the late magic was not available for this match. USC's Simun Cimerman scored 28 seconds into the



DAN THIBODEAU/Daily Nexus

TAKING AIM: Senior Adam Estabrook was able to score against the #2 USC goalie, but it wasn't enough in the 16-10 Santa Barbara loss.

quarter, allowing Southern Cal to remain in control for the remainder of the contest.

The two squads exchanged goals for the final six minutes with each team scoring four points. Santa Barbara relied on goals by sophomore two-meter man Eric Scholten, freshman driver Brad Kalarov and Eggert, who connected on a two-point shot while the Gauchos had a man-up advantage.

Although the scoring in the fourth period was abundant, the quarter was highlighted by the defense of Grubbs. Twice in the period Grubbs was able to block a four-meter penalty shot—a shot which is rarely stopped.

"Everybody thinks that [the four-meter shot] is an easy shot, but I haven't had much luck with it," Estabrook said. "It's a tough shot, and the goalie stepped up and made a great stop against me and Kevin [Eggert]."

Defensively for UCSB, Wahlert continued to improve as he denied nine of the Trojans shots. "Lance continues to develop at a steady pace," O'Brien said. "I think he is one of the top freshman goaltenders in the country."

While Santa Barbara left the pool with a defeat, the Gaucho offense was able to score in double digits, a feat that only three other schools have been able to produce against USC all season.

CHAMPS

Continued from p.1A
Coach of the Year award. "As a coach I couldn't ask for anything more. It's a coach's dream."

Not only did the Gauchos place the top two runners but they took the

sixth through eighth spots as well. Senior Forest Quinlan (sixth, 26:08) and juniors Nate Jobe (seventh, 26:11) and Ben Flamm (eighth, 26:12) also earned All-Big West honors with their top-10 finishes.

USU scored 35 points by placing the third through fifth place run-

ners but came in 11 points over Santa Barbara's 24, while UC Irvine (75), Cal State Fullerton (100), Long Beach State (121) and New Mexico State (185) rounded out the rest of the conference teams.

Women

UCSB (48) wasn't able

to place high enough to overtake UCI (38), who placed the #1, #4 and #7 runners to take the Big West Championship, unseating the two-time defending Santa Barbara squad in the 5 km race.

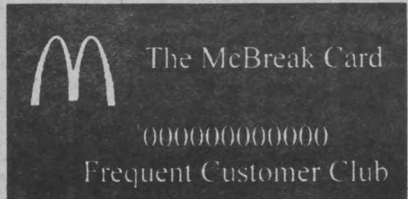
"I was happy with the way the team came together because [UCI] has beaten us twice this

year," Dolan added. "We had a lower score than last year and still came in second, and that was kind of disappointing."

However, Alexander's second-place time marked the highest-ever finish by a Gaucho woman. Junior Heather Bray placed sixth in 18:34 and senior Mary Crane came in 10th with a

time of 18:52 — all three earning All-Big West honors.

University of Hawai'i (116) took third, while Utah State (120), University of Nevada-Reno (147), Cal State Fullerton (152) and UNLV (166) rounded out the top-seven teams.



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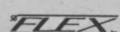
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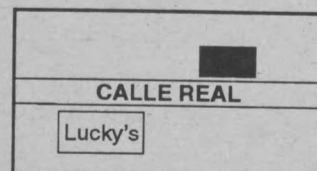
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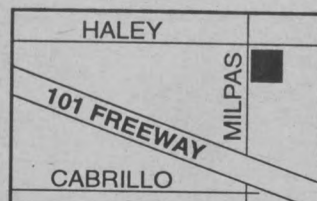
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