

SPORTS MONDAY

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Gauchos Still in Hunt After Beating Stanford

■ On the Road to the Final Four, the #4 Gauchos Defeat the #5 Cardinal in Four Sets at Rob Gym

By Jenny Kok
Staff Writer

After one round of play, four teams remain in the battle for the Powerbar/Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Collegiate Men's Volleyball Tournament title, and as expected, UCSB is one of those four.

About 1,255 fans watched from the edges of their seats as the #4 UCSB men's volleyball team battled its way to a four-game victory over the #5 Stanford Cardinal 10-15, 15-9, 15-13, 15-6. With the win, the Gauchos will travel to Hawai'i to take on



Amaury Velasco

#1 University of Hawai'i in a semifinal match Friday night. The winner of that match will face the winner of the Cal State Northridge-UCLA match Saturday.

"I feel great," UCSB Head Coach Ken Preston said. "I'm stoked to get another shot at Hawai'i. Both teams played a good competitive game, but we really showed our strength in the third game. It was a great win. Now we have to move on."

The Gaucho victory featured strong performances from out-

side hitter Donny Harris, middle blocker Robert Treahy and middle blocker Amaury Velasco. Harris, a junior, recorded 30 kills at a .510 hitting percentage, breaking the UCSB record for career kills set by Eric Fonoimoana with 1,351 kills during his three-year career. At the net, Harris also delivered three solo blocks and three block assists.

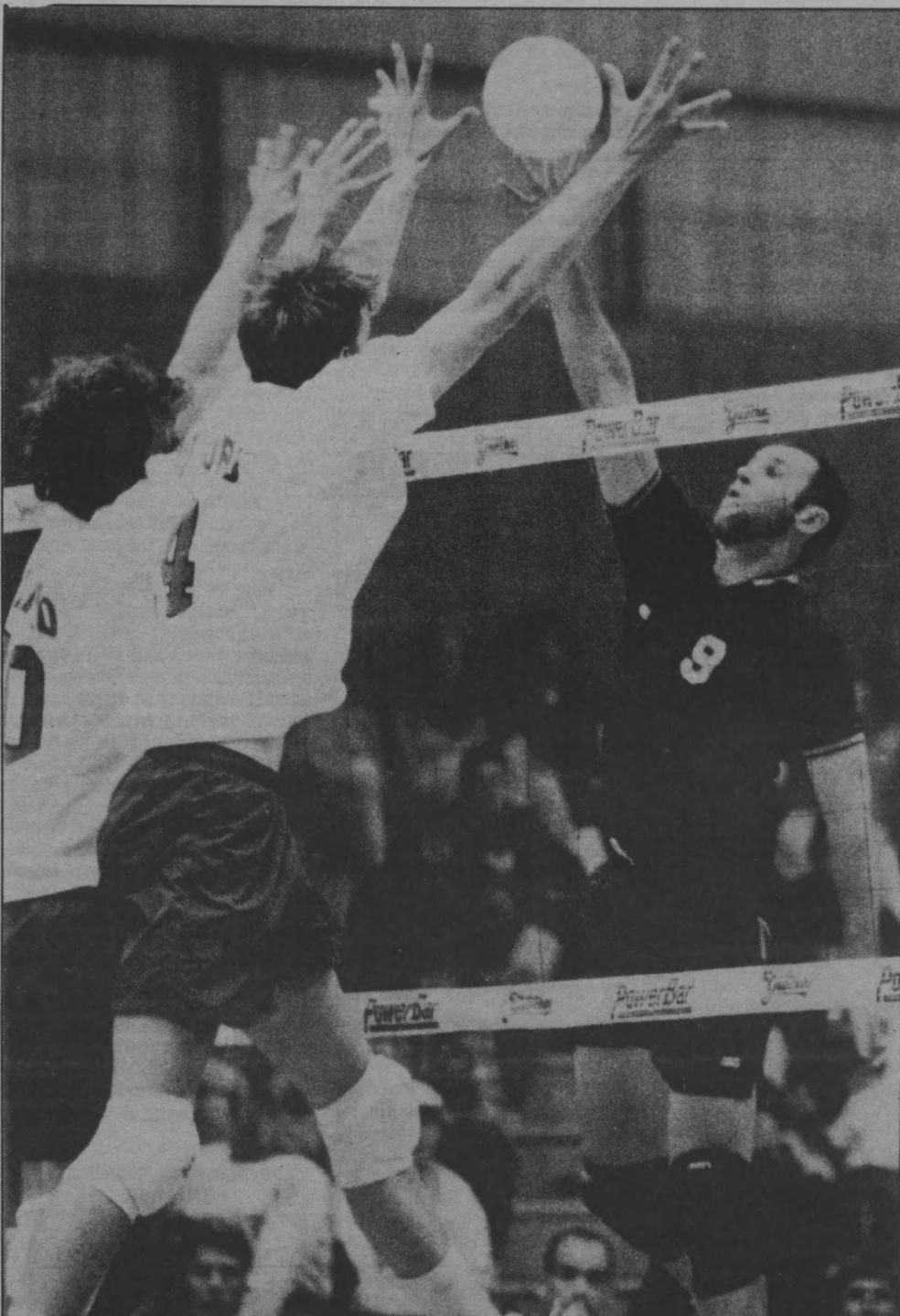
Velasco, a senior, collected 24 kills while hitting at a .512 clip. Treahy, a junior, also put up big numbers, pounding out 21 kills at .515. Leading the block, Velasco made six and Treahy led the match with seven, helping the Gauchos outblock the Cardinal 17-7.

"I thought that Amaury played a heck of a match," Preston said. "He turned it up in the first game when we were pretty flat and stayed hot the whole match. Harris, Treahy and Velasco all stepped up. That was really important because our outsides were struggling for a while."

After splitting the first two games with Stanford, the Gauchos found themselves down 6-2 in the third. Troubled by a lack of good passing and a struggling offensive effort from senior outside hitter Morgan Chapman, Preston had to make a decision. At that point, he elected to bring in senior outside hitter Brant Chillingworth in place of junior outside hitter Jason Crone to add more defense to the lineup.

Preston's strategy initially appeared to work as his team fought back and tied the game at 7-7, but Stanford wasn't ready to bow down as it pushed the score to 13-8. It appeared the Cardinal

See MPSF, p.2A



DAN THIBODEAU/Daily Nexus

RECORD BREAKER: With 30 kills on Saturday night, junior outside hitter Donny Harris broke Eric Fonoimoana's mark to become the all-time UCSB career kill leader.

#4 UCSB def. #5 Stanford
10-15, 15-9, 15-13, 15-6

GaUCHO Leaders:

Donny Harris: 30 kills @ .510
Amaury Velasco: 24 kills @ .512

Cardinal Leaders:

Devin Poolman: 25 kills
Matt Fuerbringer: 24 kills

Baseball Takes Two Out of Three from New Mexico St.

By Curtis Kaiser
Staff Writer

Going into its series against New Mexico State last weekend, the UCSB baseball team knew that anything could happen.

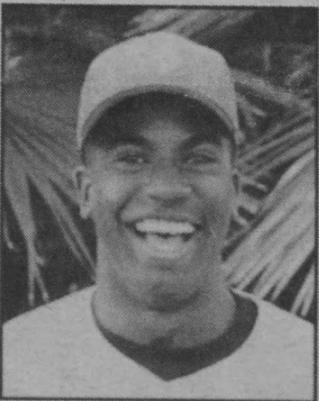
GaUCHO junior reliever John Minton may have said it best last week: "At that park, the ball flies out and weird stuff just happens." Minton's words could not have been more prophetic had he looked into a crystal ball.

Number 24 Santa Barbara (27-14 overall, 9-6 in the Big West) took two of three games from New Mexico (20-24, 4-11) in a series which saw the two teams combine for 95 runs, 108 hits and 16 errors. NMSU took Friday's game 19-13, but UCSB came back to win Saturday 22-18 and Sunday 12-11.

UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema wasn't thrilled with his team's performance over the weekend, but he was definitely pleased with the result.

"We're dealing with the bottom line right now and the bottom line is that we won," said the third-year skipper. "As a team, we need to play better, but taking two of three was good."

The series concluded with the rubber match Sunday, with the Gauchos sending ace sophomore right-hander Seth Bean (9-2) to the mound to face the Aggies' Jeremy Stewart (5-8). Bean was in control through seven innings, having allowed five runs on 10 hits. However, in the bottom of the eighth, with UCSB on top with a comfortable 12-6



Clark Parker

lead, NMSU strung together three singles, a walk and a hit batter to score six runs and close the gap to 12-11.

When Brontsema went to the bullpen, instead of bringing in

Minton, the team's usual closer, he went with junior Bryan Noyes (5-2), Santa Barbara's starting pitcher in Friday's game.

The decision turned out to be a brilliant one, as Noyes ended the Aggie threat in the eighth and pitched a scoreless ninth inning to notch his first save of the season.

UCSB's offense was paced by the middle of its lineup as well as the bottom of its order. Junior right fielder Brett Hardy, junior catcher Dave Willis and senior center fielder Wynter Phoenix (the Gauchos' 3-4-5 hitters) combined for eight hits, two home runs, four runs and seven RBI.

Freshman catcher Justin Lehr, the number eight hitter in the order, blasted a two-run shot, while the ninth hitter, junior second baseman Clark Parker, topped the squad with four hits.

Hardy credited UCSB pitchers with being the difference in the closely contested series.

"It's a difficult place to play, so winning two of three is huge," he said. "It's not an easy park to pitch in, but our pitchers did a good job battling and keeping us in the game. It was a good tune-up for our big games next week

[against USC and San Jose State]."

Saturday's game saw the Gauchos show off some impressive power as well as some equally unimpressive defense.

UCSB broke two team records with seven home runs and 50 total bases, and tied a 35-year-old team mark with nine errors.

Blasting long balls for the Gauchos off a hapless quintet of Aggie hurlers were Hardy, Parker, Willis, senior left fielder Ryan Kritscher, senior third baseman Lou Tapia, junior designated hitter Collin Weitzman and sophomore shortstop Mike Young. In the series, every Santa Barbara position player but junior first baseman Brooks Morris (who played only in Saturday's game) hit a home run.

Junior left-hander Steve Cain (1-3), who hurled four innings and allowed two earned runs to pick up his first victory of the season, was pleased with the power that the potent UCSB bats provided.

"It was a flat-out slugfest, but we outslugged them," Cain said. "It was ugly from a pitcher's perspective."

Cain's teammate, freshman

David Uris would definitely agree with Cain's assessment. Uris started the contest and lasted only three innings, allowing 10 hits and seven earned runs. His counterpart, NMSU starter Rick Montoya (1-1), fared no better, surrendering eight hits and eight runs in 3½ innings.

The four Aggie relievers who succeeded Montoya could not hold back the Gauchos. Anthony Pratt (2-2) took the loss for New Mexico.

In the series opener Friday, the UCSB bullpen could not provide effective relief — five Santa Barbara relievers combined to surrender 15 hits, 12 earned runs and five walks in just 2½ innings. Noyes had pitched a solid 5½ innings to start the game, but the Gauchos couldn't hold the lead, however. Junior reliever Clint Pearson (1-2) took the loss.

Santa Barbara's offense was led by Young (4-5, 3 RBI) and Willis (4-5, 1 HR). NMSU first baseman Greg Hancock (4-5, 3 RBI) and third baseman Carlos Licon (3-4, 3 RBI) paced the Aggie attack.

SB Nearly Gets No-No and Sweep on Road, but Settles for One Win

By Michael Cadilli
Staff Writer

The good news: The Gaucho pitching staff gave up only eight hits in two games to the Roadrunners. The bad news: UCSB could walk away with only one win from Las Cruces, N.M.

Junior right-hander Megan O'Brien threw six innings of no-hit ball for Santa Barbara before giving way to the NMSU attack in the bottom of the seventh and final frame to lose a heartbreaker 2-1.

But the Gauchos (17-21 overall, 6-14 in the Big West) rebounded in the second game of the twin bill at Presley Askew Field on Friday as junior first baseman Jessica Montgomery knocked in her second and third RBI of the day in the sixth inning to give Santa Barbara a 2-1 win.

"We've outplayed them three of the last four games, but came away with only one win — that's

tough," said UCSB Head Coach Liz Kelly. "But to come back to win the second game was important because it showed we had a lot of fortitude to come back in that game."

"You can't expect to win every game when you're trailing in the seventh inning," said NMSU Head Coach Rick Gamez.

The Gauchos return today to continue their stretch of 10 games in 12 days by taking on the University of Hawai'i Wahine in a 1 p.m. start at Campus Diamond.

"Hawai'i is a much more important game because it's one of our last homestands, and it's much more fun to win at home," said junior utility player Michelle Ray, who went 2-6 in the doubleheader.

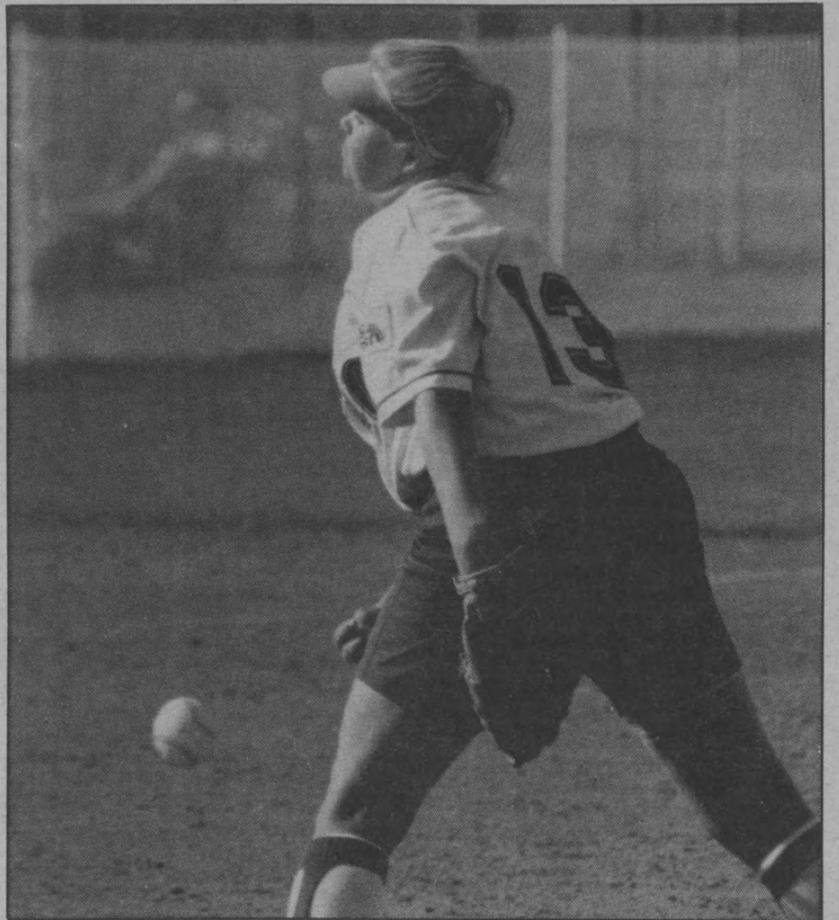
But the story of the weekend for the Gauchos was their pitching. O'Brien and senior hurler Stacy Atwood kept Santa Barbara in both games by giving up only four hits in each contest, while allow-

ing only three runs.

O'Brien (4-6) had thrown a gem in the opener, not allowing a hit until the seventh, before NMSU rallied and won the game on a single by Andrea Benford.

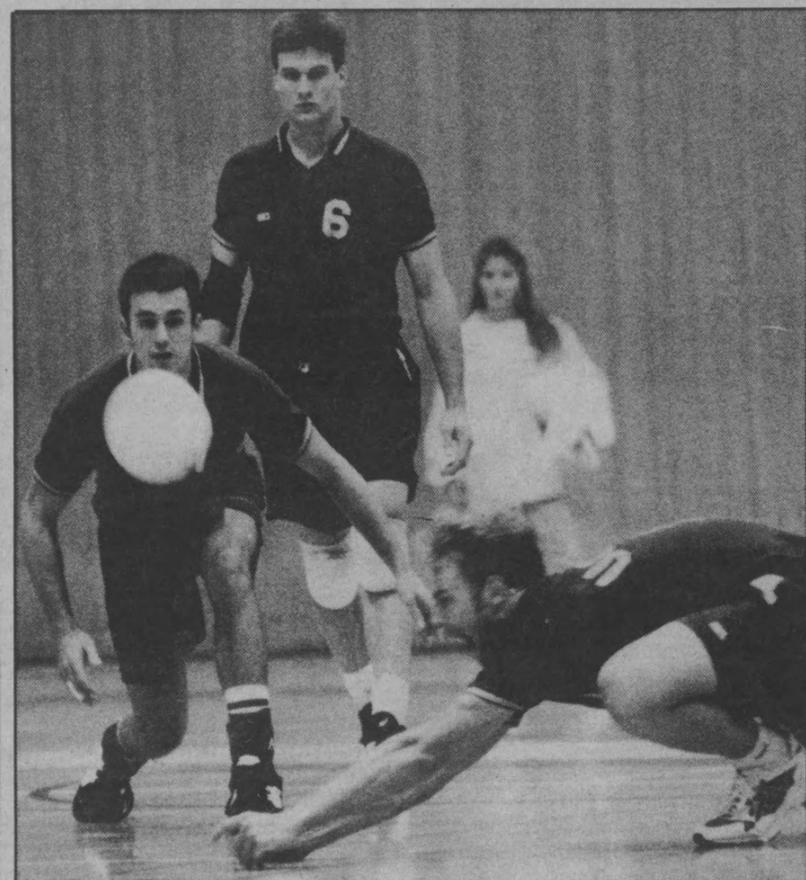
But the Gauchos lost more than just one game Friday as two players went down to injuries. Senior right fielder Jennifer Merlo sprained an ankle while scoring the UCSB lone run in the opener, while sophomore second baseman Tracy Nelson broke her right thumb after taking two pitches off her right hand.

Santa Barbara came back in the nightcap on the arm of Atwood (7-7), who struck out five Roadrunners and allowed only one earned run and one walk, and the bat of Montgomery. The Gaucho first baseman knocked home Ray and freshman pinch-hitter Maria Bastian with two outs in the sixth inning.



Nexus File Photo

NEARLY PERFECT: Junior Megan O'Brien took a no-hitter into the seventh inning before allowing four hits and losing to New Mexico State last Friday.



DAN THIBODEAU/Daily Nexus

DIG-DUG! Junior outside hitter Jason Crone digs a ball while seniors Morgan Chapman (crouching) and Amaury Velasco (standing) back their teammate up.

MPSF

Continued from p.1A had the game in the bag, but the Gauchos rallied back behind the strong serving of senior setter Todd Rogers and the blocking of Chapman and Harris. The home team scored eight straight points to end the 55-minute game and take a 2-1 game lead.

"We really struggled at first [in game three]," Preston said. "Chilli came in and did a great job passing, which enabled us to feed the middle well. The key was that we sided out well at the end of the game."

UCSB came out on fire in the fourth as Gaucho blocking shut down the Cardinal offense. With the score at 10-6 in favor of Santa Barbara, a block by Chillingworth and Velasco ignited a five-point streak that gave the Gauchos the game and the match.

For Stanford, Devin Poolman and Matt Fuerbringer led the offense with 25 and 24 kills, respectively.

UCSB Soccer Update

The UCSB women's soccer team announced the signing of three incoming freshmen and a junior transfer to letters of intent Friday.

Goalie Isla Bertolini tops the list of newly signed Gauchos. She will transfer from Santa Rosa Junior College, where she was named a first-team All-American last season.

"Isla combines athleticism with experience and work ethic," UCSB Head Coach John Cossaboon said. "I believe that she will have an immediate impact on our level of play."

Santa Barbara also inked incoming freshmen Cindy Goebel, Lacey Coffey and Lindsay Conner to letters of intent. Conner is the only newcomer not hailing from Santa Rosa — she prepped in Modesto, where she was named MVP of the California Central Conference as a senior.

"I think that Lindsay will be a great fit for us athletically and academically [having graduated from Beyer High School with a 4.0 grade point average]," Cossaboon said. "She is a skilled player with great speed. She will definitely add to our game, both offensively and defensively."

The young UCSB team finished 6-12 last season, showing flashes of strength toward the end of its campaign by winning six of the last 11 games.

—Steve Large

Women's Lacrosse

The UCSB women's lacrosse A team lost its final league game of the season to UC San Diego Saturday by a 5-4 final score. Up next for the squad will be the Southern Division playoffs. The winner of the playoffs will advance to the Final Four in San Diego.

The undefeated B team finished its season, beating the University of Arizona in the Division II championships Sunday, 11-6.

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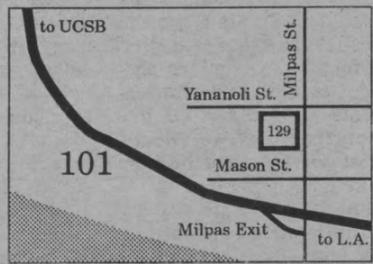
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