

SPORTS MONDAY

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Page 1A

UCSB Lets Too Many Chances Slip By in Losses to Rebels



GaUCHO reliever John Bretza pitched seven strong relief innings, striking out nine batters and giving up only run in Saturday's UCSB win.

Sluggers Leave 36 Runners on Base During Series

By Curtis Kaiser
Staff Writer

This weekend's series against the UNLV Rebels could only be described as another weekend of missed opportunities for the UCSB baseball team.

Stranding 36 runners over the three-game set, the Gauchos (18-28 overall, 6-9 Big West) lost two out of three to the Rebels (26-23, 8-10) by scores of 6-7, 8-7, and 6-9.

"We still haven't gotten the big hit that we need to relieve some of the pressure," UCSB Head Coach Bob Bront-

See REBELS, p.2A

Personal Records the Theme for Track and Field Squads

By Noah Smith
Staff Writer

It was a weekend to remember for the UCSB track and field teams as they took to the yard at UCLA for the first ever California/Nevada State College Championships.

Although the Gauchos placed only 12th and 13th, respectively, in the men's and women's overall competition, there were several personal records set, making the intrastate meet a worthwhile experience.

"It was a great meet," UCSB assistant coach Marc Kallick expressed. "This is the best collegiate meet I've experienced."

Host UCLA won the women's side of the meet

by a huge margin, but the Bruin men came up just short of the Cal-Berkeley team.

The meet began Saturday, with qualifying heats in the shorter races and field events, as well as single-heat finals in the more distance-oriented runs.

UCSB junior Paul Goodrich had a personal best in the 5000-meter run with a 14:37.4, good for seventh place. Despite his fine run, Goodrich was quicker to compliment teammate Dave Cullum's performance in the same event.

"He P.R.'d by 15 seconds," Goodrich said. "It was definitely a big breakthrough for him."

Cullum finished 11th

overall, just eight seconds behind Goodrich.

"P.R." was the term of the weekend, as it has been for the past month. The GaUCHO team is in full stride, preparing for the annual Big West meet coming up in two weeks. Every meet up to and including the conference finals becomes a proving ground for each individual to claim an NCAA berth, and undoubtedly the State Championships was no exception.

"This set us up pretty well for conference," coach Kallick commented. "Everybody was looking good out there."

UCSB freshman Adrian Garcia continued to look

See MEET, p.3A



DAN THIBODEAU/Daily Nexus

The UCSB track and field teams finished 12th and 13th at UCLA this weekend.



JAMES KU/Daily Nexus

All-Stars

UCSB and Harder Stadium played host to the WCCL Final Four this weekend, which included an all-star game. Cal took home the championship in the main event.

SB Golfers Hoping Big West Tourney Gets Them Further

By Brian Pillsbury
Staff Writer

For most UCSB intercollegiate teams, the Big West Championships is the most anticipated and crucial event of the season.

But at least this year, the same can't be said for the UCSB men's golf team.

"[The Big West Championships] aren't really that important for us," UCSB's Ryan Mitchell said.

With the team's sights set on the NCAA Regionals, which takes place three weeks from now in Tucson, Ariz., the conference championships have taken a back seat to the larger goal.

Nevertheless, the Gauchos will be taking part in the two-day competition which gets under-

way today. The two-time defending champions UNLV Runnin' Rebels will be the team to beat at the par-71, 6,700-yard Elkhorn Golf and Country Club in Stockton. The Rebels, ranked seventh in the nation, head the nine-team field competing in the 25th annual championship.

UNLV All-American Ed Fryatt will also be looking to defend his individual title.

Historically, the Big West Championships have not been all that kind to the Gauchos. Santa Barbara's best-ever result was a third place finish back in 1988. UCSB took fifth place last year, behind New Mexico State.

The Gauchos will again look to four golfers that have been the team's mainstays all year. Head-

lining that group are Tom Gocke, Ryan Mitchell, Derek Gilchrist — who placed fourth individually back in 1992 — and Dave Bartman. Gocke has witnessed a mild slump of late, but Mitchell and Gilchrist have fortunately been the team's most consistent performers in recent weeks.

While a strong performance won't guarantee an automatic bid to the NAAs, a sub-par performance against conference rivals, with the exception of UNLV, could knock out their hopes. Though UCSB finished strong, it is still on the bubble for the NAAs.

"We basically need to make sure we finish ahead of San Jose State and Pacific," Gilchrist said.

BRIAN PILLSBURY

Big West Is Going to Miss Vegas

With the recent defections of UNLV and San Jose State, the Big West Conference is now seeing the end of any dreams it ever had of becoming a premier NCAA conference. OK, you can toss out San Jose State, but losing Las Vegas is something the Big West will never recover from unless Cal State Fullerton or UC Irvine make it to the Final Four.

Everybody knows the Rebels put the Big West on the map with their 1990 national championship drubbing of Duke. As far

as markets go, the Las Vegas market is the largest in the conference. UNLV had been scheduled to host the conference tournament for the next couple of years, but now that's up in the air.

The thing that UNLV brought to the conference was name recognition. After next year, who is going to be able to provide that? Long Beach State, UCSB, Pacific and others have built respected programs, but it won't be the same.

As for replacements, Pepperdine and Santa Clara look to be the most likely additions. Not only

are they geographically close, something which cuts down on travel expenses, but their athletic programs are equal of the Big West schools. Losing those two in turn is going to hurt the West Coast Conference, whose moment in the spotlight will also officially come to an end. Actually, the WCC has never really been the same since the Hank Gathers tragedy coincided with the steep decline of Loyola Marymount basketball.

The Big West is also re-

See VEGAS, p.3A

REBELS

Continued from p.1A

Friday's contest lasted for over four hours and featured 18 walks, 23 strikeouts, 28 men left on base and four hit batters.

Steve Lane, the Gauchos' hottest starting pitcher, got the nod on Friday, and threw poorly for the first time in weeks. Over three innings, he allowed seven hits, five walks and five earned runs. John Bretza pitched brilliantly in relief of Lane, striking out nine while allowing only three hits, one walk and one run over seven innings of work, lowering his earned run average to 3.37.

John Minton (1-1) took the loss, as he worked the eleventh inning and gave up a homer to Rebel first baseman Nick Kuster. Lane, Minton and Bretza combined for sixteen strikeouts on the day, tying a Gaucho record.

UNLV freshman pitcher Nate Yeskie (8-4) was the story of the game, as he pitched all 11 innings for his seventh complete game of the season, facing 54 batters and throwing 189 pitches. After giving up five runs in the first five innings, Yeskie settled down, allowing only one run the rest of the way.

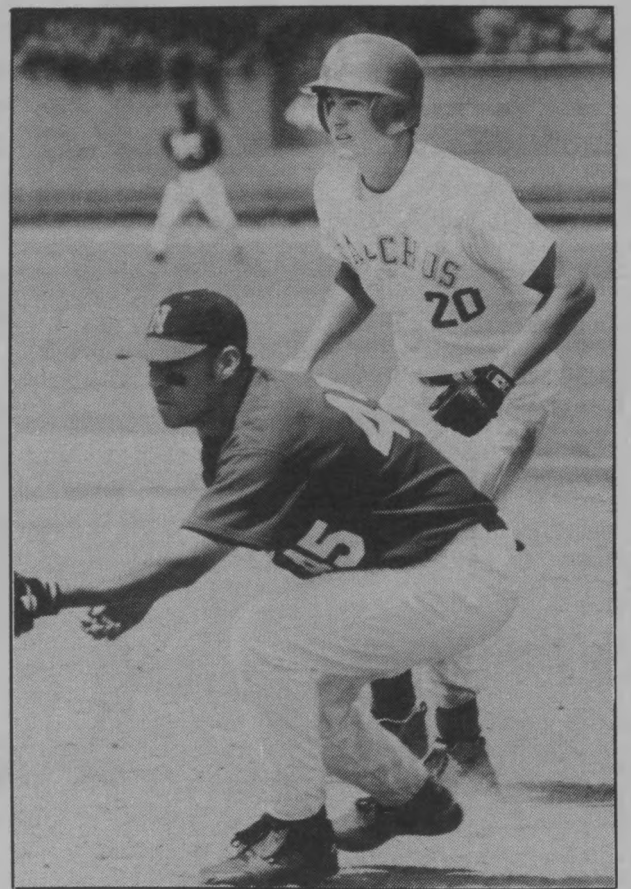
"We look to throw as hard as we can for as long as we can," Yeskie said. "I got stronger as the game went on. I felt like I was throwing harder in the eighth, ninth and 10th innings than I was in the first three."

"Our freshmen pitched very well," UNLV Head Coach Fred Dallimore said. "Believe it or not, they've got the best arms on the team."

The Gauchos had plenty of opportunities to pull ahead in the game, but stranded 15 runners. They repeatedly had men in scoring position with less than two outs, yet they were unable to drive them home.

Offensive stars of the game included Rebel catcher Travis McClendon, who collected four hits, Gaucho center fielder Doug Smaldino, with three hits and two RBIs, and UCSB right fielder Wynter Phoenix, who picked up his Big West-leading seventh triple.

On Saturday UCSB continued to leave men on base, though they escaped



GERRY MELENDEZ/Daily Nexus

Sophomore Jared Janke hit his sixth homerun of the season Sunday during UCSB's 9-6 loss to the UNLV Rebels at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium.

with an 8-7 win. Rebel pitchers walked 12 Gauchos, enabling Santa Barbara to pick up eight runs on only eight hits. UCSB wasted more opportunities as they stranded another 13 runners in the game.

Pat Treend started the game, but was victimized by a lack of defensive support. Treend gave up six runs in four innings of work, only three of which were earned.

Jorvic Salazar (1-1) picked up the win in relief, allowing one run and five hits over five innings.

"He [Salazar] was the reason we won today, without question," Brontsema said. "He's the headline, he's the story, he's the guy today."

"Throwing on the inside corner was really a big pitch for me today," Salazar said. "I wasn't throwing as hard as I usually do, but I was able to hit my spots."

Brett Hardy and Smaldino paced the Gauchos offensively, each reaching base four times. Smaldino scored four runs as well, and designated hitter Mark Umemoto knocked out two hits.

"I thought we scrapped for runs well early in the game," Brontsema said. "At one point, we had four runs on two hits."

On Sunday, UCSB hoped to make it two in a row, sending Jared Janke (2-6) to the mound. Things did not go as planned, as Janke took the loss, allowing eight hits, three walks and six earned runs in 4 2/3 innings.

UNLV starter Tom LaRosa (5-4) went the distance to earn the win, allowing only four earned runs. LaRosa displayed the control that his Rebel teammates lacked, giving the Gauchos only two walks.

UCSB had a chance to tie or win the game in the bottom of the ninth with two outs and the bases loaded for first baseman Dave Willis, but LaRosa was able to get Willis to fly out to right, ending the game.

Leading the way for UCSB on offense were Janke, who hit his sixth homer, Smaldino who knocked out his eighth, and left fielder Chris Prince, who had two hits for the day. Smaldino had an excellent series, going 8-for-13 with five RBIs and seven runs scored.

"It seems like all our home runs are solo shots, and once again we didn't get the big hit," Brontsema said. "Six runs should be enough to win most of the time."

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Gauchos See Playoff Hopes Dashed by NMSU

By Jenny Kok
Staff Writer

The last thing the UCSB softball team could afford to do was to lose two games to New Mexico State. But that's exactly what happened.

Friday afternoon, the NMSU Roadrunners upset the Gauchos, sweeping them in a doubleheader, 0-1, 0-3. "We weren't together and we weren't cohesive," UCSB Head Coach Frann Wageneck said. "That's the harsh reality."

The first contest of the two-game set saw the Gauchos off to a rough start. The very first pitch set the pace for the rest of the afternoon, as Roadrunner shortstop Kelly Patterson sent the ball for a ride to deep right field. An overthrown ball at third turned Patterson's triple into a home run.

The only scoring opportunity for Santa Barbara came in the second inning. UCSB managed to get into scoring position with runners on first and third, but could not capitalize on it.

"There was no offense," Wageneck added. "We easily should have had more production, but we watched a lot of third strikes go by. We weren't aggressive like we were last weekend."

Defensively, the Gauchos looked very strong after committing the first and only error of the game. In the fourth inning, NMSU left the bases loaded after hitting two singles and getting a walk. UCSB pitcher Stacy Atwood ended that inning with a strikeout.

Despite losing the game, Atwood pitched remarkably well. She had seven strikeouts while allowing only two hits and walking two batters. The lone run of the game won't show on her record; in her last three starts, she hasn't allowed any earned runs.

"Stacy did really well, with the exception of the first pitch," Wageneck said. "She was really on for the rest of the game. The team just didn't score."

New Mexico pitcher Danielle Dunn did her part defensively for the Roadrunners, striking out three batters while walking two and allowing three hits.

Game two was a show of great defensive skills by both teams up until the sixth inning. With the game still scoreless, the Gauchos started off the inning with a throwing error to first, putting Roadrunner Melanie Maya on base.

To make matters worse for the Gauchos, Melanie Gomez followed up Maya's at-bat well, roping a double to left-center and creating an ample scoring opportunity for New Mexico.

Continuing the hitting streak, Lisa Larson pounded out a triple, earning two RBIs. But before the inning was over, Sherri Rector sacrifice flied to left, which brought in the third run and ended the scoring for the rest of the game.

"After winning all four games last weekend, we thought we could be as mentally ready prepared for these games," Wageneck said.

VEGAS

Continued from p.2A portedly looking at further expansion. On the whole, it's not a good option: the last thing the Big West needs is more small schools, like a Gonzaga or some other random school. The Big West surely knows it does not have the pull of the WAC or Pac-10, so it should be content with getting Pepperdine and Santa Clara. The superconferences are the domain of football and television, which the Big West is not really a part of.

Actually, in case anyone's forgotten, Arkansas State, Louisiana Tech, Northern Illinois and Southwest Louisiana do play football in the Big West. I don't remember seeing them on TV, though.

...

I have to admit that

news of the Gauchos signing Danny Prince, the nation's leader in 3-point shooting at the JC level last year, did get me looking forward to basketball next season.

The only thing that could be a problem is that for Prince to be successful at what he does best — shoot from long range — he's going to have to take a lot of shots. Players with quick trigger fingers generally haven't done well in Jerry Pimm's scheme of things. Anybody remember Chris Ford?

Prince is no doubt a gunner, and gunners take away other people's shots and points. UC Irvine's Chris Brown is like that. But on the other hand, the Gauchos are not a selfish type of team when it comes to taking shots, so Prince may be able to fit in OK. But any of this can be avoided because there is no reason for UCSB not to pick up the pace on offense, what

with the rebounding strength and better depth at guard they'll have.

...

One of the biggest injustices in the history of the NCAA could be committed if somehow the UCSB women's tennis team is left out of the NCAA Championships later this month. If you can believe it, the #15-ranked Gauchos' place is not 100% assured. The NCAA takes 20 teams, but UCSB is in a region which is absolutely loaded with many of the top tennis programs and players. Eight teams from UCSB's region will get invited and it's probably all going to come down to politics.

The Gauchos have won four Big West Championships in a row, have three or four top-notch wins and have had no bad losses this year. But with the NCAA regional rankings carrying a lot of weight, it doesn't help UCSB too

much. The team has done all it can to put itself in the position to make it to the NCAAs, but it's all in the hands of a committee now.

Provided the Gauchos get the invite, they'll probably be able to win one or two matches before exiting.

For their part, the men's team, like almost every other sports team at UCSB, is a year and two or three blue-chip recruits away from making a serious move in the rankings.

...

If you like baseball with a lot of offense (provided you go to Gaucho baseball games), then you'll enjoy the upcoming series with Nevada in a week or two. The Wolfpack have the biggest hitters this side of the Toronto Blue Jays, with nine players having significant plate appearances hitting over .320.

MEET

Continued from p.1A good this weekend as he has all season. Garcia burned up the track, as well as his personal best, with a 1:50.4 time in the 800-meter, less than two seconds behind the leader.

"That is a really fast time, especially for a freshman," Kallick said. "It was only a couple of tenths off the school record."

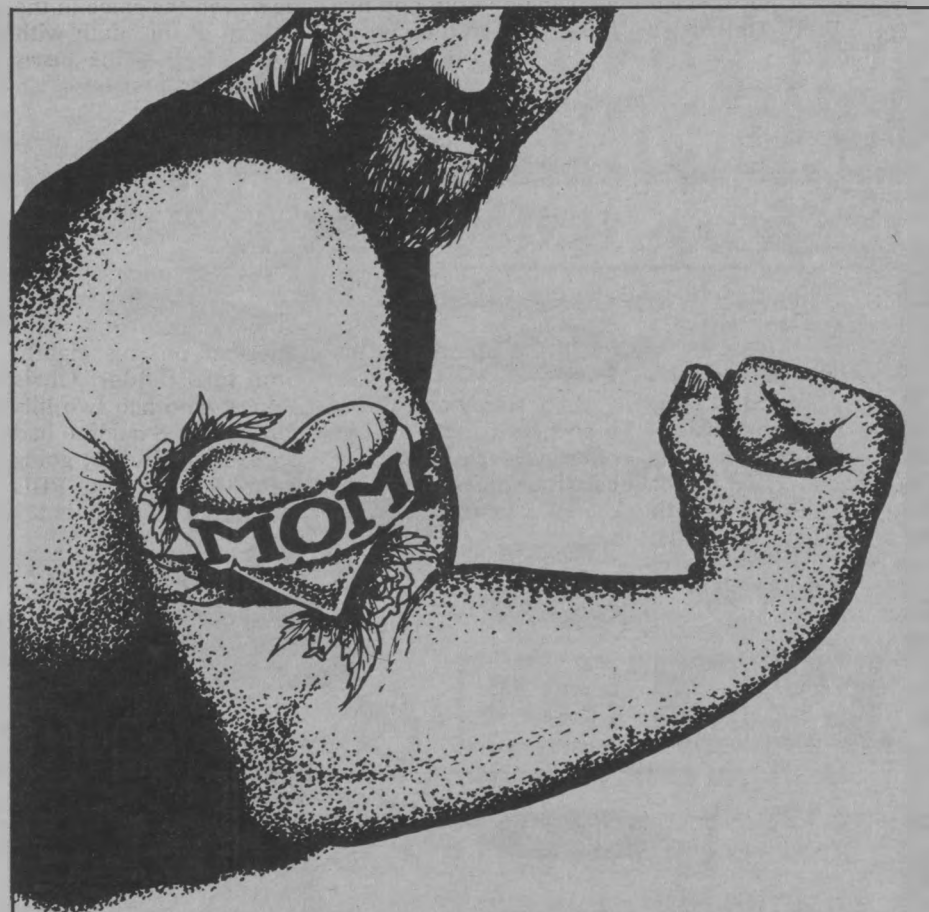
Fifth place seemed to be a comfort zone for many of the Gauchos, and considering all the outstanding athletes in attendance, it was a very comfortable place indeed.

Damion Lewin grabbed the fifth spot in his title

event, the men's 3000-meter steeplechase, while Beckie Levy finished at number five in the women's 1500. Santa Barbara teammate Julie Thomas followed closely behind in eighth place to give the Gauchos the second best combined score for the race.

However, the most impressive team showing for a single event was turned in by the women's 4x400 relay squad, who broke the 4-minute mark for the first time this season.

In this, the first meet in what is now a trio of championship competitions, the Gauchos passed with flying colors and can look forward to even more success in the coming months.



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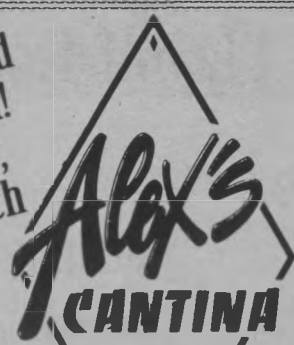
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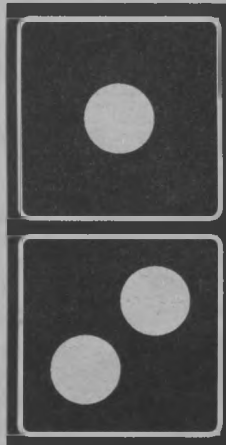
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