

SPORTS MONDAY

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UCSB's Season Ends With Loss to Irish at NCAA Tourney

Notre Dame Doubles Teams Do the Damage in Victory

By Michael Cadilli
Staff Writer

The Gauchos sent their best troops down south to Georgia, but history again repeated itself as the northern team won the battle.

The UCSB women's tennis team lost to the #15-seeded Notre Dame Fighting Irish, 5-3, in their first ever NCAA appearance Friday at Athens. Santa Barbara was tied 3-3 with the Irish after the singles portion, but had no luck in doubles — losing two in a row to end the match.

Even though UCSB wasn't able to move on to the next round, the sentiment on the team wasn't of disappointment because this was the best Gaucho season in school history.

"It would have been nice to win, but I'm not disappointed," senior Laura Rutledge said.

"You can't be disappointed when you go to the NAAs. We had a great season; just getting there was nice."

This turned out to be Rutledge's last match, as she has used up her four years of eligibility. She certainly did her best to help the team by winning a close #3 singles match, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-4), over Laura Schwab. She also teamed up with Lynn Coakley in doubles, and they were about to clinch the win, but the game was stopped once Notre Dame had won the other two doubles matches.

"It was really anticlimactic," Rutledge said. "I'm gonna miss it."

The #15-ranked Gauchos finished the season with a 19-4 record, having lost only to higher-ranked teams such as #9 UCLA, #4 Stanford and #7 Pepperdine, before the loss to the Irish squad that was right behind UCSB in the

national rankings at #20. Going in, UCSB Head Coach Chris Russell knew that they were in for a long day of tennis.

"We had a strong feeling going into this match that it was going to be a battle," he said. "We knew we matched up really well with Notre Dame. We fought hard, but they played very well."

Santa Barbara's #1 player Jean Okada, ranked #38 in the nation, was in a position for another upset as she took the first set, 6-0, from the Irish's Wendy Crabtree, who is ranked 16th. But Okada was slowed down by the 80 degree weather and the humidity, losing the next two sets, 4-6, 4-6.

"I was playing very well in the first set," Okada said. "But I think I just started to slow down a little bit, playing

See NCAA5, p.2A



MICHAEL D'EPICRO/Daily Nexus

Sophomore Amelia White scored an easy 6-0, 6-1 victory over Notre Dame's Christy Faustmann at the NCAA Championships this weekend in Georgia.

Track Concludes Year at League Meet

Women Finish 6th While Men Take 4th at Las Cruces

By Noah Smith
Staff Writer

It was a sultry day in Las Cruces.

The UCSB men's and women's track teams participated in the annual Big West Championships at New Mexico State this weekend and returned with something less than pride.

Although the women's teams one-upped their previous notch of seventh place, they did not even threaten a fourth-place finish as Head Coach Pete Dolan had hoped. The men dropped one spot from last year's #3 finish, well behind host team NMSU, a squad that clearly caught the competition off guard.

Perhaps the sole consolation for both teams was that they kept it close with their best-matched rivals, Long Beach State. UCSB's men edged LBSU by 4.5 points, while the women finished a mere 14 points down. As expected, Utah State won both sides of the meet, although UNLV's surprising female squad nearly stole a victory at the championships.

Regrettably, no Gauchos qualified for the NCAA championships. The favorites for this honor, freshman Adrian Garcia in the men's 800 and Jennifer Lagle in the women's triple jump, each finished a respectable third in their events, but were unable to match previous personal bests.

Garcia's final time of 1:54.61 was swift, but just off the pace set by Ne-



MICHAEL D'EPICRO/Daily Nexus

The UCSB track and field teams did not do as well as they had hoped at this weekend's Big West Championships at New Mexico State. None of the Gaucho athletes who took part did well enough to receive an invitation to the NAAs.

vada's Brandon Rock. UCSB's Brian Steip was a few strides back of Garcia and finished eighth overall.

Andrew White, another NCAA possibility for the Gauchos, ran a fourth-place 54.79 in the 400 hurdles, closely followed by teammate Marc Musitano.

However, third place was the highest the Gauchos could manage at the tournament. In addition to Garcia and Lagle, UCSB's Frank Smith and Kalina Freeman got the third spot in their events, the triple jump and the high jump, respectively.

One of the brightest

points of the competition occurred in the men's decathlon, when Gaucho Mark Cassayre outthrew his rivals to capture the #1 distance of 57.27 meters in the javelin throw.

More than a meter behind in second place was the eventual winner of the decathlon, Nevada's Enoch Borozinski, who won seven of the 10 events. Cassayre finished fifth.

Although the women's team could only come up with sixth place, they showed that they have a lot of depth in middle distance. Testimony to this were Julie Thomas and

Becky Levy, who combined in the 1500-meter run to capture fourth and fifth place, respectively. Accomplishing the same feat in the 3000 were Gaucho teammates Deanna Hadley and Kara Bradbury.

For all teams involved, it was a meet of trial and error as few records fell and few expectations were met.

For the Gauchos, their season ends on a rather disappointing note, but this leaves a bittersweet taste in the mouths of fans who must realize the overall success of the year.

'Pack Take Series, Conference Title; Gauchos Finished

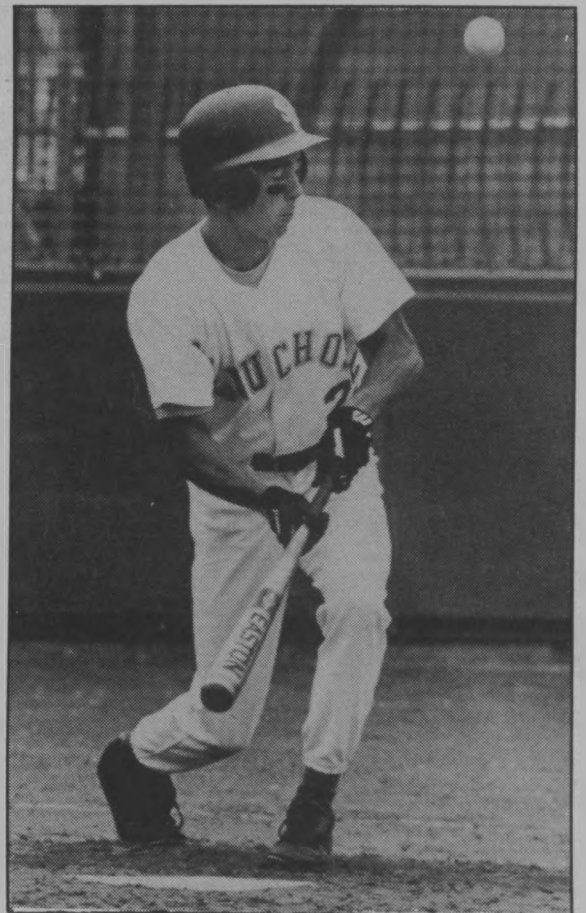
By Curtis Kaiser
Staff Writer

(21-33, 7-14) by scores of 6-4, 13-0, and 10-1.

Going from last to first place in one season, the Nevada Wolfpack (39-10 overall, 16-5 Big West) finished off their Cinderella season by clinching the 1994 Big West Championship with a weekend sweep of the Gauchos baseball team

The Wolfpack entered the series with the fifth most potent offense in the nation, and proceeded to justify that, as they lit up Gaucho pitchers for 29 runs on 40 hits over the three-game set. "They're not the fifth-ranked offensive team in

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GERRY MELENDEZ/Daily Nexus

Junior centerfielder Doug Smaldino fouls off a pitch in the series with the Nevada Wolfpack. UNR took all three games from UCSB this weekend.

NCAAS

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less with my feet and reaching more."

However, it was co-captain Coakley in the #2 singles slot who had to reach down inside to narrowly pull out a victory. She lost the first set 6-4, and was down 5-2 in the second to Holyn Lord when she mounted a comeback by fighting off two set points. Coakley took the second set in a tie-breaker and breezed through the third set, winning the final two sets, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0.

Gaicho sophomore Amelia White was also

able to win a singles match, 6-0, 6-1, over Christy Faustmann, in the #5 slot.

"I started out strong and didn't let up," White said. "Things were working well and I was closing out the points and finishing well."

In the #4 spot, UCSB's Kathy Peterson fell, 6-1, 6-1, to Sherri Vitale, who is college basketball guru Dick Vitale's daughter.

At #6, singles co-captain Kelly Spencer was down a break in the second set and came back to force a third set. However, she was unable to pull out the match against Lisa Tholen, losing 3-6, 6-4, 3-6.

FINALE

Continued from p.1A
the country for nothing," UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema said. "I think we did a good job of holding them down when we did. We held our ground for a while, but their talent prevailed."

Although Nevada is known for its hitting, its pitching held the Gaicho batters in check, allowing UCSB hitters only 16 hits and five runs over the three games, while walking only one batter.

"The pitchers have been the heart of the team," Nevada Head Coach Gary Powers said. "These three starters [Post, Lake and Patton] have been like

nails for us all year."

Friday's game was the most exciting and competitive contest of the series, as both teams were held in check by excellent starting pitching. Gaicho Steve Lane (5-5) allowed three runs over 6½ innings, while Bobby Post (10-0) of the Wolfpack threw eight strong innings, permitting UCSB three runs on five hits.

Santa Barbara drew first blood in the fourth, when a Wynter Phoenix single drove in Matt Bokemeier. After the Wolfpack scored one in the sixth, the Gaichos answered with two more on Phoenix's first home run of the year.

Nevada put across three runs in the seventh to take the lead 4-3, but in the bottom of the ninth, Gaicho pinch hitter John Minton singled in Matt Bazzani to tie the game and send it into extra innings. The Wolfpack won the game in the tenth inning off UCSB reliever Clint Pearson (1-1), as Mark Lewis drove in Andy Dominique for the winning run. Rico Lagatutta (3-3) earned the win for Nevada in relief.

The Gaichos stayed in Saturday's game on the strength of excellent starting pitching from Pat Treend (3-8). However, the flood gates opened in the ninth when Treend

came out as the Wolfpack scored nine runs off relievers Steve Cain and Pearson. Nevada scored a total of 11 runs in the inning, although four of the runs against Pearson were unearned.

Left-hander Kevin Lake (10-3) pitched a masterpiece against Santa Barbara, going the distance for his first shutout of the season, while striking out 11, walking none and allowing only four hits.

Providing the bulk of the Nevada offense in the game and in the series was right fielder and ninth-place hitter Terrance Wilson. Coming into the weekend, Wilson was hitting only .216, but over the three games, Wilson went 6-for-10 with six runs, six runs batted in, two doubles, and a home run over the scoreboard in left field.

"I've been struggling all year, and it was good to come out here and break out of my struggles and clinch the championship," Wilson said. "We tried to come into this series really relaxed. We just came in and did what we've been doing all year."

Sunday's game was preceded by ceremonies honoring the four Gaicho seniors: shortstop Matt Bokemeier, reliever John Bretza, second baseman Peter Muro and catcher

Mark Umemoto. All four played in the game, their last opportunity to don the UCSB uniform as active players.

"I'm gonna miss the guys and the team camaraderie," Muro said. "It's been a tough year, but we battled back, never quit and never gave up. This program is headed for better and better days."

"Once I got the gear on, I was OK, but thinking about things before and after the game was hard," an emotional Umemoto said. "I had my fun here. I got a chance to play, and I enjoyed my four years."

Once again, Sunday's game saw the Gaichos play competitively with the Wolfpack for the first part of the game, then falter in the late innings.

UCSB was down by only one run until the seventh inning, when Nevada scored two runs. The Wolfpack blew the game open in the eighth, when they scored five runs off reliever John Minton, including home runs by Dominique and pinch hitter Josh Taylor. Nevada starter John Patton (5-1) went the distance to earn the win, allowing five hits and no earned runs.

"We finally got a conference championship," Powers said.



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Gaicho catcher Mark Umemoto tags out a Wolfpack hitter after a dropped third strike. Umemoto got the start in his final game of his UCSB career Sunday.

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Softball Team Wraps Up Year With Pair of Losses to Titan Squad

By Jenny Kok
Staff Writer

It was a rough way to end a season of ups and downs.

Saturday afternoon, the UCSB women's softball team attempted to end their season on a winning note, but it just didn't happen. The #22-ranked Cal State Fullerton Titans (32-27, 21-11 Big West) added two to the already eight-game Gaicho losing streak with a 6-1, 3-0 sweep of UCSB.

The pair of losses just added to the devastating all-around slump the young UCSB squad has been experiencing on the field and in the batter's box. But it was plain to see that the Gauchos (23-32, 10-22) fought much harder in these last two games than they had in recent weeks.

"The team really wanted to win for the seniors [Margo Melendrez and Krissy Kyriazis]," UCSB Head Coach Frann Wageneck explained. "And because of that, several of the team members fought hard all the way until the end of the second game. But against a team like Fullerton, it just wasn't enough."

After allowing two runs

in the first inning of game one, the Gauchos showed a little bit of fire, as shortstop Kathy Shortall hit an RBI single, scoring second baseman AJ Vitulli. Unfortunately, that was the only scoring opportunity that Santa Barbara managed to capitalize on for the rest of the game.

The Titans came right back and scored three runs in the second with the help of a Gaicho error and added three more runs to their previous five with the help of an error in the seventh inning.

"We really let down defensively the first game, right at the beginning and at the very end," Wageneck said.

Offensively, Vitulli led the Gauchos, going 2-for-3, including a double. Melendrez and Shortall added the only other two hits for Santa Barbara.

In game two, the Gauchos made a defensive comeback, but as has been the major problem for the team this season, they just couldn't capitalize at the plate.

In the first two innings, Fullerton pitcher Trinity Johnson walked three batters, but the Gauchos couldn't drive in the baserunners.

It was a strong defensive battle for the first four



GERRY MELENDREZ/Daily Nexus

The Gaicho softball team ended the 1994 season with its eighth consecutive loss Saturday to Cal State Fullerton.

scoreless innings. But in the fifth, CSUF's Christina Wagay walked to first base and immediately stole second with some strong baserunning skills. This set up the opportunity for teammate Monica Bagalayos as she roped the ball to left center. Wagay scored on a late throw, but Bagalayos was thrown out as

she attempted to take third after the play at home, ending the top half of the inning.

A throwing error to first in the sixth inning followed by a fielding error in the outfield by the Gauchos scored one Titan and left another at third. That baserunner scored on a pitch that got past

catcher Susan Williams, ending all scoring for game two.

"It was a really tough loss," Melendrez explained. "We fought so hard during that second game. Nobody really let up. I guess it just wasn't enough."

UCSB's Stacy Atwood led the Gauchos' hitting

effort as she went 2-for-2, including a double and a walk. The only other hit of the game came off the bat of Vitulli.

"Fullerton has always been tough," Kyriazis said. "It was just a hard way to end the season, and my college career, when I know we could play better."

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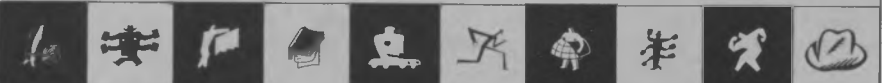
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