

Sports MONDAY

UCSB Too Much for 'Stangs

■ Quiroz Ties School Record for Saves in Weekend Sweep

BY MARVIN GAPULTOS
Staff Writer

After this past weekend, the UCSB baseball team can attest to the old adage that "pitching and defense wins ball games." Along with the usual offense supplied by Gauchos bats, Santa Barbara had spectacular play coming from the mound as well as from the field as it committed zero errors in its two victories over Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

On Friday, UCSB (20-14 overall, 8-6 in the Big West) was looking to continue its three-game winning streak, as it faced Cal Poly (16-16, 5-9) at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium. Junior Gabe Neboyia started on the mound for the Gauchos and pitched his second complete game of the season, raising his record to 4-4. The right-hander allowed only one earned run on five hits, while walking three and striking out seven in UCSB's 8-1 victory over the Mustangs.

"I think I did a real good job with my pitches," Neboyia said. "I was getting ahead of the batters, and I

got some of the first batters out in a few innings."

Neboyia received help from the plate from his fellow Gauchos. Senior first baseman Bryan LaCour got things going in the first inning when he drilled his seventh home run of the year with two outs and one on to move Santa Barbara ahead of the Mustangs 2-0. LaCour, who leads the team in doubles with 13 and RBIs with 48, finished the day 2-3 from the plate with a two-bagger and two RBIs.

In the fourth inning, the Gauchos doubled their lead after back-to-back RBI doubles by senior centerfielder Jim Alderete and sophomore second baseman Chad Peshke, making things that much easier for Neboyia.

"After we had a four-run lead, I just felt more comfortable out there," Neboyia said. "Our offense and defense just played real well today and that helped me out."

Sophomore shortstop Jeff Bannon had a two-run blast of his own in the bottom of the eighth to close out the scoring. It was Bannon's ninth round-tripper of the year.

In Saturday's game, Cal Poly's offense seemed to wake up as it connected on 16 hits compared to just five the previous day. However, the Gauchos would hold on for a 12-10 victory, thanks again to great pitching.

Senior righty David Uris got the start and earned his fourth win of the year, putting in six innings of work, giving up six runs on eight hits, walking one and whiffing four batters.

With Santa Barbara holding on to a 10-8 lead in the seventh inning, freshman closer Chris Quiroz came in to save the day. And save the day he did. The Arcadia, Calif., native threw for 2.1 innings and gave up just one earned run on four hits. Quiroz notched his eighth save of the year, tying him with John Minton for the Gauchos single-season record that was set in 1996.

"It's good to get records and things of that nature," Quiroz said. "But that's not why I play. I play to win games and to help out my team."

UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema commented on his closer's role on the team:



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

YER OUTTA THERE: Sophomore Chad Peshke prepares to tag out a runner over the weekend in the Gauchos' two-game sweep. The third game was rained out.

"Chris came in and got the groundballs, doing what he's been doing all year ... He's not a power guy, he's not going to blow guys away. So we don't have to save him for one inning."

Quiroz continued on his coach's point: "I just went in there and did my job. They just give me the ball and expect me to get outs, and that's what I did. The defense did a great job, too; the two full innings that I pitched, we ended them on double plays."

The Gauchos also received production from the plate in their victory. Bannon, Alderete and sophomore third baseman Dave Molitor each went yard. Alderete finished 3-5 with two ribbies and Molitor went 2-4 with one ribbie. Bannon went 2-3 from the plate, and his solo home run was his 10th of the year — tops on the team, much to his surprise.

"I definitely did not expect that to happen," Bannon said of his 10 homers.

"You could have told me in the beginning of the year that I would have hit five and I still wouldn't have believed it. I've been using my size now more to my advantage, and that's helped with my swing a lot."

Santa Barbara and Cal Poly were rained out of the third scheduled game on Sunday. No makeup game has been scheduled yet. The Gauchos, who have won five in a row, will travel to USC to face the Trojans on Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Cougars Rip Apart Gauchos Attack

BY JUSTIN MAUCH
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the UCSB men's volleyball team faced the premier volleyball team in the country for two matches to close out its 1999 home schedule at the Thunderdome.

The #1 BYU Cougars (25-1 overall, 17-1 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) have been steamrolling opponents all season long, their only loss coming from a five-match defeat at the hands of #2 Long Beach State. Santa Barbara entered the weekend winning five out of its last six matches, but could not provide an answer for BYU's quick offense and stifling defense.

The Cougars took Friday night's match 3-15, 15-4, 15-6 and 15-3 and kept their momentum in Saturday's match to win 15-7, 15-5 and 15-6. The losses drop the Gauchos' record to 9-14 overall, 5-13 in the MPSF, which will keep Santa Bar-

bara out of the postseason this year.

On Friday night, UCSB pounced on the Cougars early, jumping out to a 6-0 advantage behind good blocking and BYU hitting errors. The Cougars never got into the game and the



Ken Preston

Gauchos increased their lead to 10-1 before BYU answered with two points to make the score 10-3. Santa Barbara kept its focus and scored the next five points to take the first game 15-3. UCSB hit .419 for the game, while BYU hit .111. However, the Gauchos were not so fortunate in the second game. After the score was

tied at 2-2, the Cougars regrouped and went on a seven-point run to hold a commanding 9-2 lead. Behind the stellar play of senior outside hitter Ossie Antonetti and senior middle blocker Ryan Millar, BYU scored six of the next eight points to even the match at one-game apiece.

"It's very tough to block [BYU] because they run a very quick offense," UCSB Head Coach Ken Preston said. "Even when they don't pass the ball, they run quick sets. They transition very well and touch a lot of balls on blocks."

Santa Barbara kept within striking distance in game three — down 6-7 — but BYU's experience was too much to overcome, and the Cougars went on an 8-0 run to close out the game. UCSB never led in the fourth game and dropped its third consecutive game of the night 15-3. After the first game, UCSB managed to score

See BYU, p.3A

Hitting Not Up to Par in Losses

BY ZACK O'NEILL
Reporter

As the UCSB softball team moves through its conference schedule, things are beginning to get just a bit more intense.

All collegiate athletes can tell you that the most important contests they will compete in are the ones against teams in their own conference. Winning conference games can erase a miserable preseason, losing them will deny a team entry into postseason play.

The Gauchos and their current record (19-18 overall, 5-6 in the Big West) are currently in a position just good enough to qualify for the regional playoffs, which are a little over a month away.

"We're ranked seventh in the region, and seven teams are going to the regionals," UCSB Head Coach Liz Kelly said. "We're not out of it; we're where we need to be to make the playoffs."

Part of how the Gauchos got to where they are was by taking two of three road games against the University of Pacific on April 6-7.

The Gauchos played in a doubleheader on the first day and won the initial game 1-0 in 10 innings behind the solid pitching of Abigail Murphy. The sophomore righty pitched 10 scoreless innings, scattering seven hits and walking only one batter.

On the offensive end, senior second base-

man Katie Ziegler ended the scoring drought with an RBI single in the top of the 10th.

"Our team had been getting fooled all day, and I hadn't hit one ball solid for the whole game," said Ziegler of her key at bat. "I got a good outside pitch, and I just went with it."

Santa Barbara rode the winning momentum into the second game of the day against the Tigers and beat them again, 2-1.

The game ended when senior right fielder Kiki McAulay threw out a runner at the plate for the last out of the game — a play that broke the left thumb of junior catcher Kendra Wood. Wood's thumb has not prevented her from missing any action, however, as her left thumb is on her glove hand.

"I had this feeling the ball was coming to me, and it did," McAulay said. "I threw a shot to Kendra, and she did a really good job of blocking the plate. We had her out by 10 feet."

The next day Santa Barbara lost its final regular season game against Pacific, 2-1. Junior pitcher Jennifer Tolton was solid, allowing only two runs on five hits, but the loss dropped her to 10-8 on the season. However, the Gauchos offense could muster little more than a home run off the bat of freshman Kim Sawyer — her first of the year.

"[Pacific pitcher] Brandee McArthur gave us a lot of trouble," Kelly said of the

See SOFTBALL, p.3A

Sporting Events Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
No events scheduled.	Baseball @ USC 5 p.m.	No events scheduled	Men's gymnastics, USA Collegiate Nationals through Saturday Women's gymnastics, USAG Nationals through Saturday	Men's volleyball @ Cal State Northridge 7 p.m. Baseball @ Long Beach State 7 p.m.	Men's tennis vs. Pacific 12 p.m. Softball @ Cal State Fullerton through Sunday 2 p.m. Baseball @ Long Beach State 6 p.m.	Baseball @ Long Beach State 1 p.m.

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BYU

Continued from p.1A

only 13 points to BYU's 45.

"I don't think [BYU] was ready to play in the first game and they made a lot of hitting errors," Preston said. "Antonetti can side out very well and Millar also did a very nice job. [Junior outside hitter] Rick Rauth played well for us [Friday night]; however, I thought we could get a little more offense if [freshman outside hitter] Joaquin Acosta was on, but he wasn't. It was a risk and it didn't work."

Junior outside hitter Kevin Collins scorched the Cougars with a .370 hitting percentage behind a 30-kill performance. Collins also had two service aces and three digs. Freshman outside hitter David Kohl notched 13 kills on 30 swings for the Gauchos and recorded a team-high nine digs. BYU had four players with 10 or more kills, led by Antonetti's 20 (.302) and Millar's 18 (.538). Senior outside hitter Rich Lambourne chipped in 10 kills and junior

outside hitter Brad Goldston had 11.

Senior defensive specialist Josh Kreunen, who played his last home match for the Gauchos, noted that too many errors cost Santa Barbara the match.

"It was a pretty bad loss for us," he said. "BYU has a lot of weapons and they can go to a couple different guys for automatic kills. We made too many errors, and we can't afford to make those errors against BYU."

On Saturday night, the Cougars picked up where they left off from Friday. The Gauchos raced off to a 5-1 lead, forcing BYU to call a timeout to stem Santa Barbara's momentum. The Cougars came out of the timeout and rallied to tie the score at six, eventually scoring the next five points for an 11-6 advantage. BYU didn't look back and won the game on a Ryan Millar spike, 15-7. The Cougars opened the second game with a 10-1 spurt and won the game on a Millar ace, which extended their lead to two games to none. In the third game, the Gauchos kept close and led 6-5, but did not score again as BYU scored the last 10 points of the game to

complete the sweep.

"I don't think we came out with enough enthusiasm [Saturday night]," Preston said. "This match started off the same way as Friday night, but they just transition so well and everything went their way. We sided out well for awhile in game three, but when the score was tied at six, we lost it. We made too many errors. In order to beat a team like BYU, you have to side out over an extended three-hour period."

BYU Head Coach Carl McGown offered some praise for the inexperienced Gaucho team.

"They have some really nice arms in there; Acosta is hitting the ball really hard, and Kevin Collins always hits the ball really hard. They have a lot of good young players, especially on the outside. I think the amount of experience has a huge influence on how well you play in a match. They are going to be a good team next year."

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SOFTBALL

Continued from p.1A

game. "We really couldn't make an adjustment until the seventh inning, when it was too late."

UCSB returned home with a Big West record of 5-4 as the team prepared for its weekend games with conference rival Long Beach State at UCSB's Campus Diamond.

The Gaucho offense continued to struggle in the first game of a doubleheader Saturday, producing only one hit in a 1-0 loss. Murphy, who has been consistently brilliant for Santa Barbara all season, had a performance that was wasted. She went the distance, allowing

just five hits and an unearned run in the loss. The defeat dropped Murphy's overall record to 9-7 on the year, but she still holds a team-low 2.17 earned run average.

"I have just been going out and throwing my best pitch," the San Bruno, Calif., native said. "I basically pitch right at them because they're the ones who have to hit it. My whole idea is: Don't be scared."

UCSB's offense came alive in the second game of the doubleheader by scoring four runs in the first two innings. Leading the attack was junior centerfielder Tonya Dias, who hit a two-run bomb for her team-

leading fifth home run of the year.

However, the 49ers mounted an offensive attack of their own, and when the dust settled, the score was 8-4 in favor of Long Beach State, spelling a 49er sweep in the doubleheader.

Sunday's game vs. LBSU was rained out, and it will be rescheduled later in the season. The Gauchos must take to the road again this Saturday and Sunday to face Cal State Fullerton.

"We have good days and bad days," said Wood. "In this conference, all our games are tough. We haven't been consistent, but as long as we're aggressive, we'll finish strong in the end."



SWINGIN' ALONG: Junior Mandy Edwards takes a hack in the Gauchos' 1-0 loss Saturday to Long Beach State. UCSB also lost the nightcap 8-4.

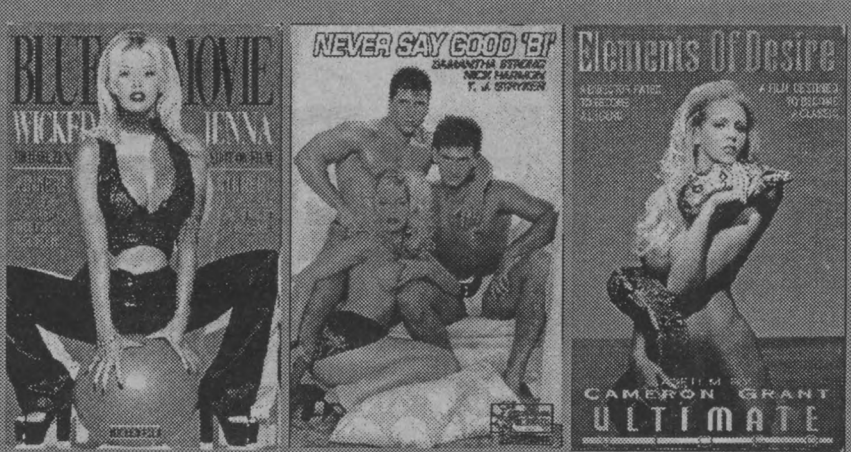
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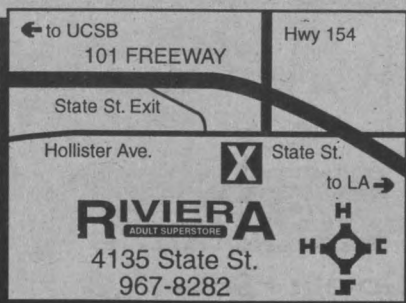
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EVALUATION VISIT

On Wednesday, April 14, at 1:00pm, an external team of reviewers will conduct an Open Forum in the UCen State Street Room as part of UCSB's Athletics Certification Evaluation Visit.

The peer-review team welcomes the opportunity to hear from you and encourages your attendance.

Peerreview team members are:

Maurice W. Scherrens, Chair,
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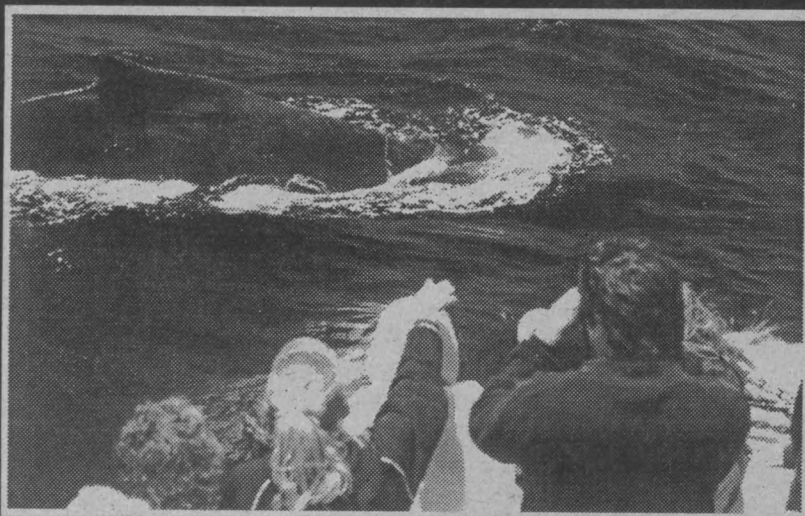
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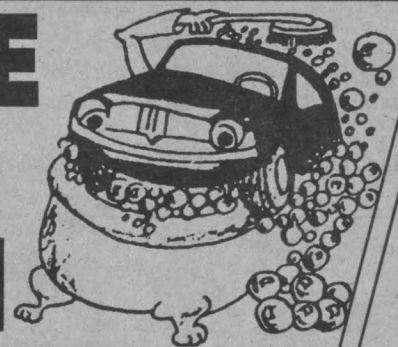
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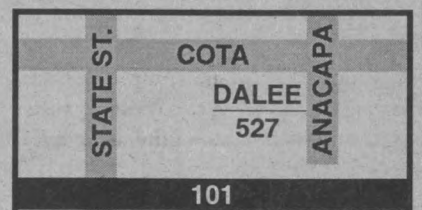


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