

Sports MONDAY



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

TOUGH TRIP: Senior opposite Kevin Collins had 40 kills in two games, but the UCSB men's volleyball team still lost both its matches to #7 Brigham Young in Utah this past weekend.

Cougars Double Up on UCSB

■ **Men's Volleyball:** Gauchos Lose Two Straight to #7 BYU

BY BROOKE ROBERTS
Staff Writer

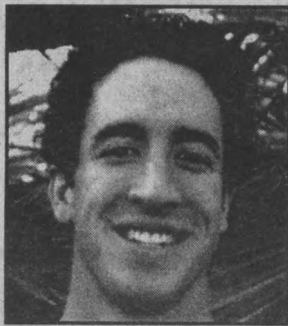
At the Smith Fieldhouse in Provo, Utah, this past weekend, the #7 BYU Cougars could have summed up their conference games with the #14 UCSB men's volleyball team in one phrase: Another one bites the dust.

The #14 Gauchos (10-13 overall, 6-11 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) met Brigham Young University on the road this past weekend, and dropped successive games to the Cougars on Friday and Saturday. The matches marked the end of UCSB's road schedule — aside from two home games this week, all that's left on the Gauchos' agenda is (possibly) the MPSF playoffs at the end of the month.

On Friday night the Gauchos played their first match against BYU, and struggled in a three-game defeat. In game one the Cougars leapt out to an early 5-1 lead, and pulled away with a 7-1 run later in the game. The first game of the weekend ended 15-4, with Santa Barbara on the losing end. Game two had the Gauchos starting off with a

stronger showing, nipping at the Cougars' heels but still falling behind, 8-10. From that point on, BYU continued to pick up steam and managed to close out the game with a 9-15 win.

In game three UCSB jumped out to a 2-0 lead before BYU began to close in. Santa Barbara tried to



Andy Tomkinson

keep pace, but the Cougars went on another back-breaking run and UCSB only scored one more point before the game ended, 4-15. Game three's close signified the end of Friday's match, with the Cougars shutting out the Gauchos 3-0. UCSB's leaders for Friday night included senior opposite Kevin Collins who had 16 kills, and sophomore server Britt Galang who had nine digs in the loss.

"We were about equal skill-wise [with BYU]," senior middle blocker

Andy Tomkinson said. "They were just a lot more consistent. We'd be neck-and-neck, and they just kept pulling away. We tried to build momentum, but it just wasn't enough."

Unfortunately for Santa Barbara, Saturday's match ended up heading in the same direction as Friday's. The Cougars won games one and two, taking the contests 15-6 and 15-7, respectively. Game three seemed to be in BYU's favor, as the Cougars took an early 8-3 lead and looked ready to put UCSB away. However, the Gauchos went on a seven-point run, taking advantage of a number of BYU hitting errors and winning the game, 16-14.

"I'm disappointed that we let down a little in game three," BYU Head Coach Carl McGown said after the match. "[UCSB] was able to exploit a weakness in our rotation."

Game four started out with a 9-2 BYU run, from which UCSB would not recover. Santa Barbara fought for six more points, but the Cougars still dominated the scoreboard, 8-14. BYU's Joaquin Acosta, a UCSB transfer, delivered

See GAUCHOS, p.3A

Santa Barbara Splits Pair of Big West Matches Against UC Irvine, Idaho

■ **Women's Tennis:** Gauchos Win Convincingly Against Idaho, Fall to Irvine in Critical Match

BY ZACK O'NEILL
Staff Writer

The UCSB women's tennis team played host to a pair of conference opponents when it faced Idaho and UC Irvine at the RecCen Courts this past weekend. Riding the momentum of a four-game Big West winning streak, the Gauchos were hoping to sweep the weekend series and get the inside track for a #1 seeding in the Big West Championships later this month.

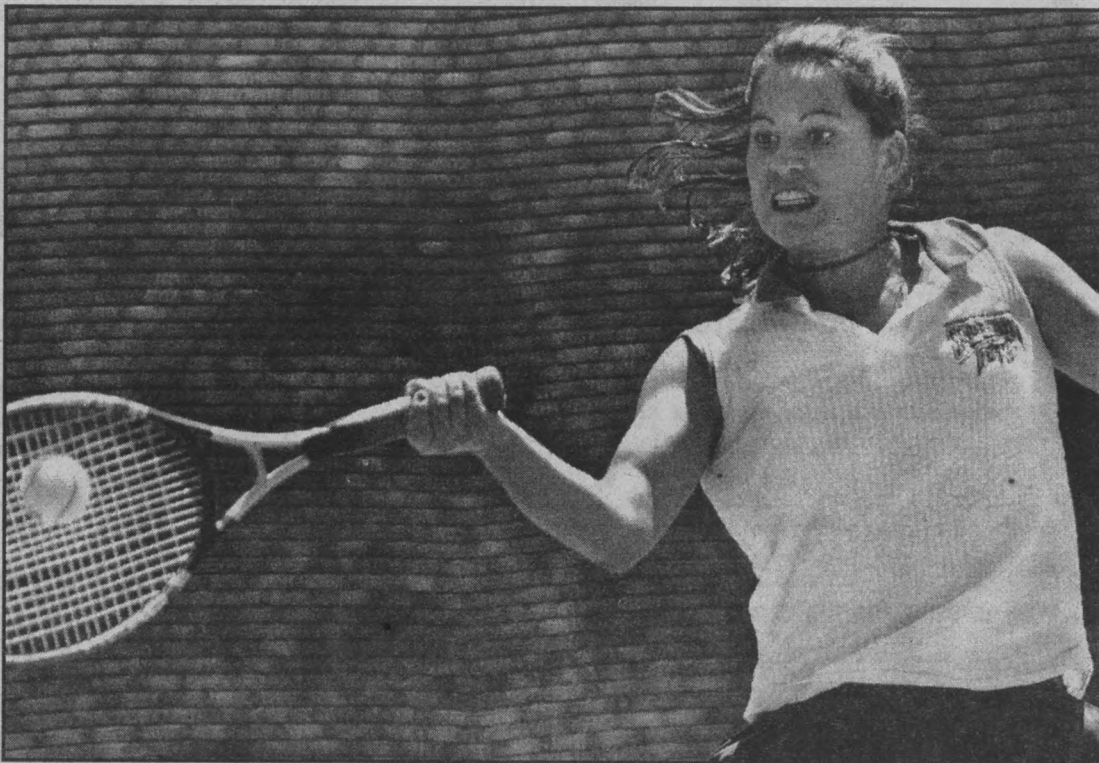
After defeating Idaho on Friday, Santa Barbara improved to 5-0 in the Big West, but dropped its second contest of the weekend to the Anteaters on Sunday, 8-1. The loss to UCI put UCSB in a position where it

must win the Big West Championships if it hopes to advance to the NCAA regionals in May.

"Based on what we did in our non-league games and against Irvine, I honestly don't think we'll get an at-large bid to the NAAs," UCSB Head Coach Pete Kirkwood said. "We're going to have to win the Big West [playoffs] to go to regionals."

The weekend started out well enough for Santa Barbara (13-6 overall, 5-1 Big West), when the Gauchos defeated Idaho, 6-3. Santa Barbara dominated singles play, winning five out of six matches. The victory bumped UCSB's conference record to 5-0 heading into the Sunday show-

See UCSB, p.3A



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

HOME SPLIT: The UCSB women's tennis team easily disposed of Idaho last Friday, 6-3, but was defeated by UC Irvine 8-1 on Sunday to drop to 5-1 in Big West play. The Gauchos are now in second place in the Big West.

Sporting Events Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
No Events Scheduled	Baseball @ UCLA 2 p.m.	Men's volleyball vs. Cal State Northridge Thunderdome, 7 p.m.	No Events Scheduled	Men's tennis @ Big West Bash Moscow, Idaho (Fri-Sun) Women's tennis @ Texas Christian 1 p.m. Baseball vs. Cal Poly Casar Uyesaka Stadium, 2 p.m. (Fri-Sun)	Women's tennis @ North Texas noon Softball vs. Fullerton Campus Diamond noon (Sat-Sun) Men's volleyball vs. Stanford Thunderdome, 7 p.m.	Women's tennis @ Rice 2 p.m.



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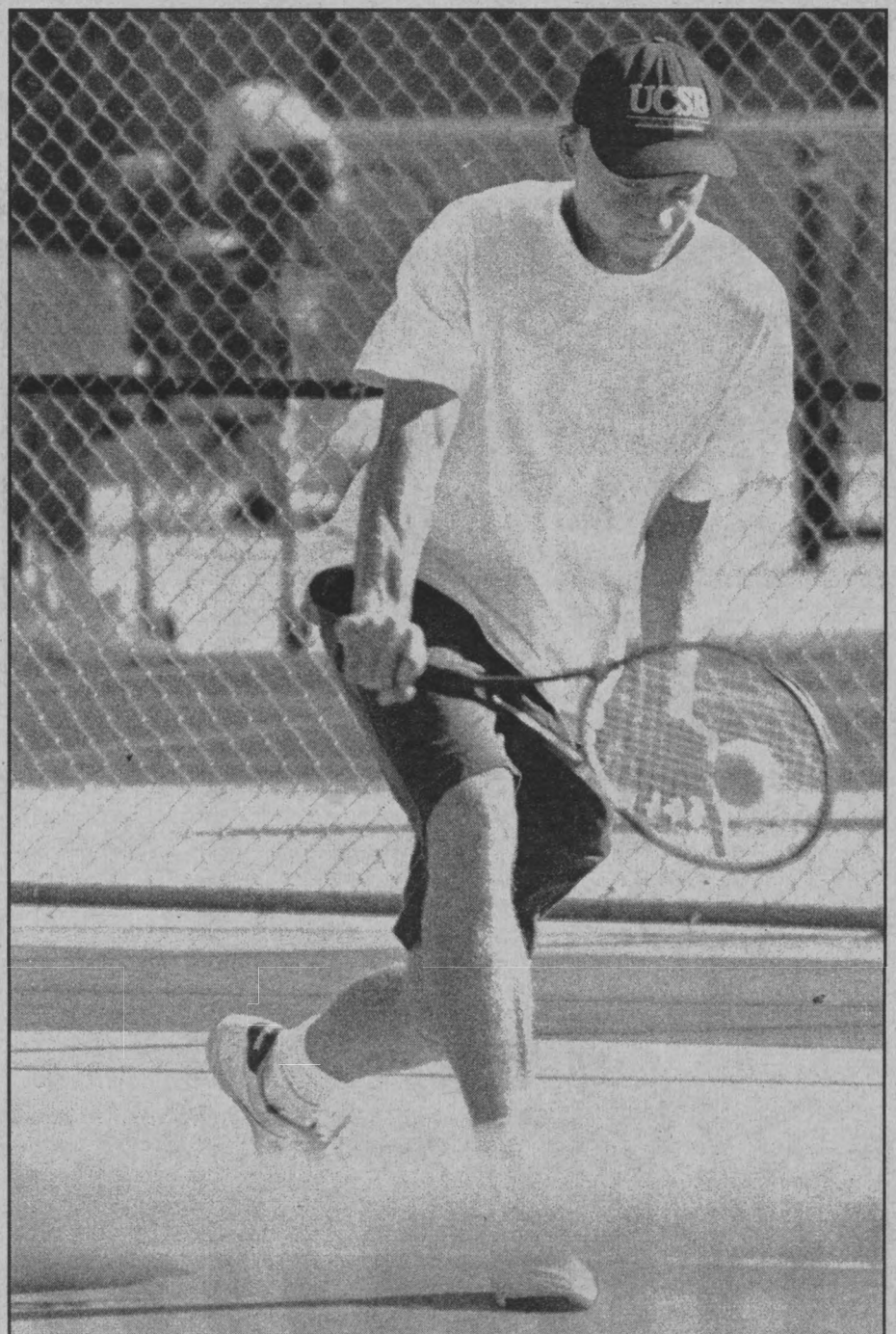


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UPDATE: The UCSB men's tennis team had an unofficial match at San Diego State this past weekend, where Gauchos were swept. UCSB next plays in the Big West Bash this weekend.

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GAUCHOS

Continued from p.1A

the final match point. Acosta's point ended the match and the weekend, 1-3, extending UCSB's road losing streak to three.

"Fundamentally, we didn't do so well," freshman outside hitter Brian Nordberg said. "We didn't pass very well, we didn't serve very well. [BYU's] offense is pretty unstoppable."

Now UCSB finds itself in a position where it must win its last two games to

even be considered for the MPSF play-offs. The Gauchos on Wednesday face a Cal State Northridge team they defeated in three games March 3, and Saturday meet the Stanford Cardinal, who beat UCSB in three games Jan. 6.

"If we lose either one, we won't get in," Tomkinson said. "If we win both, we have a chance. We feel good that the games are at home, but we know they're both must-win games."

Both Wednesday and Saturday's matches will be held in the Thunderdome at 7 p.m.

UCSB

Continued from p.1A

down with Irvine, the Gauchos' main competition in the Big West.

Against Irvine, Santa Barbara stayed close in nearly every match but was thoroughly dominated in the scoring, 8-1. The loss made it a near certainty that the Anteaters will have the number-one seed going into the Big West Championships at the end of April. However, UCSB feels that it wasn't completely overwhelmed by the Anteaters, and may fare better against them should the two meet later in April.

"Irvine is a strong, good team," said junior Gaby Andrade, who lost her match to the Anteaters' Nickole Kabe 6-4, 7-5. "But not everybody was ready today. We were disappointed, but we'll play them again in Ojai. We were definitely in every match, we just weren't playing our best."

Sophomore Cindy Ammann, UCSB's number-one singles player, agreed.

"Every match was really close," said Ammann, who was edged out by UCI's Maureen Diaz, 6-3, 6-4. "We hope we can play them again in regionals. We'll have nothing to lose when we play them again. I feel if I can control my shots and make less mistakes, I can beat [Diaz] the next time I play her."

Santa Barbara takes to the road this weekend for a three-game roadie through Texas. The Gauchos will face Big West opponent North Texas, as well as Texas Christian and Rice University. The following weekend, UCSB will participate in the Big West Championships, to be held in Ojai from April 26-29.

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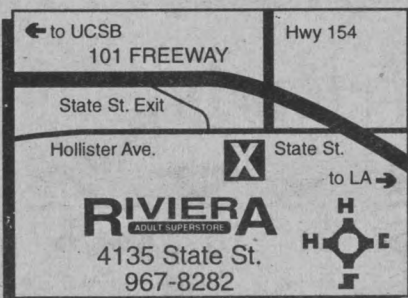
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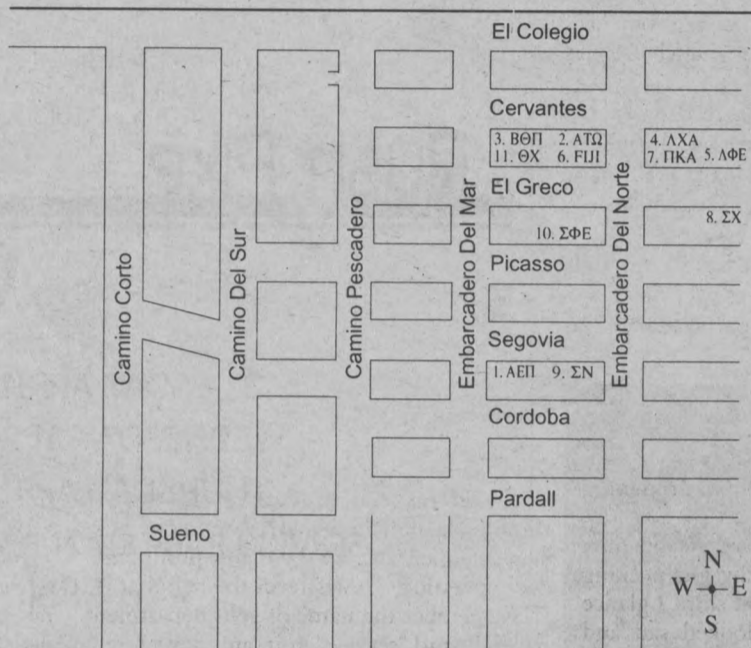
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