

Sports MONDAY

Wildcats Declaw Gauchos in Their Third Straight Defeat

BY ELIAV APPELBAUM
Staff Writer

The Gauchos are ready to put their sparring matches against the Trojans and the Wildcats behind them after a rough start to their season.

The UCSB women's basketball team struggled to record another victory after stomping Louisville in its opener, losing to USC 60-56 at the Sports Arena on Friday and again to Arizona 71-63 at the Thunderdome on Sunday.

Although Santa Barbara stumbled out of the gate with a 1-3 start, it has competed against some of the top programs in the country, and all of its losses have been in single digits.

"I hope some of these close games come out in our favor," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said.

The Gauchos had the upper hand against the Wildcats, bouncing around from even scores to leading by as many as five in the first half before settling for a 32-32 halftime tie. Senior forward Nicole Greathouse came out scorching, drilling in all her 13 points in the first half, including smoking her first three-point tries and pulling down five rebounds en route to an early 12-7 lead.

Santa Barbara contin-

ued to play strong in the second half, yet it could not pull away from Arizona down the stretch. Senior guard Rachelle Rogers knotted the game up at 58-58 with a free throw at the 3:21 mark. The Wildcats then put UCSB away in the final few minutes of play with freshman forward Veranda James' layup and junior forward Elizabeth Pickney's jumper for a 62-58 lead with 1:51 in the game.

Arizona made nine of 10 free throws to seal the game and snuff out any Gaucho rally, despite a put-back by freshman guard Lisa Willett off a Greathouse miss and a trey by Rogers to cut into the deficit in the final 30 seconds of the contest.

"For us, we're proud of how we handled ourselves down the stretch," Arizona Head Coach Joan Bonvicini said. "When we got the lead with two minutes left, we showed a lot of poise."

The Wildcats sporadically threw out a full-court press throughout the game that rattled the Gauchos. Sophomore point guard Debby Caine started the game on a rough note, turning the ball over three times in the first half and stumbling into the bleachers after diving for a loose ball.

"I hit my head on the

play," Caine said. "I came out a little slow [Sunday], and some games I get rattled. I knew I had to stay in it and not let it bother me."

From that point on, Caine made her presence felt on both sides of the ball by finishing with team-high totals of 16 points, six assists and a steal, while logging a game-high 37 minutes.

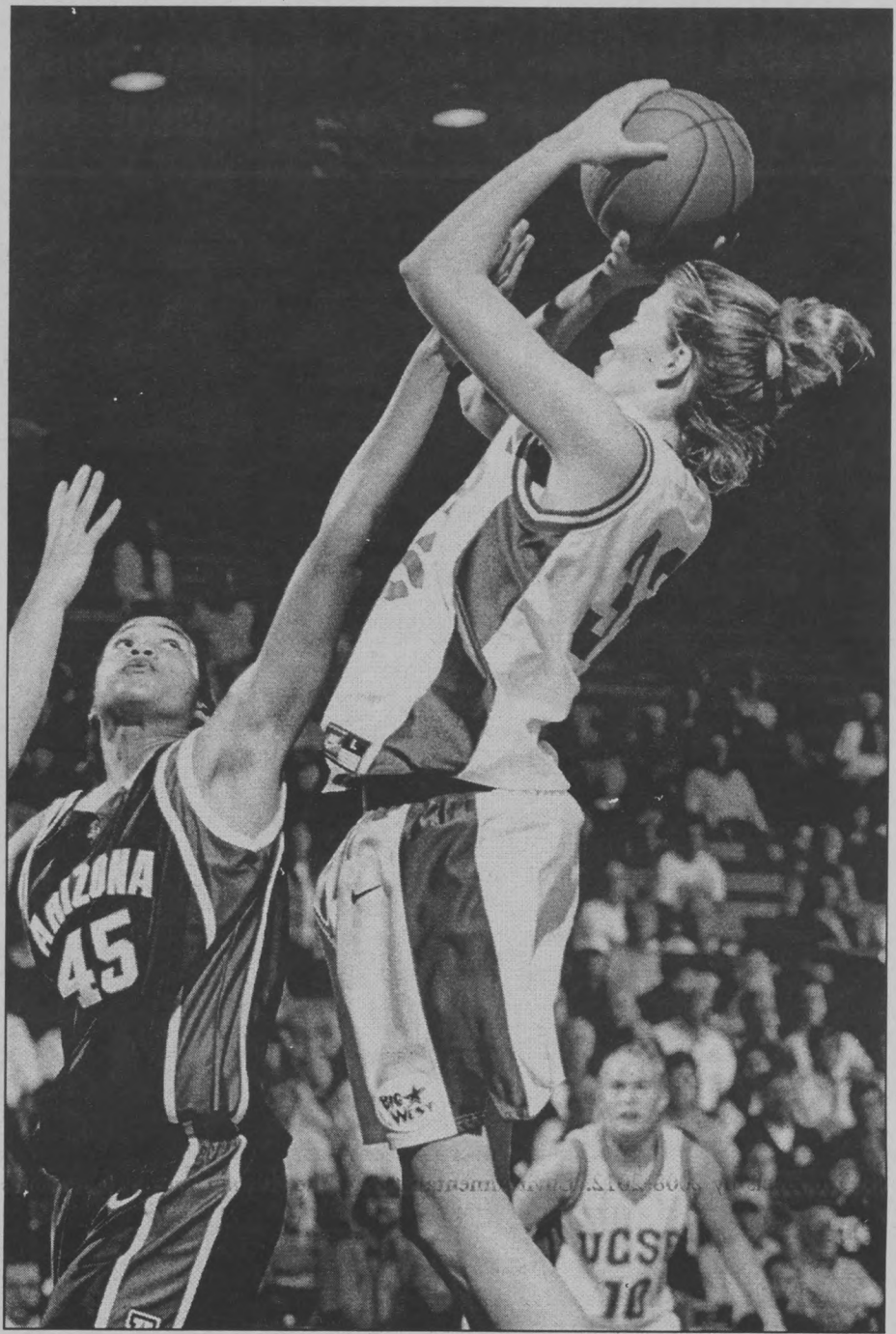
Bonvicini was very impressed with the play of Caine and Greathouse, and the Wildcats' coach was so worried about containing Caine that she placed 6'2" Krista Warren on her in the second half.

"I was noticing [Warren] was guarding me," Caine said. "They usually don't stick 6'2" girls on me. They usually stick small little girls on me."

French is mildly disappointed in his younger players and in the coaching staff because they have not exploited their strengths and received the full potential of his rising athletes.

"The thing that we're going to struggle with is execution and execution down the stretch," French said. "We didn't score down the stretch."

Sophomore guard Jess Hansen suffered a hip pointer, a contusion of the bone, late in the game. Hansen is not expected to miss any games due to the



TRUC BUI / DAILY NEXUS

Freshman forward Jessica Combs, who scored five points against Arizona, leaps for a short jumper against defending forward Elizabeth Pickney during the Gauchos 71-63 loss.

injury.

French has struggled to get an elusive win from longtime rival Bonvicini, who tormented French at Long Beach State before

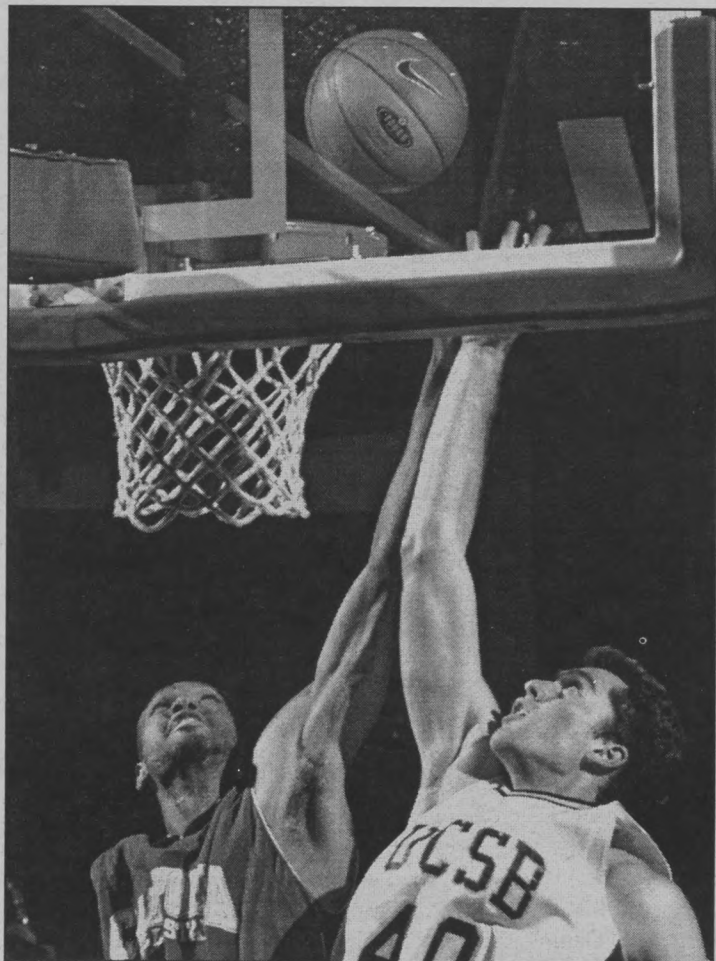
arriving at Arizona. With last night's win, Bonvicini holds an 18-0 advantage over French's teams.

"One of these days I will still aspire to get a win

over Joan," French said.

Before the Gauchos' home opener at the Thunderdome, they had

See Arizona, p.3A



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

Forward Mike Vukovich and Santa Barbara couldn't finish off BYU, falling 67-53. The Bruins are next for UCSB Wednesday night in L.A.

UCSB Succumbs to Ferocious Cougars in Provo to Remain Winless in 2000-01

BY JASON SMITH
Reporter

Santa Barbara sophomore forward Mark Hull's career-high 21 points were not enough Saturday night, as UCSB dropped a 67-53 contest to BYU at the Marriott Center in Provo, Utah. The Gauchos slipped to 0-3 on the year with the loss, while the Cougars improved to 2-0.

BYU opened the contest with two free throws from guard Terrell Lyday, who dumped in 21 points on the night. The Cougars used a 12-2 run midway through the first half to open a 25-12 lead. Santa Barbara slowly cut away at the deficit, cutting the lead to 31-24 at the end of the first half.

Hull began the second half by knocking down a 15-foot jumper to pull UCSB within six. However, BYU scurried off eight-straight points to extend its lead to 39-26 with 15:33 remaining in the game. Gaucho Head

Coach Bob Williams then called a pivotal, momentum-breaking timeout.

Junior forward Mike Vukovich responded with a nice shot down low, and Hull buried a shot from beyond the arc 14 seconds later to slice the Cougar lead to 39-31 with just under 14 minutes to go. BYU guard Travis Hansen quieted the rally with a trey that put his squad back up by 11.

Sophomore guard B.J. Ward pulled UCSB back into the game. At the 11:00 mark, Ward blew past his defender and drove the lane for a nice finger-roll layup. Ward shook his defender again and connected on an easy layup, and the score stood at 42-39.

The Gauchos looked to further cut the lead on their following possession, but freshman guard Jacoby Atako had the ball knocked away, which led to a momentum-building layup for BYU. The Cougars stormed off a 13-4 run that resulted in a 55-43 lead with 4:49 remaining. UCSB

was unable to spark another comeback.

"Defensively we were really solid," BYU Head Coach Steve Cleveland said on the *BYU.edu* website. "When you can hold a team to under 30 percent shooting from the field, and you keep their three-point shooting to under 21 percent, you know you are doing something right."

Santa Barbara shot a mere 29 percent on the night, whereas BYU connected on 43 percent of its shot attempts. UCSB shot well from the charity stripe, going 20 for 25, yet committed 22 turnovers.

"Twenty-two turnovers and seven assists pretty much sums up the game," Williams said on the *BYU.edu* website. "Their defense, and our lack of handling it, really did us in tonight."

The Gauchos suffered another injury when freshman guard Nick Jones hurt his ankle midway through the second half, and it was unknown when he'll return.

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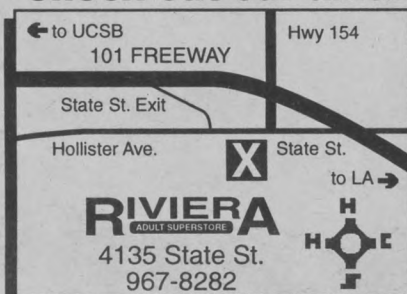
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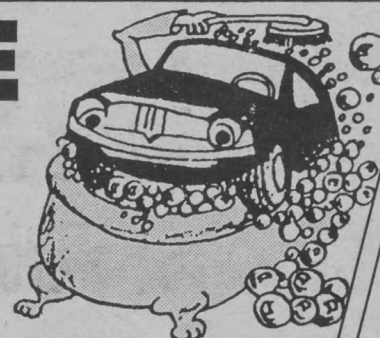
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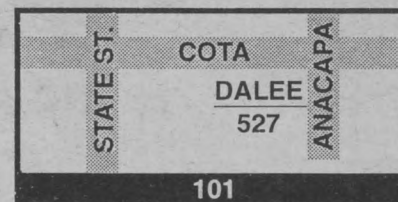


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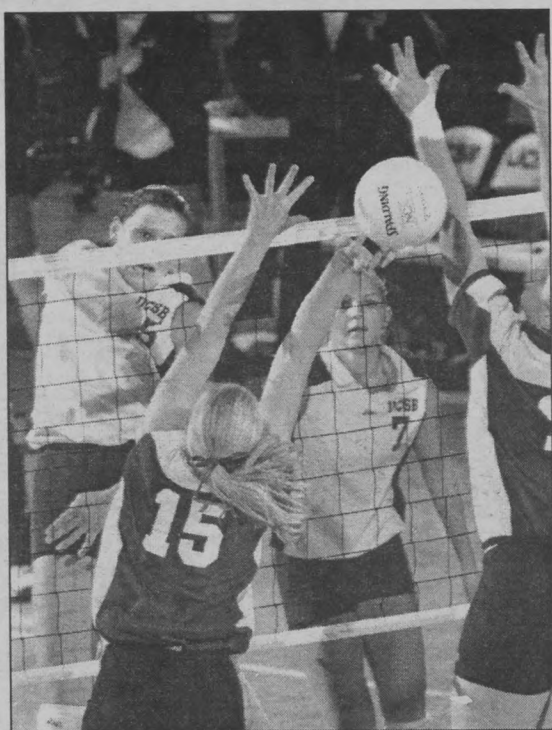
ARIZONA

Continued from p.1A

trouble with the Trojans in a tightly contested battle. Caine led Santa Barbara with 15 points, and Hansen scored eight points and dished out four assists. UCSB literally gave the game away by turning the ball over 35 times, allowing USC to shoot the ball 27 more times than the Gauchos.

Santa Barbara shot fairly well, connecting on 44.7 percent of its field goals as opposed to 27.7 percent by Southern California, but the tremendous number of turnovers doomed UCSB.

Kent State is slated next for Santa Barbara in the Wells Fargo Classic on December 1-3. Arizona State will host the tournament.



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

Volleyball Has a Date With NCAA Tournament
Although the Gauchos lost to BYU in three straight sets last Friday, UCSB will host the first round of the tourney.

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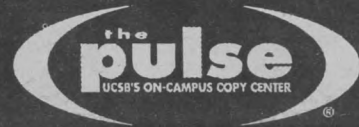
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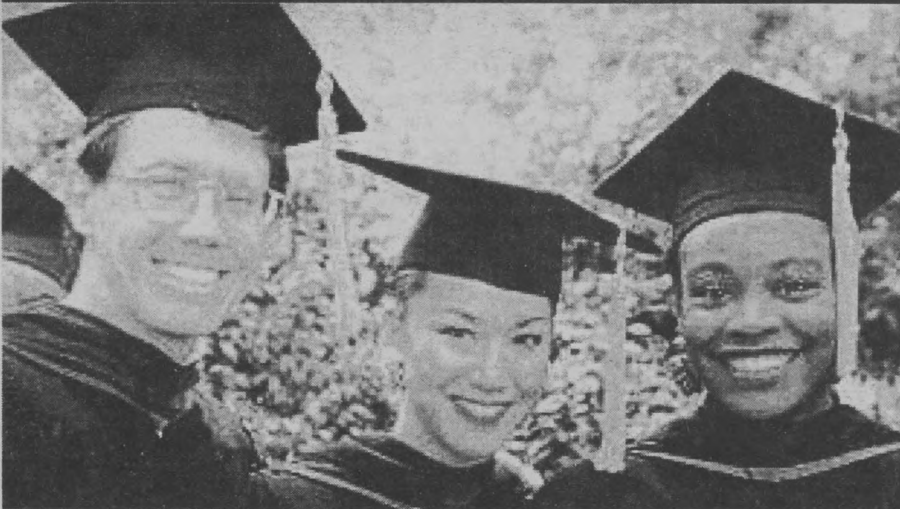
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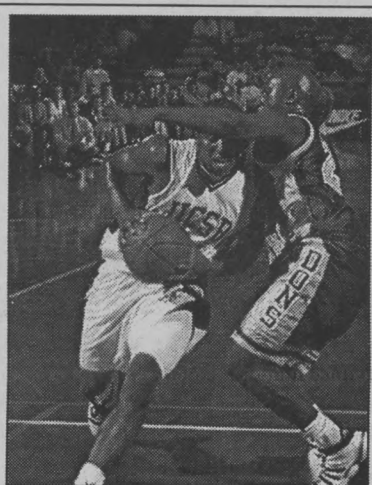
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Jason Schock / Daily Nexus
Guard B.J. Ward drives hard in the Gauchos' 74-77 loss to USF.

UCSB's home Tuesday night Francisco team overtime loss

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