

BIG WEST

1993-1994 Basketball Preview

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UNLV



It's Quite an Unpredictable Year Out in the Wild West

Another year of Big West basketball is upon us, and whatever may happen once conference play gets rolling is anybody's guess. We at the Nexus had trouble picking where every team (with the exception of New Mexico State) would finish this year. There's no question that it's a down year for the conference, but there are still plenty of teams capable of playing good basketball. And, of course, surprises are nothing new to the Big West.

The obvious team to beat is New Mexico State and their usual cast of JC characters. They're quick, athletic, and Coach Neil McCarthy has his bunch ready to take their second conference crown in as many years. Down in Las Cruces, expectations are high and the Aggies are a shoo-in for the NCAA Tournament.

UNLV looked to be a real strong contender, but they've been a bit of a disappointment so far. They got blown out of Pauley Pavilion, they've been bitten hard by the injury bug, and they've had more trouble than they've ever had filling the seats at the spacious Thomas and Mack Center. Where they once used to be the hot ticket in town, people now can't get rid of their tickets fast enough.

Utah State is a good sleeper. Logan is a tough place to play, as most teams would just as soon get the game over with so they could leave the snow and ice behind. And with Nathan Wickizer back on the team, the Aggies have one of the best centers in the Big West. This could be the year Utah

State finally makes a move.

You can't overlook Long Beach State and head coach Seth Greenberg, who has brought the program back to respectability. But they seem to be a year away from really making a run at it. For the rest of the teams, who knows? Checking out the team in our neighborhood, UCSB also is a year away. At times they've been blown out and looked horrible, and at other times they've been respectable. A 4-7 start obviously doesn't sit well, but there's a lot of basketball left to be played. Pacific was an early favorite, but they, too, have left their supporters dismayed at their slow start. They have a strong core of seniors but the Tigers so far have not gotten it done.

Down in Orange County are a pair of teams that are struggling to define their identity — Cal State Fullerton and UC Irvine. Fullerton's practices have looked more like a M.A.S.H. unit with all the injuries they've suffered. Rod Baker's Irvine club was by far the biggest disappointment of last year. But he has young players and is on the way to establishing a good program. As is Stan Morrison at San Jose State, who is slowly but surely righting the program after a turbulent year a few years ago, when he kicked several players off the team.

So the roller coaster has begun and basketball fans can expect another wild and thrilling year of college basketball in the Big West.



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NEW MEXICO STATE

Preview by Michael Cadilli

Aggies the Top Team of the Big West

McCarthy's Motley Bunch Setting Sights on NAAs

This year's New Mexico State men's basketball team will have a hard time living up to last season's squad, but are still picked to win the Big West.

The Aggies lost their shining star in Sam Crawford, along with five other seniors, leaving only three returnees.

"I'm entering the season with guarded optimism. Our talent base from last year was seriously depleted. Six of our top nine players are gone," NMSU Head Coach Neil McCarthy said.

However, the three returnees — James Dockery, Darrin Jackson and Corey Rogers — form the core of this season's squad. Combined with a highly touted recruiting class, the Aggies are picked to take the crown in the Big West, and many expect them to be a serious force in the NCAA Tournament.

"I'm optimistic about our recruiting class. This class was rated high by the publications," McCarthy said. "I think all eight of our new juniors are talented, but it's just a question of integrating our newcomers with the returnees, getting them to play hard and play together."

McCarthy, in his ninth year as head coach, does seem to have his team playing together, as NMSU (8-1, 1-0 in Big West) has started out hot so far this season. The Aggies hope to earn their fifth straight consecutive NCAA Tournament bid and sixth straight 20-win season. In the past four years, McCarthy has posted an impressive 100-27 record.

"The more successful you are, the more able you are to attract good players. And good players win games," McCarthy said.

Eight newcomers and a pair of redshirts were added this season, making it difficult to predict who the impact players will be. In NMSU's first eight games of the season, seven different players have taken high-scoring honors. Jackson has led the Aggies twice in scoring this season, with 19 points against New Mexico and 14 points over Texas-El Paso. Jackson averages 11.6 points and 4.5 rebounds per game.

Dockery starts at the other forward spot, putting in 6.4 ppg and a team leading 7.1 rpg. Forward Johnny Selvie rounds out the frontcourt, averaging 6.8 ppg with 5.5 rpg.

Juniors Keith Johnson and Rodney Walker start in the backcourt. However, Rogers comes off the Aggie bench to score 8.1 ppg and leads the team in assists. Another threat off the bench is 6-6 junior forward Thomas Wyatt, who averages 11.8 ppg and grabs 6.1 rpg.

NMSU definitely spreads out the scoring, rebounding and playmaking, giving them the most balanced attack in the Big West. The Aggies are currently 1-0 in the Big West with a win over UCSB.

QUICK FACTS -

Location:

Las Cruces, NM

Head Coach:

Neil McCarthy
(178-82, 9th year)

1992-93 Finish:

26-8 overall, 15-3
in the Big West
(1st place)

1993-94 Record:

8-1 overall, 1-0
Big WestA
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1993-94 Schedule

Nov. 20	SIMON FRASER	W 91-44
29	NM HIGHLANDS	W 121-81
Dec. 3	UTEP	W 72-64
6	@UTEP	L 76-72
11	@New Mexico	W 112-104
20	NEW MEXICO	W 63-62
22	SOUTH. UTAH	W 82-65
31	MORGAN STATE	W 97-56
Jan. 3	UCSB	W 92-71
5	LONG BEACH ST.	7:30
8	@CS Fullerton	7:30
10	EAST TENN. ST.	10:00
17	@UNLV	9:00
20	UTAH STATE	7:30
22	NEVADA	7:30
27	@San Jose State	7:30
29	@Pacific	7:30
Feb. 3	@Nevada	7:30
5	@Utah State	7:30
14	UNLV	10:00
17	UC IRVINE	7:30
19	CS FULLERTON	7:30
24	@Long Beach St.	7:30
26	@UC Irvine	7:30
28	@UCSB	9:30
Mar. 3	PACIFIC	7:30
5	SAN JOSE STATE	7:30

Nexus Pick: 1st Place



Big West Media Guide

Much of the league favorite Aggies rebuilding has been centered around returning center James Dockery, a powerful player who leads the team in rebounding.

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NEVADA - LAS VEGAS

Preview by Jason Masini

Runnin' Rebs Facing Early Adversity

Key Injuries Have Cramped Vegas' Up-Tempo Game

Once again the UNLV basketball team is in trouble. But unlike years past, when it has come off the court, this season it is on.

Of course, the Runnin' Rebels are on probation again, one that has restricted them from certain televised games for the next two seasons and cut their scholarships. After losing J.R. Rider, Dexter Boney and Evric Gray, the Rebels are in a rebuilding year.

Head Coach Rollie Massimino has done his best to recruit players that can come in immediately and fill the vacant big shoes, but the results thus far this season have been anything but traditional UNLV basketball.

The Rebels are 4-3 this season, including Monday night's embarrassing loss on ESPN to Virginia, in which UNLV scored a school-record low 39 points, and things don't look as if they are going to get any easier.

Three of UNLV's top players are out for extended periods of time with injuries. All-American JC transfer Clayton Johnson, who was to play a major role and had started in the Rebels' first six games, hyperextended his left knee on Dec. 31 and is out indefinitely, possibly for the season. Johnson was second on the team in scoring, averaging 11.7 points per game.

Sophomore shooting guard Lawrence Thomas, a returning Big West All-Freshman Team pick, broke a bone in his right foot and is out at least 3-4 weeks. Also, Seth Meyers, a highly decorated freshman, sprained a ligament in his thumb and will miss at least four weeks.

But the Rebels still have a very capable starting lineup. Senior All-American candidate Dedan Thomas is the returning starting point guard and is averaging 9.2 ppg; he has already dished out 46 assists as well. Junior Reggie Manuel teams with Thomas in the backcourt and will be looked to to take up most of the scoring slack left by Rider, Gray and Boney. Manuel has responded well thus far, averaging 18.5 ppg.

Forward Patrick Savoy joins the team through the JC route and is a tenacious rebounder and shot blocker. He has started in every game for UNLV and is second on the team in both scoring and rebounding, with 11.7 ppg and 7.8 rpg.

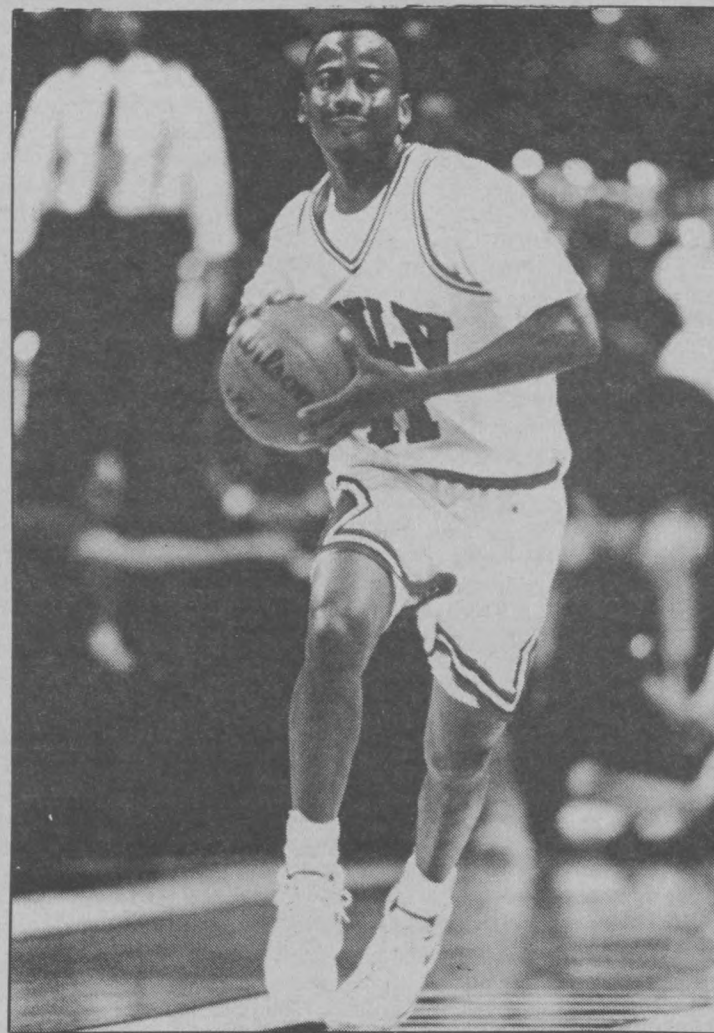
One bit of extremely good news for UNLV has been the long-awaited debut of forward Kebu Stewart. Stewart had to sit out last season as a Prop 48 case and then had to sit out the first six games of this year's campaign due to a ruling by the NCAA Eligibility Committee. Stewart was one of the most prized recruits coming out of high school in 1993, averaging 38 points and 18 rebounds per game, and now will finally get to show his talents on the NCAA level.

QUICK FACTS -

Location:	R
Las Vegas, NV	
Head Coach:	E
Rollie Massamino	
(24-11, 2nd year)	B
1992-93 Finish:	E
21-8 overall, 13-5	
in the Big West	L
(2nd place)	
1993-94 Record:	S
4-3 overall, 0-0	
Big West	

1993-94 Schedule

Dec. 4	@UCLA	L 108-83
8	@Texas A&M	L 68-62
18	L. MARYMOUNT	W 93-77
21	VERMONT	W 85-56
23	E. KENTUCKY	W 77-62
30	ADELPHI	W 91-60
Jan. 3	VIRGINIA	L 59-39
5	@CS Fullerton	7:35
8	@Georgetown	8:00
11	@UC Irvine	7:30
17	NEW MEXICO ST.	9:00
20	NEVADA	8:05
22	UTAH STATE	8:05
24	UCSB	9:00
Feb. 27	@Pacific	7:30
29	@San Jose State	7:30
3	@Utah State	7:00
5	@Nevada	7:35
7	LONG BEACH ST.	9:00
14	@New Mexico St.	10:00
17	CS FULLERTON	8:05
19	UC IRVINE	8:05
Mar 24	@UCSB	7:30
26	@Long Beach St.	8:00
3	SAN JOSE STATE	8:05
5	PACIFIC	1:00



Big West Media Guide/Daily Nexus

Seven Runnin' Rebels, including the starting backcourt are returning from last year's 21-8 team including Dedan Thomas. Thomas earned All-American honors last year.

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LONG BEACH STATE

Preview by Jenny Kok

49ers Hoping to Build on Last Season

Greenberg's Team Tries to Fill Shoes of Graduates

After pulling a big win last year over the nation's #1-ranked team, the Kansas Jayhawks, and also beating New Mexico State in the Big West Tournament championship game — a victory which earned them the school's first NCAA playoff bid in 16 years — there is a big question being asked about the Long Beach State 49ers: can they do it again?

Based on the 5-2 start, which is not overly impressive, Head Coach Seth Greenberg and his 49ers still have some work ahead of them if they want to match last year's season.

LBSU's preseason started off strong, with three straight wins that included a 77-67 victory over Houston before the 49ers lost on the road to Iowa. After crushing Cal Poly Pomona 96-63, the 49ers got a taste of their own medicine, being demolished by UCLA, 51-93.

By far the most impressive win Long Beach claimed was their triple overtime victory at Fairleigh Dickinson, 108-107, in which the team nailed 40 of 75 shot attempts after a big slump against UCLA, where they shot only 20 of 55.

But now, after a two-week break between games, LBSU's future is no more defined than any other team in the Big West, with the exception of conference favorite New Mexico State. It all starts with Greenberg's ability to replace three big senior starters — Lucious Harris, Bryon Russell and Chris Tower — who combined for 48.9 points and 17.7 rebounds per game.

Leading the 49ers in scoring with a 16.7 ppg average is forward Mike Atkinson. He is shooting at a .729 percentage from the field, which is 5th in NCAA Division I.

After struggling early in the campaign, forward/guard Rod Hannibal has become a leading scorer, averaging 11.3 ppg with a team high of 27 points at Fairleigh Dickinson. Also adding to the scoring is guard Brian Camper, who also averages 11.3 ppg and has 14 steals to date.

Helping out the 49ers on the defensive end are center Terrance O'Kelley, forward Joaquin Hawkins and forward James Cotton. As a starter, O'Kelley leads the team with 6.7 rebounds per game and 8 blocked shots. Hawkins and Cotton average 6.1 and 5.2 rebounds, respectively.

As it may seem, Greenberg has managed to find a pretty solid starting lineup for his 49ers, but two things are going to need to improve if they want to repeat last season's incredible finish: the bench is going to have to show more production, and the starters have to stop getting into so much foul trouble. So far, four of the five starters have been in early foul trouble more than once, and all have been disqualified at least once.

QUICK FACTS -

Location:

Long Beach, CA

Head Coach:

Seth Greenberg
(56-41, 4th year)

1992-93 Finish:

22-10 overall, 11-7
in the Big West
(4th place)

1993-94 Record:

5-2 overall, 0-0
Big West

1993-94 Schedule

Nov. 26	CAL POLY SLO	W 82-58
30	CS NORTHRIDGE	W 87-74
Dec. 3	Houston	W 77-67
4	Iowa	L 101-79
8	CAL POLY POMONA	W 96-63
11	@UCLA	L 93-51
22	@Fairleigh Dickinson	W 108-107
Jan. 5	@New Mexico St.	7:30
8	UTAH STATE	7:30
10	NEVADA	7:30
15	@San Jose State	7:30
17	@Pacific	7:30
22	UCSB	8:30
27	UC IRVINE	8:30
29	CS FULLERTON	8:30
Feb. 5	@UCSB	7:30
7	@UNLV	9:00
10	PACIFIC	7:30
12	SAN JOSE STATE	7:30
17	@Utah State	7:00
19	@Nevada	7:30
21	MEMPHIS STATE	9:00
24	NEW MEXICO ST.	9:00
26	UNLV	8:00
Mar. 3	@CS Fullerton	8:30
5	@UC Irvine	8:30

Nexus Pick: 3rd Place



Big West Media Guide

Long Beach St. guard/forward Rod Hannibal should help provide some offense to replace the scoring Lucious Harris and Bryon Russell, who are both currently playing in the NBA.

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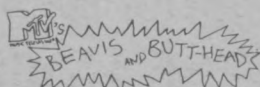
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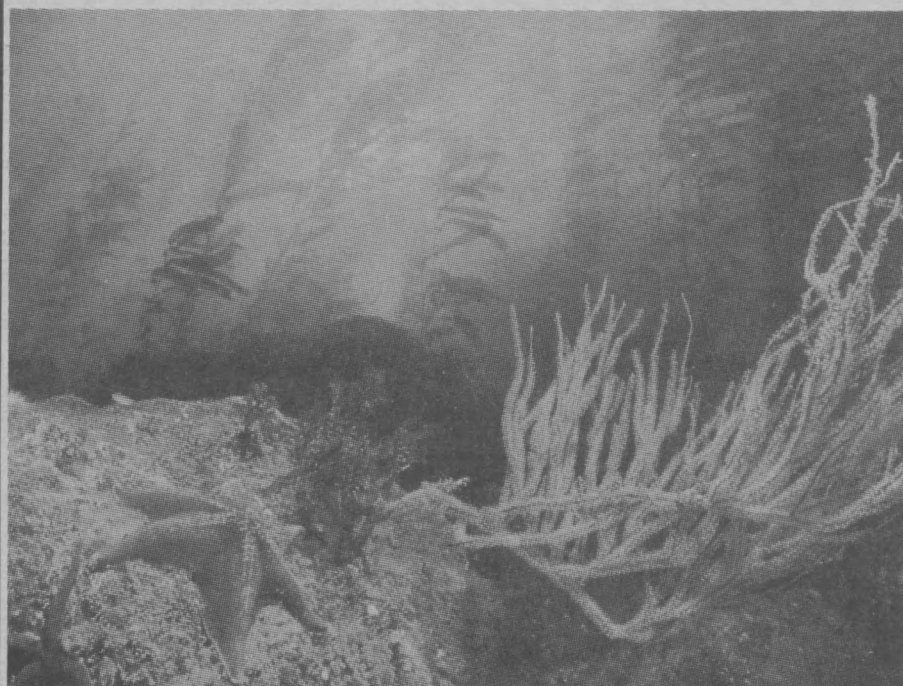
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UTAH STATE

Preview by Deborah Rafii

Utah State Has High Hopes for Year

Wickizer & Co. Looking to Make a Serious Run

A new coach. A new team. The Utah State Aggies will have to start off from scratch this season and hope for the best. Head coach Larry Estuary teams up with only two returning seniors that have starting experience in a squad that consists mostly of transfers.

With the departure of three starters, including guard Jay Goodman, who averaged 18.1 points, Utah State (3-5) looks to fill the void of experience, but will not be able to match up against at least half of its opponents.

Utah State's schedule features three NCAA entrants and four NIT participants.

"This year's schedule is honestly too difficult for the team we have. You're asking an awful lot of a team to play the likes of BYU, Utah, Colorado State, Old Dominion and Wyoming all away from your home arena," Estuary said. "It's also difficult to be successful with only 12 home games on your schedule."

Estuary alludes to the fact that Logan, their home court, is a great advantage. In its 24th year of play in Dee Glen Smith Spectrum, Utah sports an impressive 235-81 all-time record.

But what Utah lacks in the backcourt in the absence of Goodman, it makes up in the frontcourt with seven-footer Nate Wickizer, the "go-to" man of the season so far. Averaging 14.1 points and 6.5 rebounds, Wickizer headlines the list of returnees.

"Nate Wickizer has made more progress than anyone else on the team," Estuary said. "He runs the floor extremely well for his size and could become the cornerstone of our offense."

In addition to Wickizer, the Aggies had hoped to utilize sophomore Byron Ruffner, who returned to Utah State after a two-year mission. But Ruffner, who ranked as the second-leading scorer in the four appearances he made, will be sidelined for the remainder of the 1993-94 season due to a back injury.

Most promising at the guard position is junior Roddie Anderson, a transfer from Columbia College in California, where he was named top junior college player in the state.

"The rebuilding job won't be an easy one," Estuary said. "Great programs don't happen overnight. It's going to take some time to get things turned around, and it's going to take a lot of hard work."

The Aggies also spotlight senior forward Trent Rose, whose experience will prove beneficial to the fresh team, which must concentrate on the upcoming challenge of the season.

"Our win-loss record won't be the measuring stick this season. Our goal is to make progress daily, weekly and monthly," Estuary added. "I'm confident that this team will play its best basketball at the end of the season."

QUICK FACTS -

Location:

Logan, UT

Head Coach:

Larry Eustachy
(1st year)

1992-93 Finish:

10-17 overall, 7-11
in the Big West
(7th place)

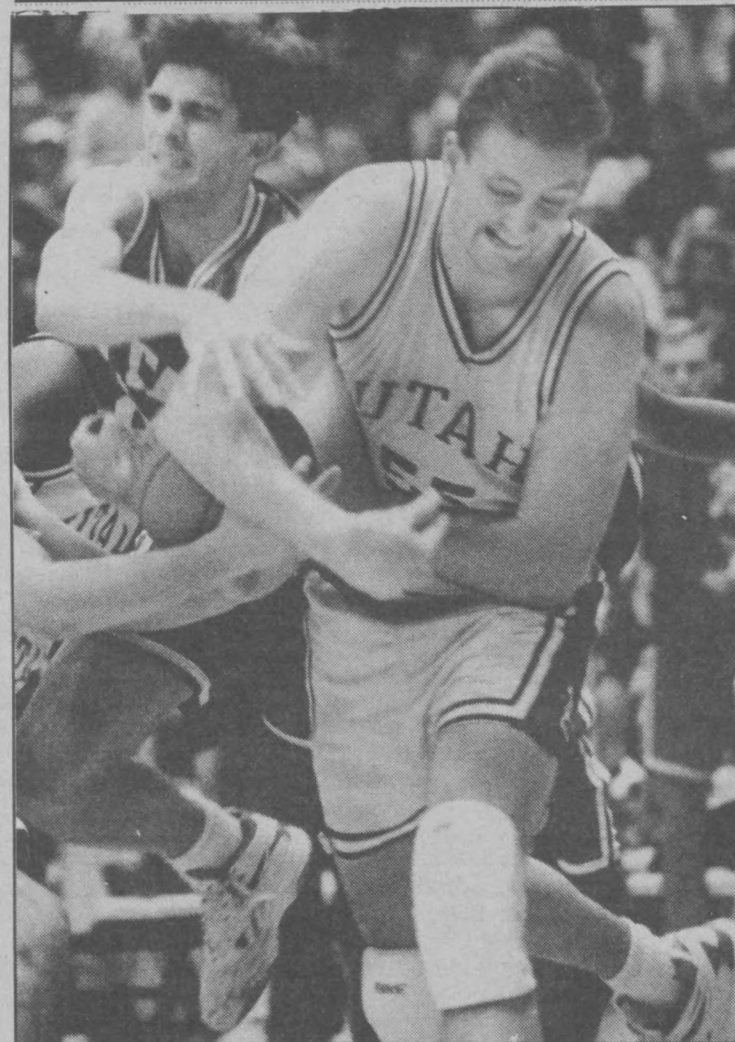
1993-94 Record:

4-5 overall, 1-0
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1993-94 Schedule

Dec. 3	@Colorado State	L 81-70
7	WEBER STATE	W 91-90
11	CHADRON STATE	W 92-90
14	@Brigham Young	L 86-64
18	LEWIS & CLARK	L 92-81
22	@Utah	L 87-67
28	@Wyoming	L 73-69
29	Old Dominion	W 64-61
Jan. 3	PACIFIC	W 74-65
5	SAN JOSE STATE	7:00
8	@Long Beach St.	7:30
10	@UCSB	7:30
15	CS FULLERTON	7:00
17	UC IRVINE	7:00
20	@New Mexico State	7:30
22	@UNLV	8:05
29	@Nevada	7:35
Feb. 3	UNLV	7:00
5	NEW MEXICO STATE	7:00
10	@UC Irvine	7:30
12	@CS Fullerton	7:35
17	LONG BEACH ST.	7:00
19	UCSB	7:00
24	@San Jose State	7:30
28	@Pacific	7:30
Mar. 5	NEVADA	7:00

Nexus Pick: 4th Place



Big West Media Guide

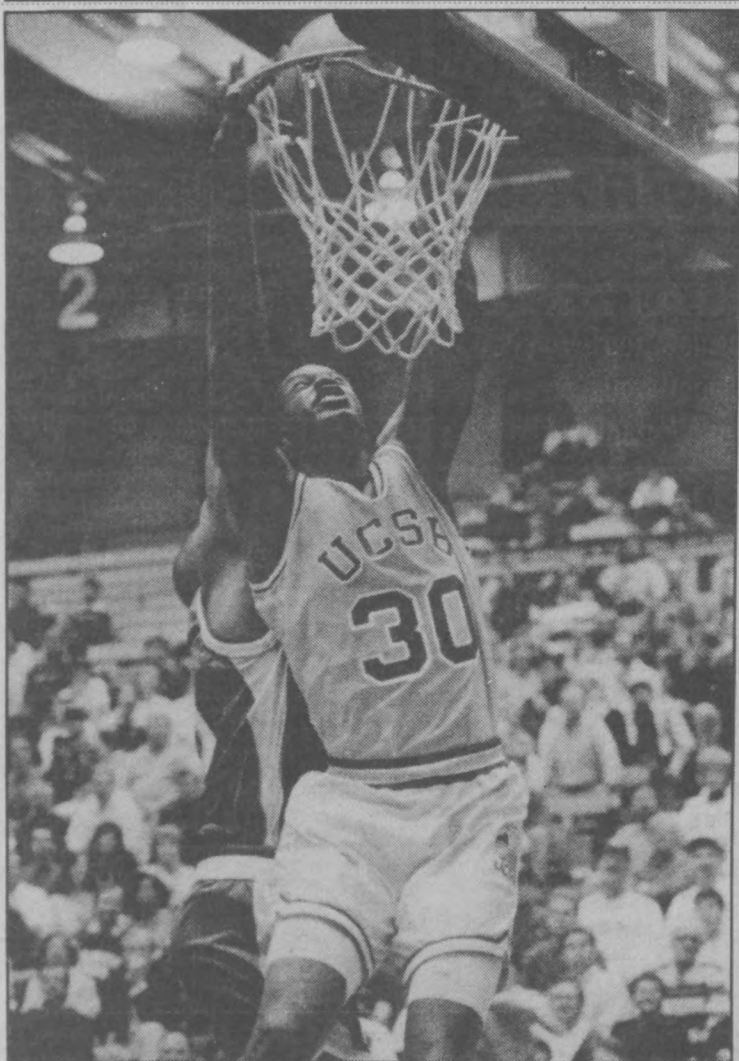
7-foot center Nathan Wickizer has become one the premiere big men in the Big West. Under new coach Larry Eustachy, the Aggies will can expect a few more victories in the 1993-94 season.

UC SANTA BARBARA

Preview by Brian Pillsbury

Maturing SB Team Looks to Surprise

Nexus Pick: 5th Place



Big West Media Guide

Duane Carter was the senior in the starting lineup until he suffered an injury. The 6-foot-8 senior power forward still could make his return to the team sometime soon.

Gauchos Hope to Get on Track in Conference Play

QUICK FACTS -

Location:

Goleta, CA

Head Coach:

Jerry Pimm
(170-128, 10th year)

1992-93 Finish:

18-11 overall, 10-8
in the Big West
(5th place tie)

1993-94 Record:

4-7 overall, 0-1
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1993-94 Schedule

Nov. 27	WESTMONT	W 72-55
30	ST. MARY'S	L 79-75
Dec. 2	OLD DOMINION	L 92-67
4	MONMOUTH	W 71-61
14	@Ohio State	L 88-65
20	@Loyola Marymount	W 81-62
22	PEPPERDINE	L 70-55
28	Louisville	L 82-59
29	Oklahoma State	L 69-64
30	Army	W 72-69
Jan. 3	@New Mexico St.	L 84-71
8	NEVADA	7:30
10	UTAH STATE	7:30
15	@Pacific	7:30
17	@San Jose State	7:30
22	@Long Beach St.	8:30
24	@UNLV	9:00
27	CS FULLERTON	7:30
29	UC IRVINE	7:30
31	ST. JOSEPH'S	9:00
Feb. 5	LONG BEACH ST.	7:30
10	SAN JOSE STATE	7:30
12	PACIFIC	7:30
17	@Nevada	7:30
19	@Utah State	7:00
24	UNLV	7:30
28	NEW MEXICO ST.	9:00
3	@UC Irvine	7:30
5	@CS FULLERTON	8:05

As 11th-year skipper Jerry Pimm entered the 1993-94 campaign, neither he nor anyone else was able to get a sure feel on what was in store for the talented yet youthful Gaucho team.

Gone are Ray Kelly, Mike Meyer, Idris Jones and Paul Johnson — the solid anchors of last year's team, which finished up the season with an 18-11 mark. The lone returning starter, center Doug Muse, has been looking to return to form after being plagued by injuries last year, and he has definitely quieted any lingering doubts observers have had. UCSB has good depth across the board, but so far, inexperience has been a problem for the team, as they are off to a 4-7 start this season.

With the 92-67 drubbing on national TV courtesy of Old Dominion in the Gaucho Classic, UCSB fans figured they were in for a very, very long season. But after spotting Monmouth a 17-0 lead to open the game, the Gauchos rallied to win by 10 points. The very tough nonconference schedule UCSB played during the month of December seems to have been the best and only remedy for a team that was not on the same page early on. Slowly but surely, the Gauchos have started to click, though they have taken it on the chin a few times against some of the nation's best teams.

In Columbus on Dec. 14, UCSB was giving a talented Ohio State team all they could handle as the teams duelled to a 30-30 halftime score. But the young Gauchos couldn't sustain it and were outscored 49-26 in the second half as the Buckeyes beat UCSB, 79-56. So far the shooting guard positions have played too streaky from the outside, and it has been a bit of a struggle for forward Kyle Milling to get on track offensively. Forwards Duane Carter and Bill Barry have also been limited due to injury, hurting their depth in the frontcourt.

After getting beat 76-53 by #11-ranked Louisville in Hawaii, UCSB nearly pulled off the upset against #20-ranked Oklahoma State. Muse poured in 20 and outplayed Cowboy center Bryant "Big Country" Reeves. Muse also scored 25 against New Mexico State Monday night. Tecon Madden has emerged with his fiery play and taken over the point guard spot, and added more stability to the point.

Phillip Turner has been doing his scoring damage from the 3-spot, where he has been seeing significant minutes, as Pimm has experimented with a three-guard offense to free up Turner to score more. Turner has been averaging 12.0 ppg and 4.0 rpg thus far.

While UCSB's record does not indicate it, the team has made significant improvement, and should be able to surprise the elite teams in the conference.

PACIFIC

Preview by Dan Solomon

Tigers Tamed by Preseason Opponents

High Preseason Expectations Might be Out of Reach

At the conclusion of the 1992-93 season, University of the Pacific proved to be the surprise team of the Big West. Having been predicted to finish seventh place in the preseason Big West coaches' poll, the Tigers instead finished third in the conference with a 12-6 record.

This season, however, the Tigers will most likely end up disappointing rather than surprising the Big West faithful, as the squad is expected to finish third, according to the preseason poll.

Through its first 12 games, UOP has compiled a fairly unimpressive 6-6 overall record, with the only standout win coming against Oregon (75-69), which in itself is not saying much. The squad's six losses have come against some solid schools, including Michigan State (83-64), Coppin State (86-77) and Washington (57-45). However, the team's average margin of defeat has been nearly 12 ppg, a figure which was no doubt aided by a 17-point spanking from University of San Diego.

In the school's Big West opener at Utah State on Monday evening, the Aggies handed the Tigers a 74-65 loss, as UOP shot a mere 12-22 (55%) from the charity stripe.

On the positive side, the Tigers are regarded as one of the best home teams in the Big West, having compiled a 10-3 overall home record in 92-93, 7-2 in conference. The home conference record includes wins over the Big West's big three, namely NMSU, UNLV and LBSU, and this season the Tigers have compiled a perfect 4-0 home record.

With the graduation of All-Big West Second Team guard Tony Amundsen, 6-foot-5 senior Michael Jackson has stepped in in a big way, going from a 7.2 ppg average last season to a 20.4 ppg average this year. Along with Jackson, senior forward/center Glenn Griffin has been playing consistently, averaging 9.2 ppg and 6.1 rpg, while the backcourt duo of senior Charles Terrell and freshman Adam Jacobsen are combining for just under 20 ppg.

In his sixth season as head coach of the Tigers, Bob Thomason is coming off possibly his most successful season, nabbing Big West Coach of the Year honors in the process of finishing the season with a 16-11 overall record. Thomason returns three starters and six regulars from last year's squad, and coupled with the experienced starting lineup, Thomason has the luxury of carrying eight freshmen on his squad, who he hopes will take a lesson or two from the seniors.

Overall, Pacific is capable of getting on a roll once its home conference games begin, but the Tigers will most likely eventually find themselves more towards the middle of a very mediocre Big West pack.

QUICK FACTS -

Location:
Stockton, CA
Head Coach:
Bob Thomason
(124-110, 8th year)
1992-93 Finish:
16-11 overall, 12-6
in the Big West
(3rd place)
1993-94 Record:
6-6 overall, 0-1
Big West

TIGERS

1993-94 Schedule

Nov. 26	Michigan St.	L 83-64
27	Coppin St.	L 86-77
28	Wright St.	W 99-94
Dec. 1	SAC. STATE	W 91-64
4	@Oregon	W 75-69
7	N. DAME COLLEGE	W 91-46
11	FRESNO STATE	W 81-71
18	@San Diego	L 83-66
21	UC DAVIS	W 84-63
Jan. 3	@Utah State	L 74-65
5	@Nevada	7:30
8	SAN JOSE STATE	7:30
15	UCSB	7:30
17	LONG BEACH ST.	7:30
20	@UC Irvine	7:30
22	@CS Fullerton	7:35
27	UNLV	7:30
29	NEW MEXICO ST.	7:30
Feb. 3	CS FULLERTON	7:30
5	UC IRVINE	7:30
10	@Long Beach St.	7:30
12	@UCSB	7:30
19	@San Jose State	7:30
24	NEVADA	7:30
26	UTAH STATE	7:30
Mar. 3	@New Mexico St.	7:30
5	@UNLV	1:00

Nexus Pick: 6th Place



Big West Media Guide/Daily Nexus

Guard Charles Terrell has so far been outdone by teammate Michael Jackson in the scoring department, though Terrell is among the league leaders in assists at 4.3 per game.

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UC IRVINE

Preview by Curtis Kaiser

Defense Becomes #1 Goal for Anteaters

Team Needs Fundamentals to Compete in Big West

Coming off another disappointing season, with a 6-21 overall and a 4-14 Big West Conference record, the UC Irvine Anteaters are looking forward to this season with modest goals of conference competitiveness and improvement, specifically in fundamentals such as ballhandling and free-throw shooting, as well as defensive intensity.

"I think we took a little too much for granted last year," third-year Head Coach Rod Baker said. "We thought we were better than we were and ended up taking one step forward and two steps backwards."

Defense is a priority for the Anteaters this year, who lost their top two players, Jeff Von Lutzow and Keith Stewart, to graduation. Irvine has begun the season well and currently has a 4-5 record overall, including a victory against Iowa. They are 1-0 in the Big West with a victory against Cal State Fullerton.

"We are solid at every position," Baker said. "I expect to play ten guys every night. I think we can be as good as any team in the conference."

UCI is led offensively by senior guard Lloyd "Fudge" Mumford, who set a team record last year with 151 assists, and who leads the Anteaters with 13.8 points and 4.0 assists per game.

Irvine's offense, ranked second in the Big West with 82.5 points per game, features three other players who average double figures in the points category: sophomore guard Todd Whitehead (10.8 ppg), senior center DeForrest Boyer (10.7) and junior forward Jermaine Avie (10.5).

Avie has been an impressive addition to this year's UCI team. A transfer from the College of Eastern Utah, he is leading the Anteaters in rebounding with 8.8 per game and is currently third in the Big West in that category.

Boyer has also been impressive on the glass, averaging 7.7 rebounds per game, enough to put him fifth in the Big West. He is also second in the conference in blocked shots with 1.5 per game. Junior guard Zuri Williams leads the team and is fourth in the Big West in steals with 2.3 per game. He is second in assists for the Anteaters with 3.5 per game.

UCI's biggest strength last year was its rebounding, which ranked first in its conference. However, this year the Anteaters are being out-rebounded 42.2 to 40.5 by their opponents.

Baker's goal of improving UCI's defense seems to be encountering difficulties. Despite an average of 11.5 steals per game, the Anteaters are second in the Big West, and are last in the conference in points allowed per game.

QUICK FACTS -

Location:

Irvine, CA

Head Coach:

Rod Baker

(17-47, 3rd year)

1992-93 Finish:

6-21 overall, 4-14

in the Big West

(8th place tie)

1993-94 Record:

4-4 overall, 1-0

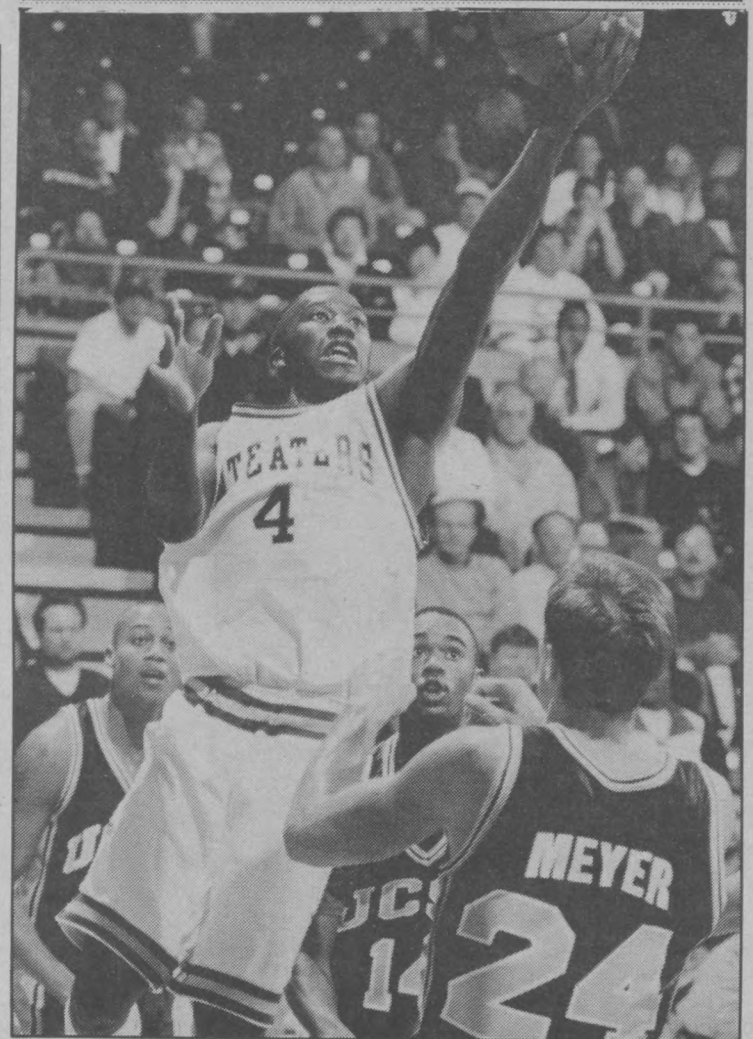
Big West

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1993-94 Schedule

Nov. 26	SALEM STATE	W 95-67
30	@Utah	L 92-66
Dec. 2	SAN DIEGO	L 96-82
11	@Cal St. Northridge	W 93-82
18	@Georgetown	L 93-64
21	@St. Mary's	L 104-95
29	IOWA	W 86-78
Jan. 3	@CS Fullerton	W 77-71
8	CS NORTHRIDGE	7:30
11	UNLV	7:30
15	@Nevada	7:30
17	@Utah State	7:00
20	PACIFIC	7:30
22	SAN JOSE STATE	7:30
27	@Long Beach St.	8:30
29	@UCSB	7:30
Feb. 3	@San Jose State	7:30
5	@Pacific	7:30
10	UTAH STATE	7:30
12	NEVADA	7:30
17	@New Mexico St.	7:30
19	@UNLV	8:05
24	CS FULLERTON	7:30
26	NEW MEXICO ST.	7:30
3	UCSB	7:30
Mar. 5	LONG BEACH ST.	8:30

Nexus Pick: 8th Place



Big West Media Guide

After starting all 27 games last season for the Anteaters, senior guard Lloyd Mumford is back and will look to key the offensive attack as well as shut down opponents' leading scorers.

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NEVADA

Preview by Noah Smith

Nevada Starts from Scratch With JCs

Foster Finds Six Transfers to Fill Squad's Vacancies

Coming off of a shaky rookie season in the Big West Conference, the University of Nevada Wolfpack is hoping to rebound this year under the guidance of their new coach, Pat Foster.

Foster, who brings an impressive .695 career winning percentage with him, will be faced with the challenge of completely rebuilding a squad that managed just nine victories last year, and only four in conference play. None of the five regulars from that team have returned, so Foster will have to construct a winning team from scratch.

Not to worry. With thirteen years as a Division I coach under his belt, and not a single losing season among them, Foster will have to rely on six junior college transfers to fill the gaps in the Wolfpack lineup.

Of the transfers, 6-foot-6 forward Jimmy "Ice" Moore is probably expected to contribute the most, and he has done just that. Ranking second in scoring average in the Big West (20.5 points per game) and first in rebounds (11.1 per game), Moore already has two 30-point games in the young season. Joining him from that team is guard Ethan O'Bryant, who is known as more of a passer than a shooter, averaging 7.7 assists per game.

Another offensive force on the transfer team is Preston Johnson, a 6-foot-3 guard whom coach Foster referred to as "possibly the best shooter on the team." Johnson is startling crowds with his 3-pointers, including five in a game against Santa Clara. Angel Castiblanque and Marcus Iverson, both out of Texas JCs, will be contributing mostly to the defensive aspect of Wolfpack games. The wild card of the transfers will be Walter Outlaw, who has been out of action for a year. Two seasons ago, Outlaw led his JC team with 19.7 ppg and 13.1 rpg, but his start this year has been only average.

Although coach Pat Foster is relying heavily on the transfers to carry his team, there are three returning players who are expected to contribute a lot as well. Senior Kirk Davidson is out with an injury, so fellow fourth-year man Jerry Hogan will be looked to to guide the inexperienced team, though not necessarily as a starter.

The outlook for the Wolfpack this year is hopeful, but highly unpredictable. It is definitely restructuring time at the University of Nevada, but the six transfers and a winning coach will surely ease the transition. The team started off the season by losing its first four games, including a heartbreaking come-from-ahead loss to Baylor in the Nevada home opener. The highlight of the homestand was a 71-65 overtime upset of Santa Clara in which Walter Outlaw came alive with 18 points and 16 rebounds.

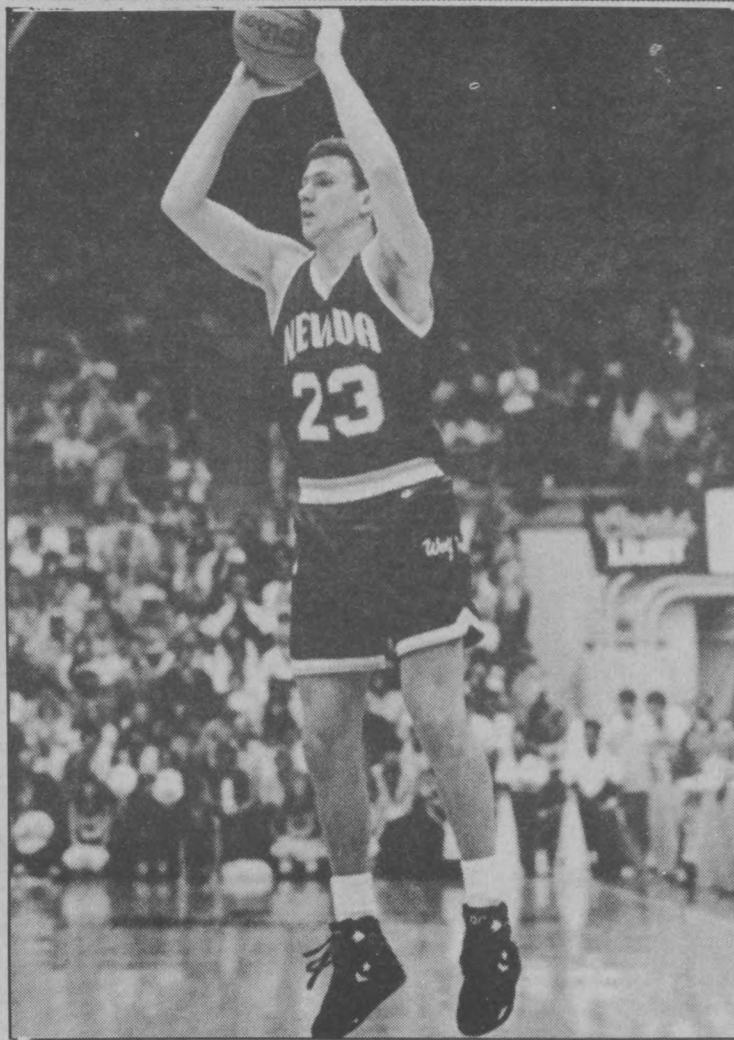
QUICK FACTS -

Location:	W
Reno, NV	O
Head Coach:	L
Pat Foster	F
(4-5, 1st year)	P
1992-93 Finish:	A
9-17 overall, 4-14	C
in the Big West	K
(8th place tie)	
1993-94 Record:	
4-5 overall, 0-1	
Big West	

1993-94 Schedule

Nov. 28	@Rice	L 74-66
Dec. 4	BAYLOR	L 97-89
9	@North Texas	L 76-53
11	@Kansas State	L 78-52
20	FRESNO STATE	W 79-71
22	SANTA CLARA	W 71-65
28	COLORADO	W 78-68
30	CS STANISLAUS	W 95-90
Jan. 3	SAN JOSE STATE	L 82-78
5	PACIFIC	7:30
8	@UCSB	7:30
10	@Long Beach St.	7:30
15	UC IRVINE	7:30
17	CS FULLERTON	7:35
20	@UNLV	8:05
22	@New Mexico St.	7:30
29	UTAH STATE	7:35
Feb. 3	NEW MEXICO ST.	7:30
5	UNLV	7:35
10	@CS Fullerton	7:35
12	@UC Irvine	7:30
17	UCSB	7:30
19	LONG BEACH ST.	7:30
24	@Pacific	7:30
26	@San Jose State	7:30
Mar. 5	@Utah State	7:00

Nexus Pick: 7th Place



Big West Media Guide/Daily Nexus

Jerry Hogan is one of four returnees for the Wolf Pack. However, new head coach Pat Foster brings with him a winning tradition from Houston where he compiled a 142-73 record.

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SAN JOSE STATE

Preview by Steven Large

Big Improvement Gives Spartans Hope

Morrison's Team Looks to Show More Competition

The San Jose Spartans, coming off of a 7-19, ninth-place finish last season, are much improved and should take a big step this year. From horrendous to mediocre.

"We can compete with every team in the conference [this year]," Head Coach Stan Morrison said.

The Spartans are 5-4 so far this season, with three of their wins (Loyola Marymount, Montana State and Nevada) coming in overtime. They held up surprisingly well in their 53-66 loss to Minnesota.

The improvement of the San Jose State team this year is due in no small part to the revival of senior guard Terry Cannon.

Cannon, who led the Spartan scoring attack in both 1991 and 1992, was redshirted last season due to a knee injury. This year he is again the leading scorer on his team with an average of 18.2 points per game.

Cannon has been hot lately, hitting on 11 of 15 (his career best from the field) for 27 points in the win over Montana State and coming back with 24 points in Monday's win over Nevada.

Cannon is joined in the backcourt by seniors Lossie Mitchel, Javier Zavala and Les Shepherd. Mitchel has started the last four games opposite Cannon, while Zavala and Shepherd have seen limited playing time.

I expect a lot of offensive production from the guard spots," Morrison said. "They have more confidence, know the offense and will take the ball to the basket. This is the best backcourt we've had."

The Spartans' play in the paint has not been bad either. Six-foot-nine junior Mike Brotherton is the starter at center, and is joined down low by small forward Jason Allen and power forward Andrew Gardiner.

Brotherton has proven to be a solid inside man, averaging 12.1 points per game and 6.4 rebounds per game. He dominated the Loyola Marymount overtime victory, scoring 26 points while pulling down 13 rebounds.

Allen, who is averaging 13.6 points per game, is San Jose State's only returning star. Although he is known for being the Spartan's three-point threat, he is actually being outpaced by Cannon in three-point efficiency.

Gardiner, a native of New Zealand, has replaced four-year performers Daryl Scott — a 1993 honorable mention All-Big West pick — and Kevin Logan, eighth on San Jose State's career rebounding list, with minimal success. He has averaged just 5.6 points and 4.4 rebounds per game.

Despite the Spartan's mediocrity, they do have enough talent to pull some upsets.

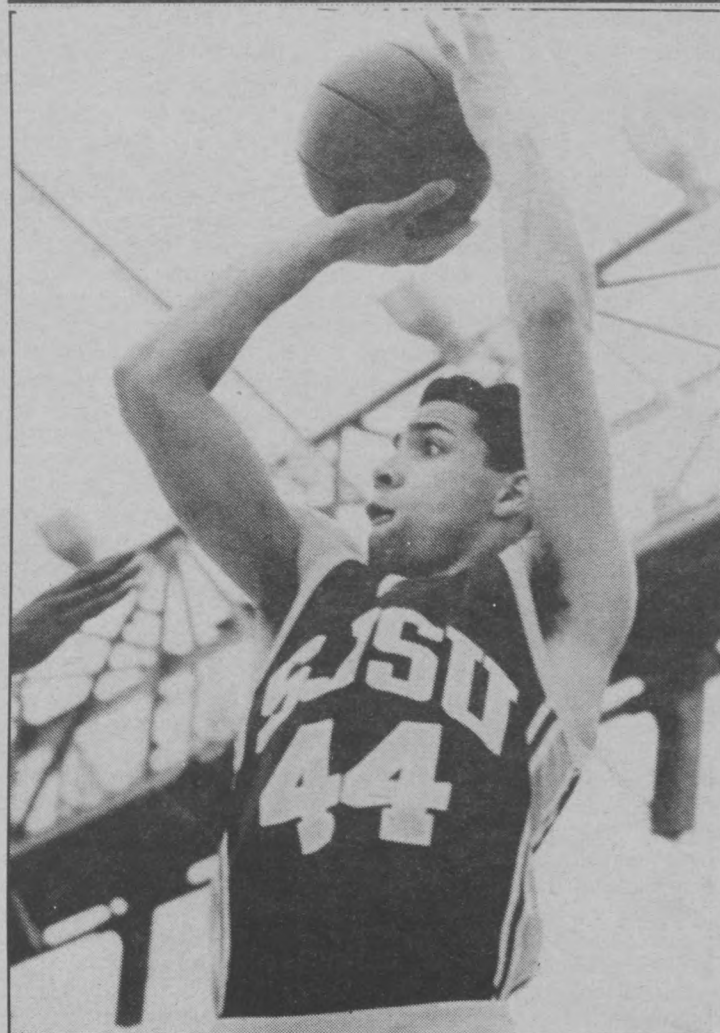
QUICK FACTS -

Location:	S
San Jose, CA	P
Head Coach:	A
Stan Morrison	R
(29-87, 5th year)	T
1992-93 Finish:	A
7-19 overall, 4-14	N
in the Big West	S
(8th place tie)	
1993-94 Record:	
5-4 overall, 1-0	
Big West	

1993-94 Schedule

Nov. 26	Gonzaga	W 98-87
27	Stanford	L 69-58
Dec. 1	@Santa Clara	L 69-61
4	@Fresno State	W 69-67
7	ST. MARY'S	L 75-66
11	L. MARYMOUNT	W 95-90
23	MINNESOTA	L 66-53
30	MONTANA STATE	W 74-69
Jan. 3	@Nevada	W 82-78
5	@Utah State	7:00
8	@Pacific	7:30
15	LONG BEACH ST.	7:30
17	UCSB	7:30
20	@CS Fullerton	7:35
22	@UC Irvine	7:30
27	NEW MEXICO ST.	7:30
29	UNLV	7:30
Feb. 3	UC IRVINE	7:30
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10	@UCSB	7:30
12	@Long Beach St.	7:30
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26	NEVADA	7:30
Mar. 3	@UNLV	8:05
5	@New Mexico St.	7:30

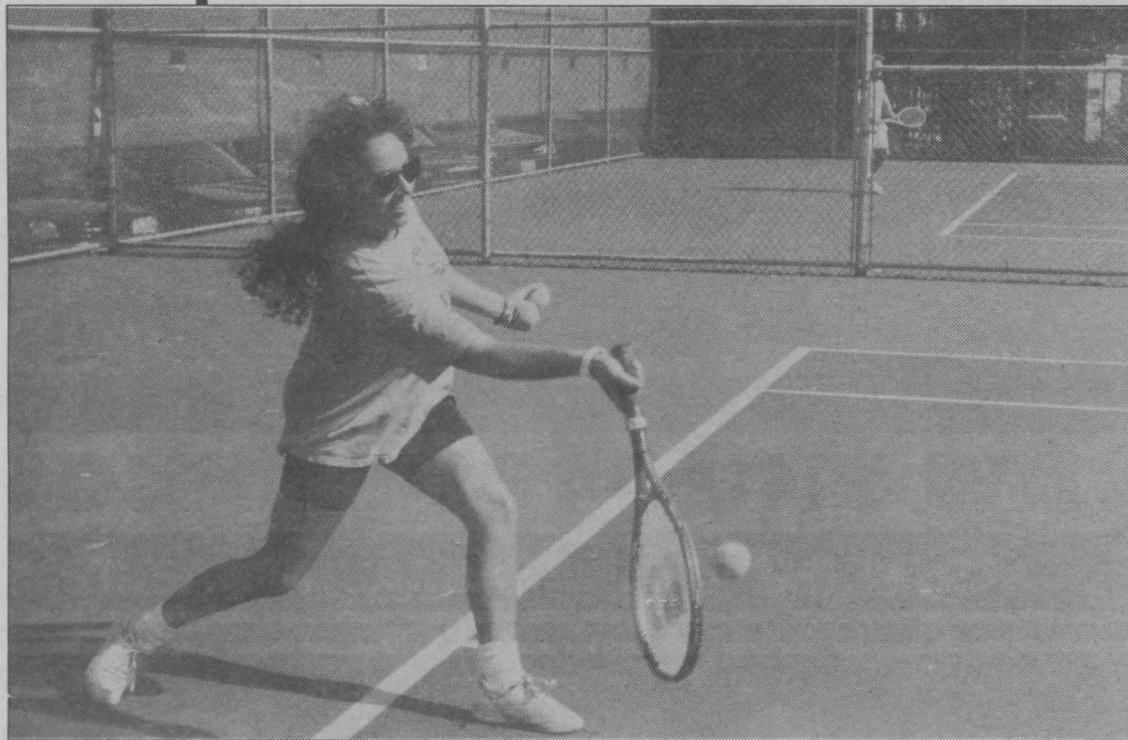
Nexus Pick: 9th Place



Big West Media Guide

After finishing last season as the #2 scorer, Spartan forward Jason Allen promises to be a driving force for the improving San Jose offense.

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- T'ai Chi Chuan
- Tennis

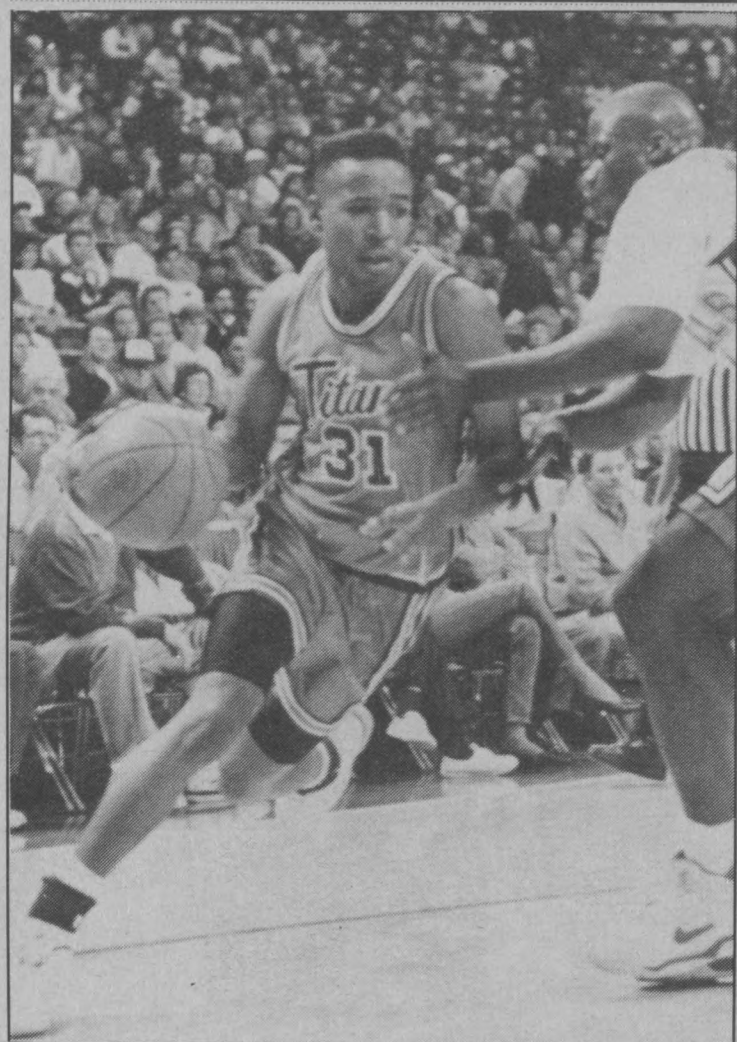
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CAL STATE FULLERTON

Preview by Brian Pillsbury

Holland Has to Rebuild Team at CSF

Nexus Pick: 10th Place



Big West Media Guide

Cal State Fullerton guard Greg Vernon was one of the two returning players Titan Head Coach Brad Holland will be able to call upon as the team attempts to rebuild their team.

Titans Field Not One Returning Starter This Season

QUICK FACTS -

Location:
Fullerton, CA
Head Coach:
Brad Holland
(17-19, 2nd year)
1992-93 Finish:
15-12 overall, 10-8
in the Big West
(5th place tie)
1993-94 Record:
2-7 overall, 0-1
Big West

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1993-94 Schedule

Dec. 4	@Wyoming	L 80-62
7	CONCORDIA	W 80-66
10	@St. Mary's	L 78-75
18	UTAH	L 76-73
21	@Colorado	L 79-69
23	@Colorado St.	L 87-70
28	NORTH IOWA	L 71-57
30	OKLA. BAPTIST	W 85-71
Jan. 3	UC IRVINE	L 77-71
5	UNLV	7:35
8	NEW MEXICO ST.	7:35
15	@Utah State	7:00
17	@Nevada	7:35
20	SAN JOSE STATE	7:35
22	PACIFIC	7:35
27	@UCSB	7:30
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Feb. 3	@Pacific	7:30
5	@San Jose State	7:30
10	NEVADA	7:35
12	UTAH STATE	7:35
17	@UNLV	8:05
19	@New Mexico St.	7:30
24	@UC Irvine	7:30
Mar. 3	LONG BEACH ST.	8:30
5	UCSB	8:05

For second-year Head Coach Brad Holland and the Cal State Fullerton Titans, it would be an understatement to term the 1993-94 season a rebuilding year. CSUF is currently 2-6 for the year, though both wins have come against NAIA opponents.

Facing by far the toughest coaching assignment in the Big West, Holland inherits a team with no returning starters and only two players who saw any minutes on last year's 15-12 squad. Guard Greg Vernon averaged only nine minutes per game, while Todd Satalowich is out for the season with a back injury. Senior Don Leary, who was one of the conference's most prolific 3-point shooters last season, stopped going to class in the spring and is academically ineligible, as is backup guard Dijon Bernard.

"We lost virtually everything," Holland said. "With 10 new people and the only two returnees accounting for a couple of points and rebounds per game, we are starting from scratch. With the exception of James French, none of the newcomers have Division I experience. We have four new freshmen, four JC transfers and a guy from France. They don't know the system."

To fill his roster, Holland went to the JC ranks for a quick fix, where he signed Titan starters Darren Little (10.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg) and Winston Peterson (17.0 ppg, 9.6 rpg). Peterson scored 24 points and 11 rebounds in a three-point loss to Utah. He has been the team leader in rebounding in all but one game, including a 14-rebound performance in a 79-69 loss to Colorado.

French, a junior point guard and transfer from Washington, has given Fullerton some stability and experience in the backcourt along with Vernon. French is averaging 10.6 ppg, while Vernon is averaging 12.0 ppg. Center David Frigout (4.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg) has fouled out of his last five games. The 6-foot-8 sophomore from France has had his problems getting adjusted to Division I play in the U.S., but the Titan coaching staff likes his good shooting touch.

French has taken on the role as the Titan's main outside threat, as he has hit 13 of 23 from behind the 3-point arc for a .565 shooting percentage.

While expectations are not high, Holland is not ready to fold right now.

"We have some talent," he said. "It's just difficult putting it together from square one. We hope to play an up-tempo game and present some problems for people defending us. Of course, we'll have problems against people with better height."

Fullerton's 1993-94 season will probably be one where moral victories approach the status of the real wins that go in columns. Wait 'til next year.



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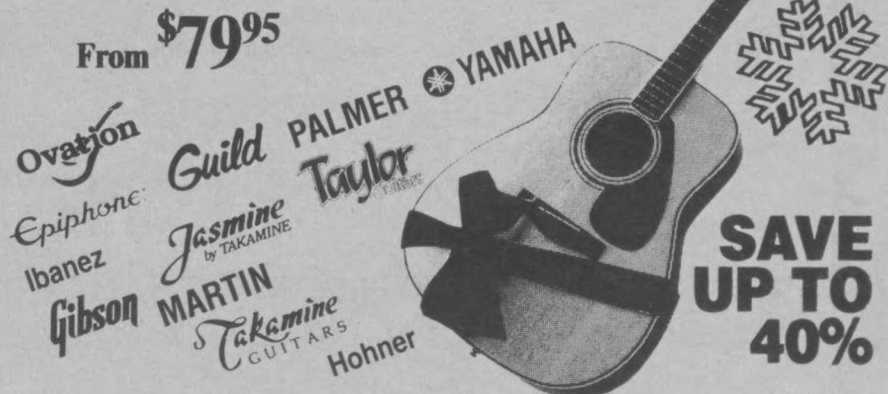
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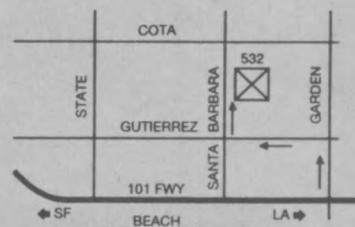
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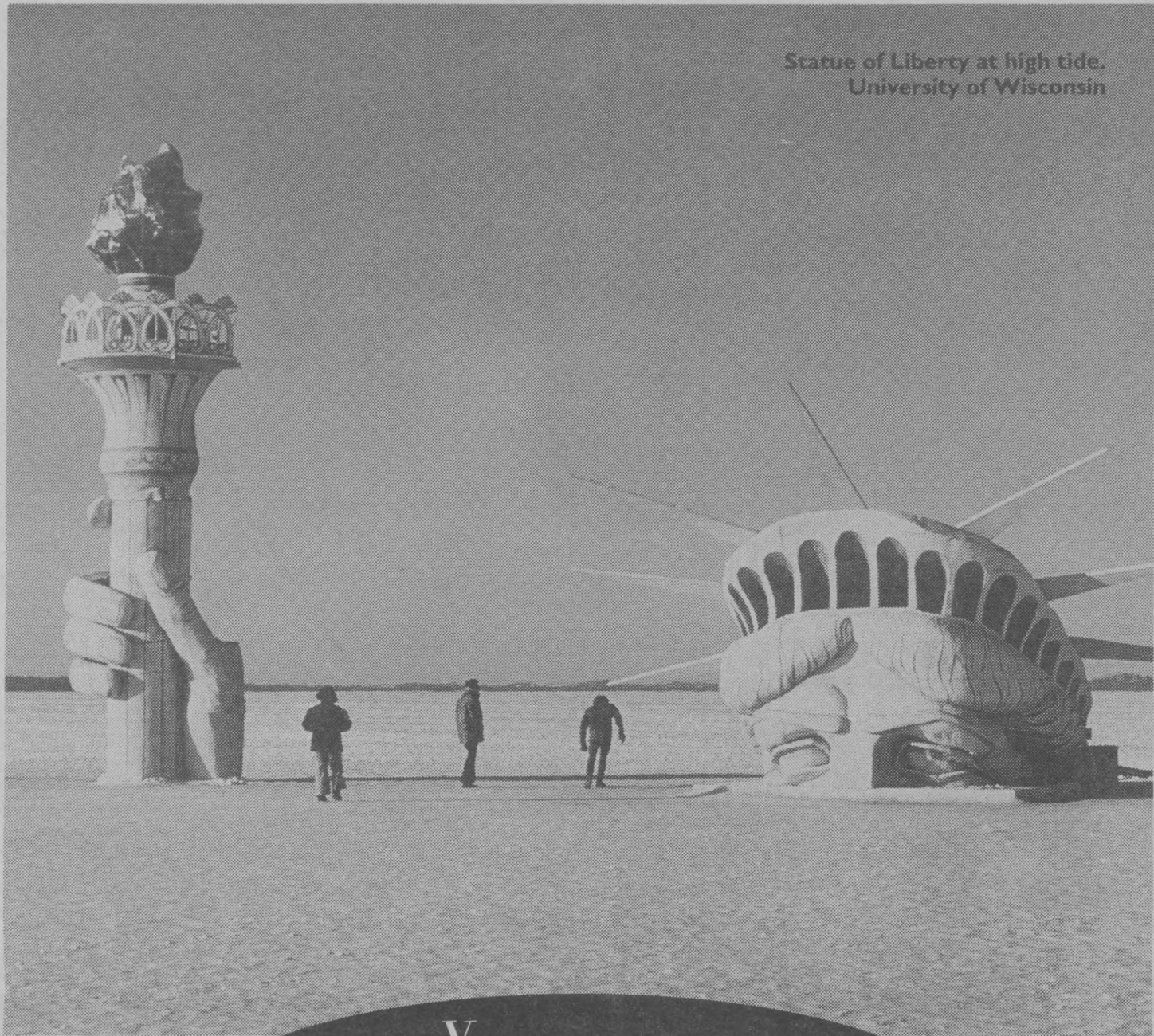
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