

Sports MONDAY

Gauchos Toast Tigers in Physical, Emotional Game

BY ELIAY APPELBAUM
Staff Writer

No Tigers were going to claw out of this hole.

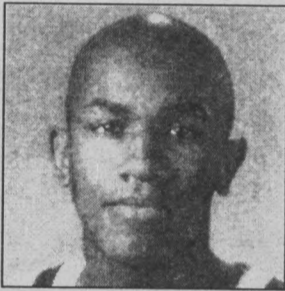
The UCSB men's basketball team delivered yet another win during its critical stretch of Big West games, this time on Senior Day Saturday at the Thunderdome. Santa Barbara honored its two seniors, forward Juliano Jordani and guard LaDonte King, before the rest of the team scratched out a 73-62 victory against Pacific.

In a physical game marred with 49 fouls, a somber crowd of mostly students filtered into the T-dome to watch the game despite the melancholy in I.V. following a fatal auto accident Friday night. The quiet atmosphere hovered around the building even after the final buzzer sounded, yet not before the Gauchos (13-12, 9-5 in the Big West) took care of the Tigers (15-10, 6-7).

"I've never been a part of something of this magnitude as a coach," UCSB Head Coach Bob Williams said. "The suspense of not knowing [at

game time] who the victims were was tough on the players."

Redshirt freshman guard Nick Jones paced the Gauchos with 22 points, six rebounds and three steals in 33 minutes of action. The fearsome threesome — sophomore forward Mark Hull, freshman forward Branduinn Fullove, and junior power



Nick Jones

forward Mike Vukovich — all tallied double figures in points for Santa Barbara at the starting forward positions. Hull scored 16 points and snatched six boards. Fullove pumped in 13 points, grabbed five boards, and passed for three assists. Vukovich poured in 15 points, 10 points resulting from hook shots; he also grabbed seven boards.

Vukovich, who went 12-12 from the field at UOP on Feb. 3, finished

6-10 on Saturday, a noteworthy .600 from the floor. Vukovich, who missed his first attempt would heat up with the progression of the action.

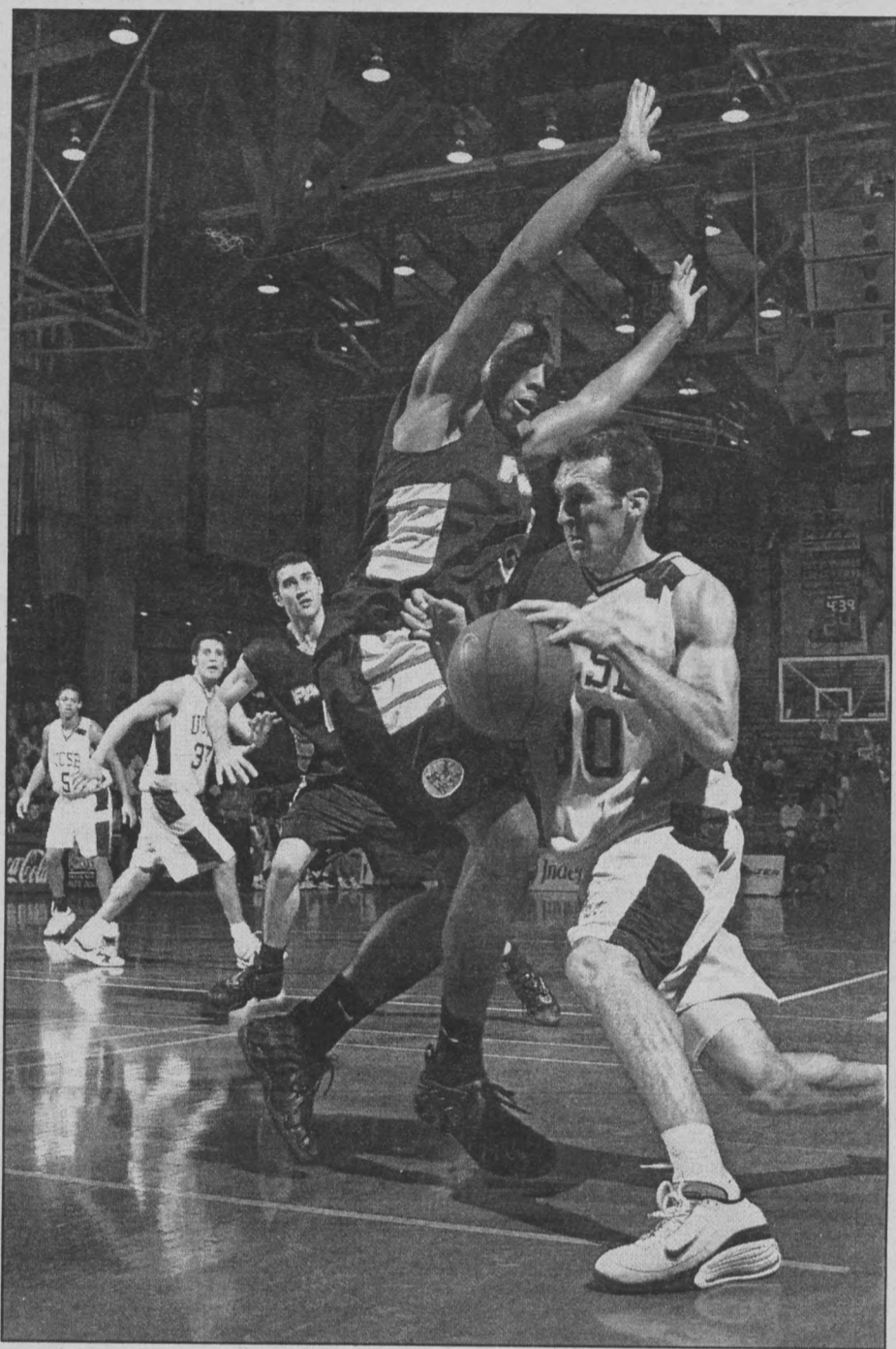
"I felt real good," Vukovich said. "I felt I had a chance to make it every time I touched the ball."

The Gauchos came out roaring from the tip-off, opening the game on a 7-0 spurt. Fullove nailed an awkward jumper, followed by a Jones try on a looping pass from Vukovich. Jones then stole the ball, and passed to freshman point guard Jacoby Atako, who found a streaking Hull for an easy two points and an early lead.

The Tigers started getting back into the game behind forward Mike Hahn's inside bucket, which bolstered an 8-3 UOP run. Guard Maurice McLemore and Hahn both added four points in the run.

Pacific grabbed its first lead 11-10 off a three-pointer by guard Jono Metzger-Jones at the 15:01 mark. Fullove responded with a jumper of his own. Freshman forward Casey Cook aggres-

See UCSB, p.3A



TRUC BUI / DAILY NEXUS

Sophomore forward Mark Hull sweeps by a Pacific defender during Santa Barbara's 72-63 victory at the Thunderdome. Hull was a big factor, scoring 16 points in the home win.

Santa Barbara Sweeps Idaho Road Swing, Moves Back on Top in Big West

BY MATT HEITNER
Staff Writer

The UCSB women's basketball team has battled through adversity all season, and this weekend provided another opportunity for the Gauchos to display their resilience.

Forced to play without senior forward Nicole Greathouse, UCSB (17-8, 10-2 in the Big West) continued its climb back to the top of the Big West standings after sliding by Boise State 62-58 and trouncing Idaho 84-60. With the victories, Santa Barbara pulled into a first-place tie with Long Beach State, and extended its overall winning streak to four games.

"I'm really proud of these kids," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said on 1250 AM radio. "This road trip was tough, especially without Greathouse, but hopefully we're peaking at the right time."

The Gauchos came out on fire against BSU (9-15, 5-6), shooting their way to a 9-0 lead, while holding the Broncos scoreless for the first four minutes of the game. However, Santa Barbara soon cooled off, and BSU took advantage, pulling to within one, 16-15.

Already playing shorthanded, UCSB looked to be in serious trouble when another senior, forward Rachele Rogers, went down with a severe hip pointer after only 17 minutes of action. Despite their misfortune, the Gauchos limped into halftime with a 34-30 lead.



Kayte Christensen

"We didn't have many subs tonight, and I was definitely feeling it," said junior forward Kayte Christensen on 1250 AM. "We all just knew that we would have to step it up."

Santa Barbara did just that in the second half, extending its lead to 48-36. Starting in place of Greathouse, who was unable to travel with the team because of medical reasons, freshman center Lindsay Taylor led the way for UCSB in the second

half, abusing the stubbier Broncos' defenders for easy baskets around the hoop. Taylor finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds for the second double-double of her career, while playing a career-high 30 minutes.

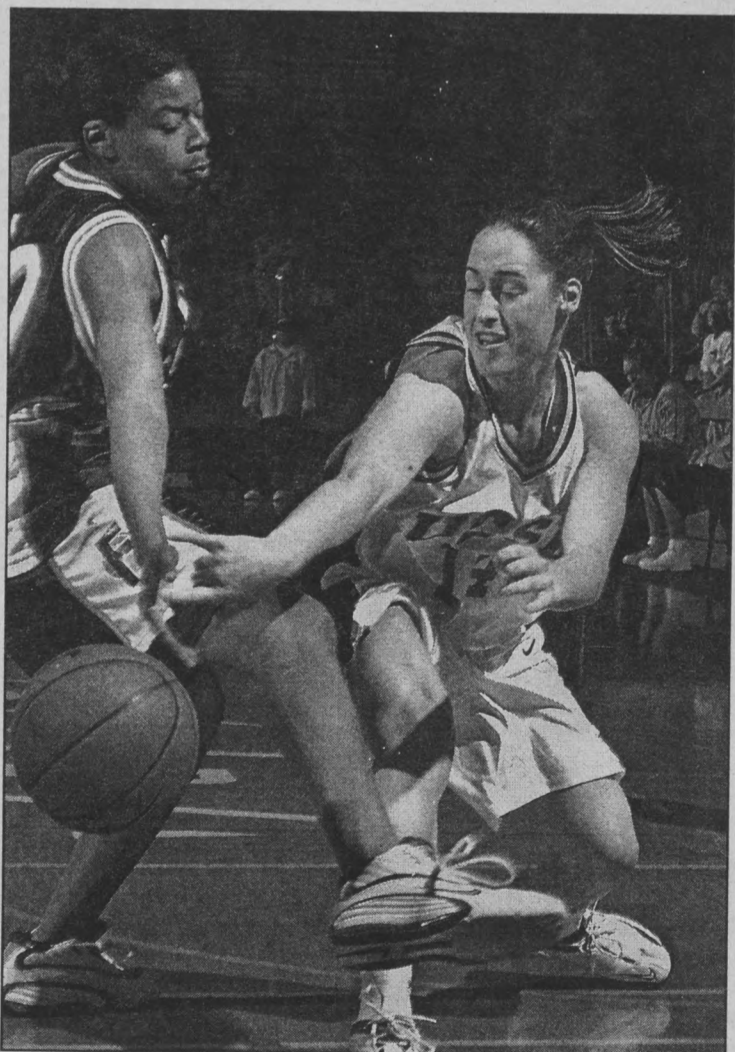
Feeding off Taylor, UCSB took its biggest lead of the game at 54-41 with just over five minutes left to play, and seemed to have the game in hand. But BSU rallied behind back-to-back three pointers from sophomore guard Abby Vaughan, cutting the Gauchos' lead to 60-58.

The Broncos then sent Gaucho sophomore point guard Debby Caine to the charity stripe, hoping that she would buckle under the pressure and give BSU a chance to tie. But Caine calmly sank both free throws, securing the game for Santa Barbara.

UCSB would only have to play without one senior Sunday against the Vandals, as Rogers returned with a vengeance. Playing in pain, Rogers still managed to pour in 17 points, including 15 in the first half, while inspiring her teammates with her courageous effort.

"Rachele gave us a real shot in the arm today," French said.

See GAUCHOS, p.2A



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS FILE

Freshman guard Lisa Willett makes a no-look pass. The Gauchos were able to come out victorious this weekend vs. Boise State and Idaho.

GAUCHOS

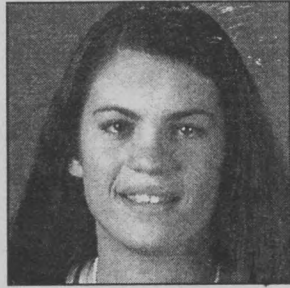
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"She came out and gutted it out and shot the ball really well for us."

The Gauchos came out hot against the Vandals, racing out to a 15-5 lead behind five of Rogers' points. Idaho (6-19, 3-9) then battled back to cut the Santa Barbara lead to four, 22-18. Not to be outdone, UCSB answered with a 14-4 run of its own, with Rogers leading the way once again, contributing seven points during the surge.

Riding the excellent play of Rogers, the

Gauchos took a 45-36 lead into halftime, and came out determined to put the Vandals away in the second period. Unfortunately



Lindsay Taylor

for UCSB, Idaho had other ideas, slicing Santa Barbara's lead to 47-42.

With Rogers cooling

off, it was time for another player to step up for the Gauchos. That player turned out to be two people: Christensen and Taylor. The duo combined for 39 points and 21 rebounds, with Taylor recording her second double-double of the road trip.

Behind the stellar performances of its post players, UCSB seized control of the game, going up 68-49 at the five-minute mark. Knowing that it had nearly blown a similar lead only two days earlier against BSU, Santa Barbara didn't let up, outscoring the Vandals 16-1 to finish the game.

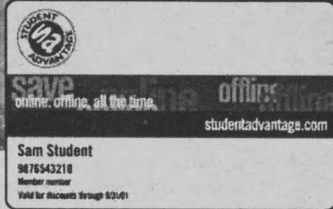
"We had our opportunities tonight," Idaho Head Coach Hillary Recknor said on 1250 AM. "We just turned the ball over too much. [This loss] was really frustrating."

The Gauchos now return home to play Pacific on Thursday, before facing off against Long Beach State in a battle for the first place in the Big West.

"We're not going to practice very hard this week," French said on 1250 AM. "We're going to rest up so we can be ready to rock 'n' roll next weekend against Pacific and Long Beach."

Check out tomorrow's sports section to find out how UCSB fared in baseball, softball and water polo

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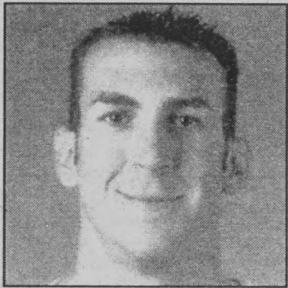
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UCSB

Continued from p.1A

sively hauled in an offensive board, putting up the shot for a 14-14 tie at 11:03 in the first half.

Hull would give Santa Barbara a lead it would never relinquish, when he smoked a three-pointer for a 19-18 lead at the 7:22 mark in the first half. Though UOP tied the game 42-42 after guard Peter Heizer hit a three and dunked the ball, UCSB quickly picked up



Mark Hull

where it left off in the first half, never falling behind more than three in the final 3:42 of the contest.

"They seemed to be sticking around," Hull said. "We were never able to pull away. But during crunch time we were able to make our free throws and extend our lead at the end."

The Gauchos created some breathing room in

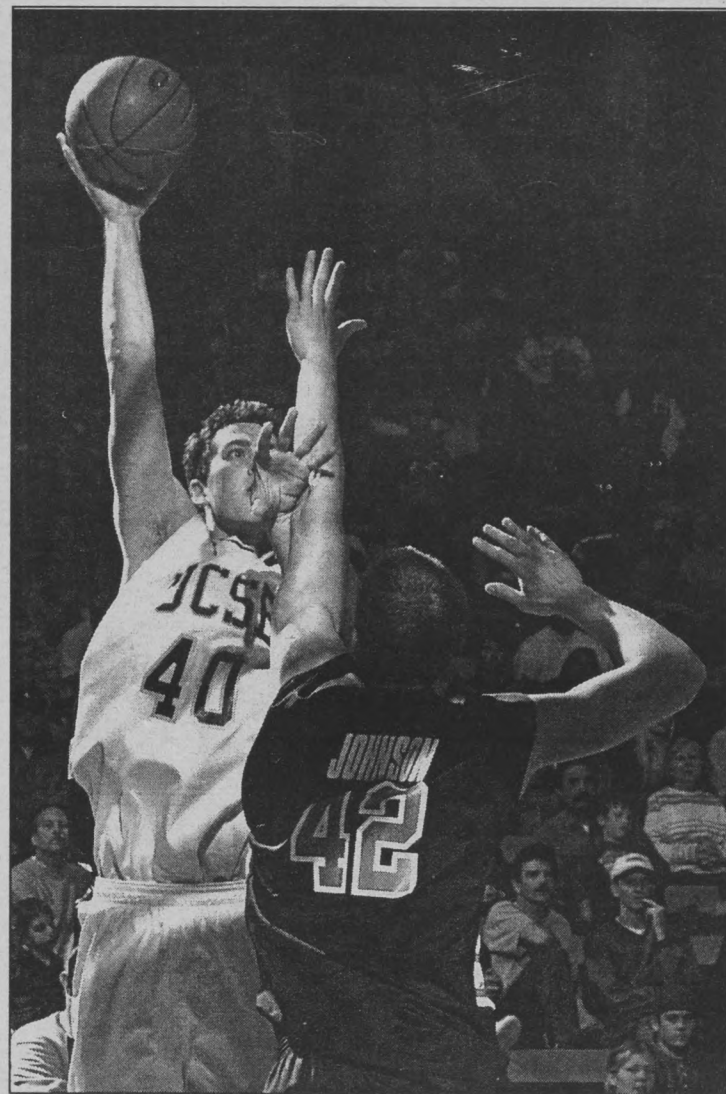
the first half when Vukovich got hot and sank two straight hooks, and Jones slipped in for two to give UCSB a 26-18 lead. Jones led Santa Barbara at halftime with 11 points.

"The last time we played on national TV, I had a bad ankle [from a pre-game injury]," Jones said. "So I was just trying to stay healthy during shoot-around. When I got through it ... I was just really glad to be at full strength."

Despite the strong offensive performances by the starters, Jordani was a key figure on and off the floor for the Gauchos by carrying his emotion and intensity to the rest of the team.

With the last home victory, the Gauchos move above .500 for the first time this season.

"We've won eight of



Junior forward Mike Vukovich buries one of his five hooks over Pacific defender Tim Johnson. Vukovich finished with 15 points in the victory.

our last nine and have played some pretty darn good basketball, finding ways to win," Williams said. "I don't think we've played our best basketball.

It's not like we're out there playing a perfect game. But what we're doing is competing at a pretty darn high level now, and I'm pleased with that."

Gauchos Roar Past Leopards in Four Game Win

BY BRITTANY LANGAN
Staff Writer

Struggling to find that winning spark after wallowing in the midst of a two-match rut, the #7 UCSB men's volleyball team jump-started its dying engine against LaVerne on Friday to get back on the winning track.

It was slow going, but the Gauchos (6-5 overall, 3-5 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) found the right tools to get back on the road and zoomed past the Leopards (3-8) at the Thunderdome in a 30-23, 23-30, 30-16, 30-16 victory.

"We haven't had good energy these past few weeks," UCSB Head Coach Ken Preston said. "I was disappointed with how we entered the floor in the second game, so I decided to change the chemistry and it worked."

The first half of game one was neck-to-neck, with both teams struggling to pull away from one another. With the score tied at 16, UCSB decided to take matters into its own hands and surged ahead, taking a 27-20 lead en route to winning game one 30-23.

"We lacked intensity," said UCSB junior outside hitter Alex Lienert, who played for LaVerne last year. "[LaVerne] always comes out and swings hard

because they have nothing to lose. In the second game we didn't come out with anything at all — we didn't serve, pass or put any pressure on them."

Behind the momentum of sophomore utility Jake Swann, LaVerne took an early 5-2 lead in game two. UCSB fumbled at the service line but managed to maintain its composure to keep the game within three. However, the Leopards stepped it up and widened the gap to six. UCSB didn't answer and lost 30-23.

The Gauchos came out as a shadow of their former self and took an early 11-3 lead in game three. Junior outside hitters Dave Kohl and Andy Rivera kept the ball rolling for the Gauchos by contributing impressive kills, helping Santa Barbara notch a .485 hitting percentage. By the time LaVerne gained its composure they were deep in debt, 25-11. Three consecutive points weren't enough and LaVerne was forced to declare bankruptcy in a 30-16 loss.

"We should play every game of every match the way we did in the third game," said Preston, who made some effective changes in the lineup going into the third game.

Once again UCSB

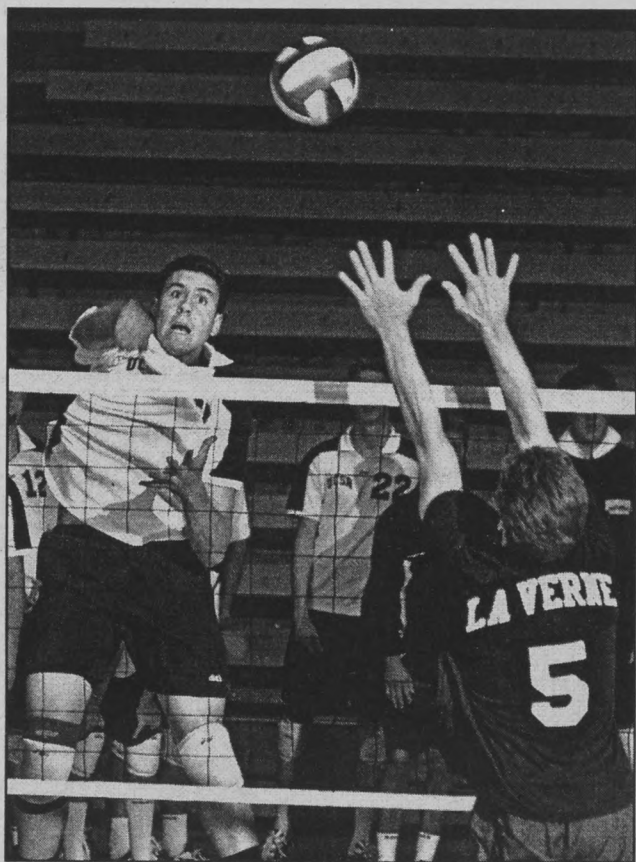
took control of matters and secured a 6-2 lead. LaVerne invested well and came within two, 11-9. However, Santa Barbara surged ahead of the Leopards, 20-10. UCSB kept applying pressure and won 30-16.

"[The Gauchos are] a tall and quick team," said LaVerne sophomore outside hitter Jay Chapman. "They work well together as a team, they function well. They are one of the

tougher teams we've played this season."

Leading UCSB was sophomore opposite hitter Ben Koski, who finished the night with 12 kills. Sophomore middle blocker Justin Adams tallied six kills and nine block assists. Freshman setter Jeff Minc tallied four service aces and 11 defensive digs.

The Gauchos take on #3 Pepperdine on Tuesday night in the Thunderdome at 7:05.



Junior opposite hitter Ben Koski helped boost UCSB to a 3-1 match win over Division III opponent LaVerne on Friday night.

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By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (Feb. 26). All your planning could pay off this year with riches beyond your wildest imagination. Ask for more than you think you're worth in March and get it by April. Devote most of May to learning what you need to know, and June to fixing up your place the way you want it. Love comes into your life around July and helps you set priorities straight. Make more work for yourself in August and you'll generate more income, too. Pay for an expert's advice in September, and save by using your own talent to fix your place in October. A surprising career development is in your favor in December, and you're paid back for past good deeds next February.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 9- The hard part is behind you, so take on new challenges. Your status is also on the rise. You're getting to be known for your courage, honesty and willingness to take a risk. Do it safely, if possible.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6- Wheeling and dealing behind the scenes could be profitable. Quick action will be required, so you should have already done the homework. If you haven't, you could miss a great deal. Just don't let it happen again.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 9- Your social calendar is packed. There's no time for work because you have too many friends to visit. If the people you work with are your friends, congratulations- you're in the right job. Today you'll be successful.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6- You may have to do something you tried to put off forever. If it's a mess that needs cleaning up, it's not of your making. Be cheerful about it, and you'll take seven steps closer to sainthood.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 9- You're active, enthusiastic and outgoing. You could steal the show, even with high-powered people around you, because you're so charming. You'll win their hearts and maybe their minds. You're irresistible!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7- Hurry to get the house whipped into shape. The work you do now could last for a long time, so get it right. Use all the labor-saving devices you can find, so you'll have time to relax before dawn.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is a 9- There are interesting conversations going on, and one of them may look like an argument. Your natural reaction is to present the opposing point of view, but the other guy's going to win this one. At least make him or her feel that way.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7- There's enough work to be done, but don't leap into it. Make sure you have a written contract before you start. If this is your own mess, it may be hard to charge yourself the time-and-a-half you deserve.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 9- You're creative and imaginative. You may even be turning into the person you'd always hoped to be. If the person you've always wanted to be with is nearby, be alluring. It works better with those passionate types.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7- You've got something on your mind that needs to be resolved, maybe a secret that needs to be told. A private place is best for this conversation. You may have to keep talking until everything's worked out.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 9- You're learning quickly from friends. Somebody else's bizarre idea can really turn you on. Don't hurt anybody who's in between you and the information you want.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7- The trap you've been working on is about to be sprung, so why are you so nervous? The planning is done, and it's time for action. Timing is extremely important, but you'll have to follow a hunch.

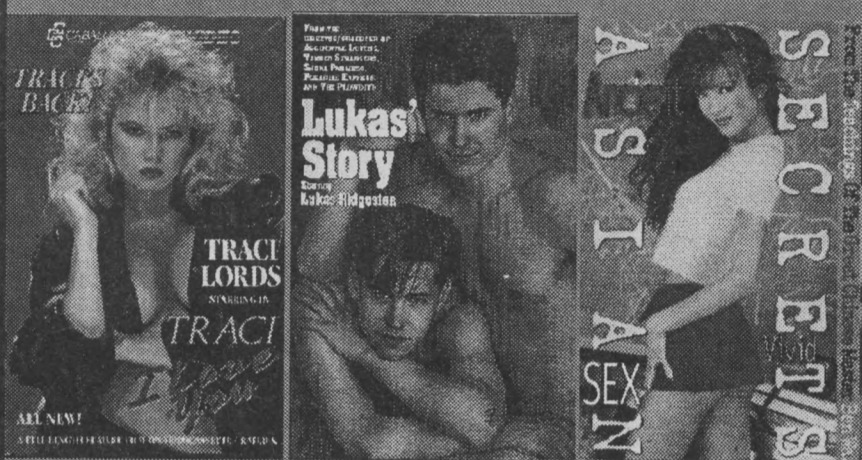
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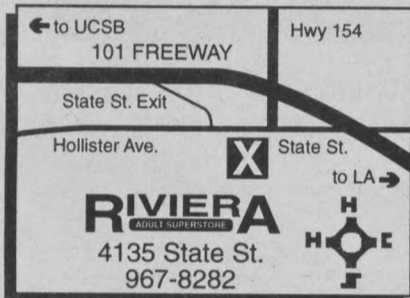
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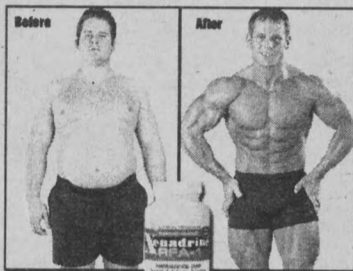
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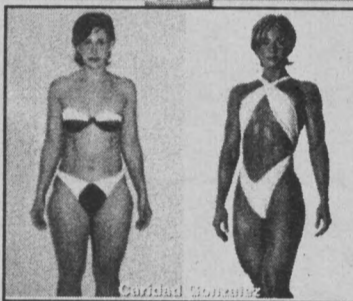
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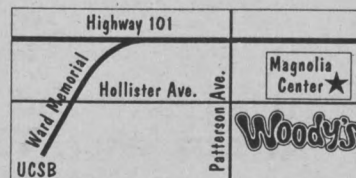
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