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Daily Nexus

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November 6, 1991



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## Getting High

# MARKS

UCSB Offensive Coordinator Steve Marks Thinks the World of Gaucho Football

By Dino Scoppettone, Staff Writer

The first thing you notice about Steve Marks is that he doesn't look like a football coach. You know, most football coaches are older, balding, hefty guys, guys that quickly assert their authority over a large band of other big guys who are prone to violence. Guys with experience. Guys like Art Shell and John Robinson and Mike Ditka. Those guys have the look.

And Steve Marks? He looks more like the equipment manager. The trainer. The waterboy, even.

Guess again.

You could never tell just by looking at Steve Marks that he was a storied wide receiver for the UCSB Gauchos, and that he played for the Los Angeles Rams, and that he led an Italian football team to three championships, and that he coaches in the World League of American Football. That's a pretty hefty resume for a 27-year-old.

Yet the Gaucho offensive coordinator adopts a humble disposition as he speaks of his association with the sport of football. It has been a long and fruitful one, beginning with Marks' attempt to crack the roster of the Los Angeles Rams following his graduation from UCSB in 1987.

"I signed as a free agent with the Rams and played five preseason games," Marks explains. "I was released after the last game, but the strike happened that year, so I went back and played three games during the strike."

For Marks, playing in the NFL was a dream come true. Because he had played with the team in the preseason, Marks had developed friendships with many of the regular players and that meant that he wasn't exposed to the indignities that other replacement players suffered during the strike. At the same time, Marks had a chance to work with Rams offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese, who was in the



CHRIS FITZ/Daily Nexus

UCSB Offensive Coordinator brings worldly outlook to the Gauchos' offensive scheme.

process of opening up a formerly run-oriented offensive attack.

"I learned probably everything that I know right now, scheme-wise, from Ernie Zampese," Marks claims. "The way that he believed in running routes, and the way that he believed in coaching players, ... I pretty much learned it from him."

Marks wasn't about to let his experience with Zampese and the Rams go to waste. When the regular NFL players returned following the strike, Marks headed back to UCSB to coach the receivers for the duration of the 1987 season. At season's end, Marks left Santa Barbara again — this time on a longer trip.

"During the strike games I met a guy that had played in the Italian Football League," Marks says. "So I played in Italy for the next three years as a receiver. I was also the quarterback, tight end and receiver coach. We had a wonderful owner, a wonderful team, we got paid a lot of money, we won all the time and everybody liked the Milano Frogs."

Needless to say, Marks had a great experience with the Milano team, winning three consecutive league

championships. Even with the success in Italy, however, he found himself returning home after the spring season to coach the Gauchos in the fall, first under Mike Warren and then under current head coach Rick Candaele.

In 1989, under Marks' guidance, the Gauchos went from a power offense to a pass-oriented spread attack. As a result, UCSB's scoring output skyrocketed, and Marks took over the reins as offensive coordinator.

"The scheme that we have now is adapting to our personnel," Marks says. "We ran a power — I with little tiny guys, and now we run more of a spread-formation offense with little guys, and that suits our personnel better. We made the change to do this because we didn't have the personnel to run other offenses."

With the new offense paying off for the Gauchos, Marks had yet another accomplishment under his belt. His coaching experience and contacts with owners in the new World League led to a job coaching receivers for the Birmingham Fire in last year's inaugural season.

See MARKS, p.7A

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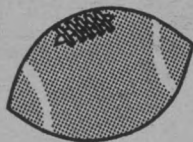
# Big Weekend for UCSB Fans

By Jonathan Okanes  
Staff Writer

There are a few weekends during a UCSB academic school year that are revered by the campus community. Of course, there was last weekend's Halloween bash, there's the annual invasion of rugby players every spring, and then, there's this weekend's Homecoming festivities.

Homecoming is traditionally associated with football. But during this 1991 version of Homecoming, a Gauchos could spend almost the entire weekend hopping around to numerous different UCSB athletic events, while rooting other teams on as they take to the road.

Home is where most of the UCSB athletic teams are this weekend, so for the true



Gauchos athletics fan, here is a short guideline for how to spend the upcoming weekend:

**Friday, 5 p.m.** — wipe that smile off your face as you sit down at the Events Center for the annual Blue-Gold game and become giddy when you start realizing that basketball is, indeed, back once again. Better get a comfortable seat — you're going to be here for a while.

**Friday, 7:30 p.m.** — You may have a chance to hit the concession stand, but don't make it too long. Women's volleyball follows the hoop festivities with a match against third-ranked Pacific. The Tigers are 16-3, but one of those losses came at the hands of the Gauchos. UOP will definitely be looking for revenge, while UCSB will be trying to improve its posi-

tion in the Northwest Region for NCAA playoff seeding purposes. Don't forget to pay close attention to public address announcer Cubby Jacobs' rendition of the starting lineups — it's an art form in itself.

**Friday, after the volleyball match** — Your stay at the ECen is over, and you're



on your own for now. Just remember — tomorrow you'll have a big day in Gauchos athletic events ahead of you, so you may want to get a good night's sleep.

**Saturday, 10 a.m.** — So it may be early for a weekend morning, but it is vital for Gauchos everywhere to wake up in honor of the UCSB women's soccer team, whose NCAA playoff match with Hartford in Connecticut begins at this time. Not too many other teams have overcome the type of adversity that Tad Bobak and his squad have had to tackle this season, so the least we could all do is send out some vibes across the country to the women as they try to get by their first obstacle to the Final Four.

**Saturday, 11:45 a.m.** — Arrive at Campus Pool for water polo match against



Long Beach State. In the past, these matches have drawn some of the most enthusiastic of Gauchos crowds. Continuing that tradition would be perfect for Homecoming weekend.

**Saturday, 2:45 p.m.** — Check KCSB for women's soccer score. If Gauchos win, do a (California back-



up quarterback) Perry Klein-type back flip.

**Saturday, 3 p.m.** — Settle in at Harder Stadium for the Homecoming football game against Cal Poly Pomona. It may be the last UCSB football game to be seen for a while. True, it's Homecoming, and because of that there tends to be a lot of distractions at a game like this, but it would be a good idea for Gauchos to try to concentrate on the game itself. Because of new NCAA enforcements that require all intercollegiate programs to compete at the same athletic level, students will be voting in February to decide if they would like to pay 20 extra dollars a year to see the football program make the jump from the Division II level to a Division I-AA capacity, or have the program be dropped altogether.

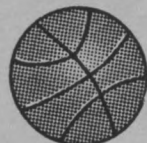
Homecoming and football are usually almost synonymous, but unless students decide that football and UCSB should be a match, future Homecomings may have a glaring absence.

**Saturday, approximately 6:15 p.m.** — You don't have much time. Another women's volleyball match awaits you in just over an hour. Since you got your dose of Cubby Jacobs' starting lineups last night, you can afford to arrive at Rob Gym a little bit late. Get a good dinner — you may be in for a long match.

**Saturday, 7:15 p.m.** — After going to the Events Center by accident and realizing that the volleyball match is indeed in Rob Gym, you traverse the parking lot in plenty of time to catch the first serve. The Gauchos are taking on Fresno State, the team that UCSB will most likely be

battling with to host a first-round NCAA playoff match. A win would definitely go a long way. But don't expect an easy match. This Bulldog team isn't like their teams in years past. Oh, and watch FSU freshman Paola Paz-Soldan during warm-ups — she may hit the ball harder than anyone around.

**Sunday, noon** — Close out your Gauchos athletic weekend with another water polo match at Campus Pool. This time, UCSB takes on the U.S. Air Force



Academy.

So there's your blueprint for the weekend. Now you might want to get around to those papers you have due this week.



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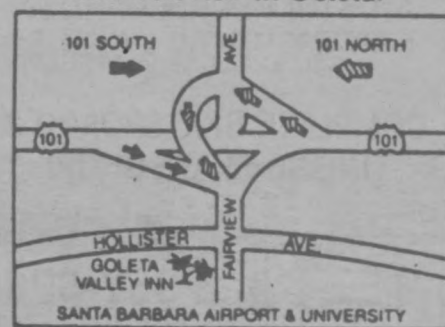
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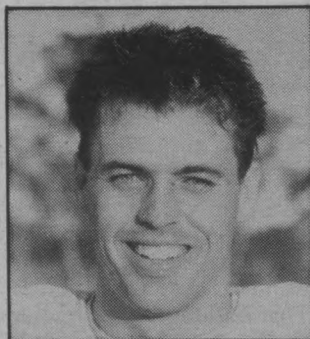
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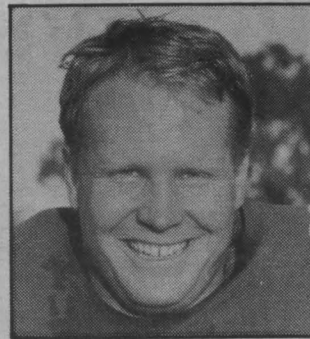
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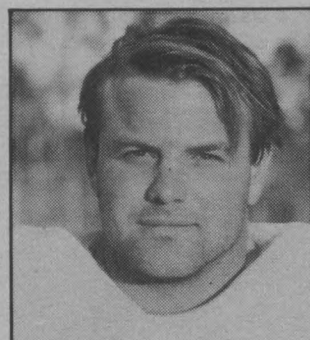
John Barnes QB

# 1991 UCSB Football

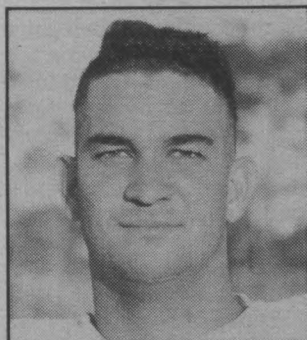
## Starting Lineup



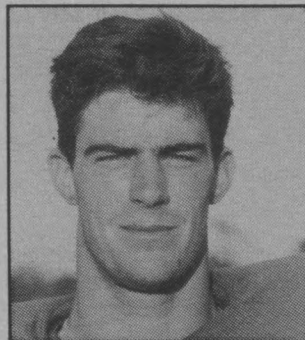
Mike Spinello ILB



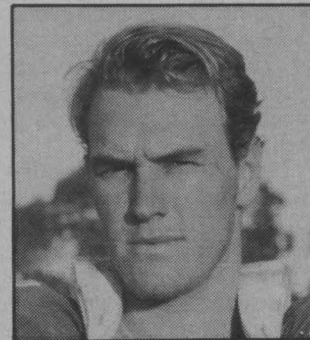
Ross Bauer RB



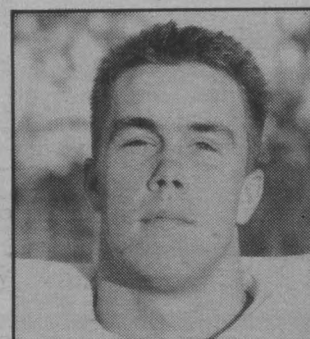
Brian Fleming WR



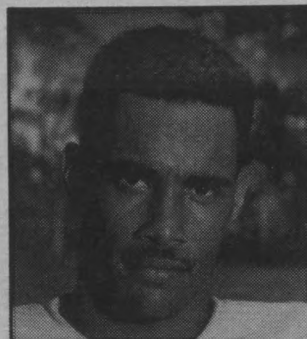
Dave Ellis OLB



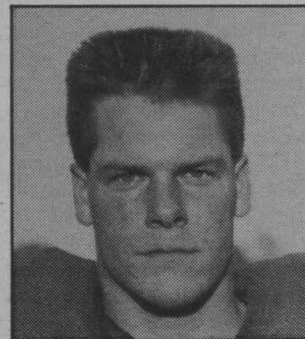
Matt Brown OLB



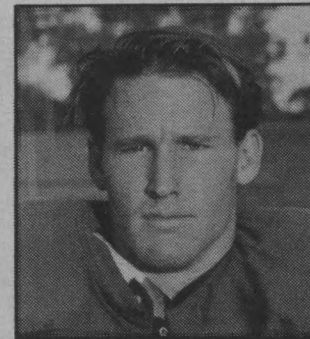
Peter Burke RB



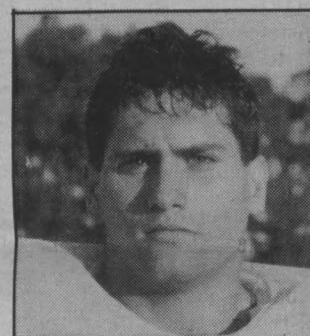
Amahl Thomas WR



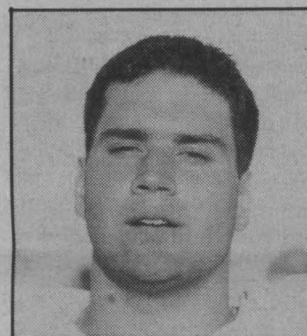
Steve Brooks DL



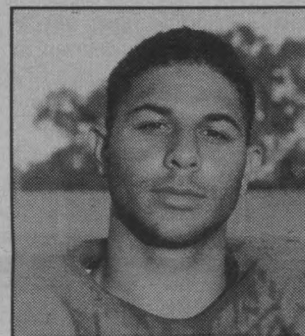
Terrence Branley DB



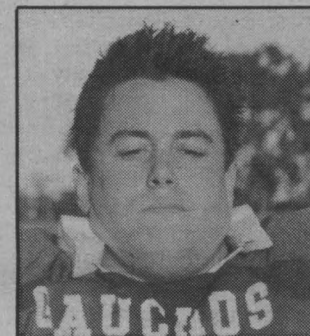
Adam Loew TE



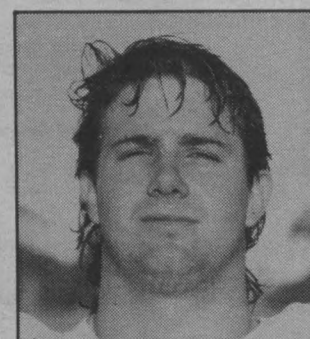
Timer Berber Oglu OL



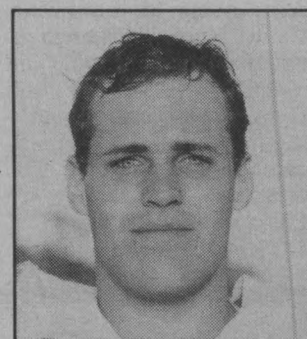
A. Dee Williams DB



Rob Simonson DL



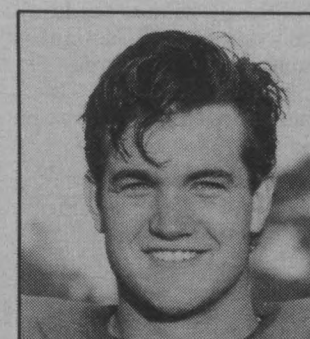
Dan Gibbons OL



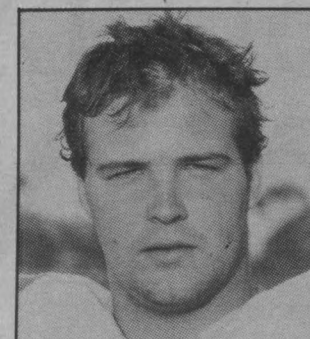
Evan Gordon OL



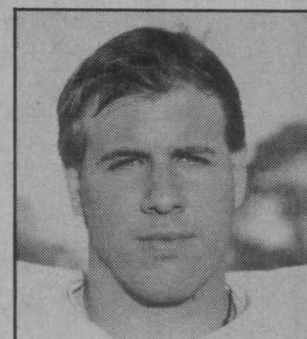
Eric Marshall ILB



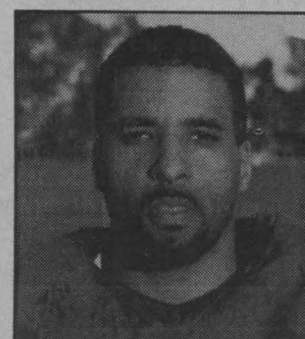
Mike Nicholson DL



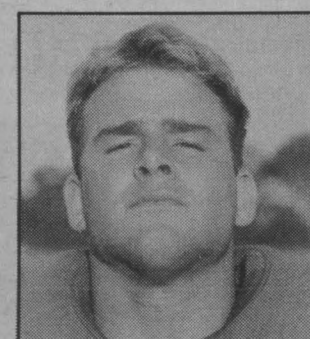
Matt Galeener OL



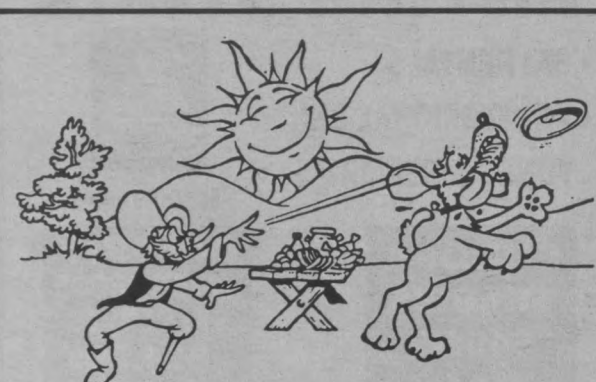
Paul LeBlanc OL



Tim Stone DB



Tom Kilby DB



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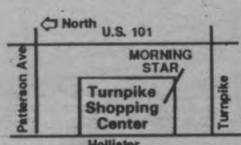


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# Gauchos Hope to Play in '92

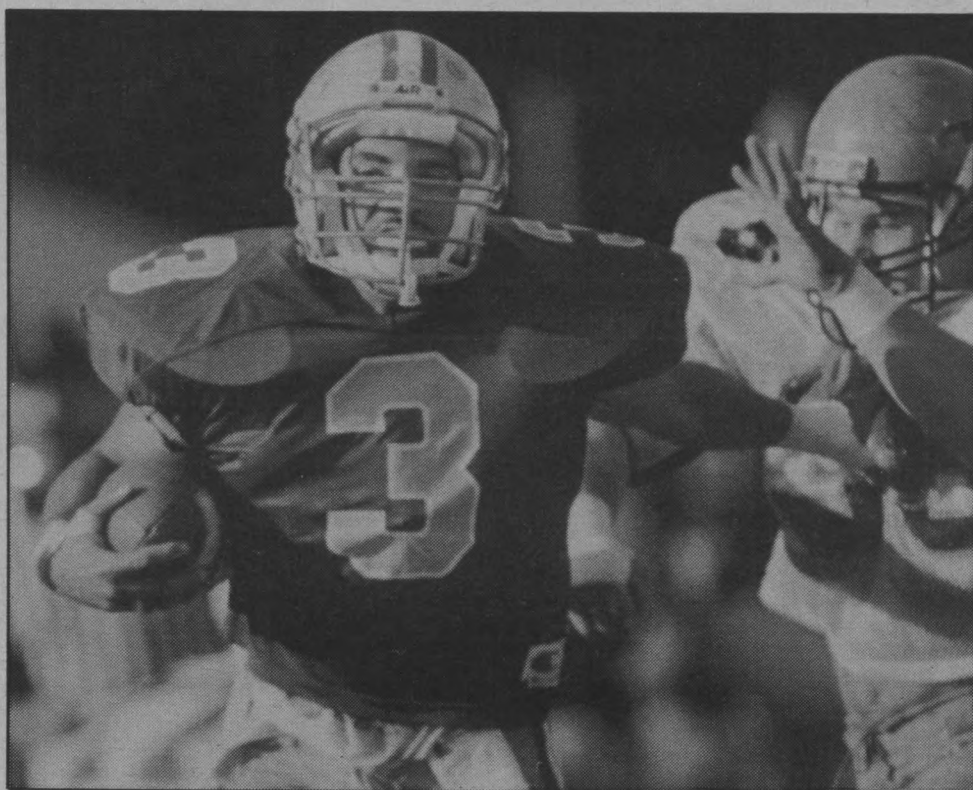
## SB Players Fear Football Program Will Get Axed

By Josh Elliott  
Staff Writer

Lenny Tran came here to play football. He turned down UCLA to do so. Larry Vasquez transferred from UC San Diego, where he was playing baseball, to come here and play football. A. Dee Williams turned down a partial scholarship to play for the Bruins so he could come here and play football. But now, it seems they may have come here for naught. Now, it seems quite possible that no one will ever come here again to play the sport of football.

Last year, the Gauchos were informed that they would have to move their football team to the Division I level by 1993 or face elimination. They have survived to this point on a shoestring budget, living off private donations and a student lock-in that brings the team \$4.50 a student per year. The total — \$125,000, which has to fund coaches' salaries, team travel, equipment and various other things. The team barely eluded an early death last year, as the program was dealt massive budget cuts that resulted in a total loss of funding from the athletic department. That the team has made it to this point seems quite an accomplishment in itself, but that doesn't seem to matter anymore. This Saturday's Homecoming game against Cal Poly Pomona could conceivably be the last in the school's history, a fact that seems to be finally dawning on the team this week.

Throughout the year, the players have said the same thing, that they really hadn't thought about the impending student vote in February that will decide the team's ultimate fate. That they never really considered that it would be up to the students to approve a new referendum that would increase the budget to \$500,000 (at a cost of \$9 a quarter), enough to field a Division I-level team. That all they ever wanted to think about was the next game.



DAVID ROSEN/Daily Nexus

**ROLLING STONE** — Defensive back Tim Stone finds daylight against Azusa Pacific. Now, the team hopes to find some of its own as its extinction looms.

"I'm just hoping there is another year," said Tran, a freshman safety who started in place of an injured Williams at the beginning of the year. "I'm trying to be positive about it. I have three years left, so hopefully I'll get another one."

Vasquez seems upbeat, or as upbeat as one could seem when they have to face the grim fact that this could be it for the sport, the reason, that brought him here.

"God, I hope there's a team next year," said Vasquez. "I want to come back next year and play and prove to the coach even more how good I am. I really hope it does survive. You know, this year, history is going to be made. It's either going to be the last year of football here, or the beginning of Division I."

History-making, in terms of Gaucho football, seems a weekly endeavor for these anonymously brilliant Gauchos. If it's not Brian Fleming breaking another receiving record, it's teammate Amahl Thomas doing the very same. They are able to put a rather absurd number of points on the board, and they do so in a fashion that would endear them to most any campus.

But that has not been the case at UCSB. At a school notorious for its fair-

weather fandom, the football team has been nothing more than fuel for the fire. Last week, as Santa Barbara clinched its fifth consecutive winning season, another school record, with a 42-7 win over Azusa Pacific, 745 fans showed up to watch. Harder Stadium? It seats 17,000.

For Williams, a redshirt sophomore safety, the impending decision is not just about votes and players and teams. When asked about it, his mood becomes a somber one, his comments quiet and thoughtful.

"It's really sad that this could be the last game, especially since this is such a great place to play football," he reflected. "The atmosphere's great, the campus is great — this really could be a great football institution. As a young person, it's like getting struck down, like somebody's just beating you down. I hope it can stay — I hope people get out there and support it. If they don't, it's going to be a great loss, especially to the young freshmen and the people with some eligibility left. That's really sad."

Many players now find themselves in limbo, unsure of whether they will have to transfer to continue their playing careers. Williams

found UCSB to be the "perfect place to play football for me," but now faces the depressing realization that his days in Santa Barbara may be numbered.

"(Whether or not to transfer) will be a hard decision to make because I really like Santa Barbara," he said. "But I want to play ball, and if it came down to it, I'd probably leave. But it would be one of the hardest things I ever do."

Vasquez, like Williams, is steadfast in his belief that football could work here at UCSB. He feels the team will survive, if for no other reason than to serve what seems a greater purpose to the community.

"I came here to play football, to put on the pads and sweat and go crazy and smell the grass — good things," he explained. "Football, as far as life is concerned, is not at the top, like family is. But I think we, as football players, are role models for other children to look up to. Maybe they'll see us or recognize us, on or off the field, and take it from there, in a positive way."

All year long, the players have said the same thing, that all they want to think about is the next game. Now, Tran and Vasquez and Williams, and truly the rest of the team, can only hope that there is one.

### STAFF BOX

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### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Blue and Gold Rally

12 noon - 1 pm • Storke Plaza

Men's Water Polo

UCSB vs Long Beach

12 noon • Campus Pool

Men's Basketball Game

Blue and Gold

5 pm • Events Center

Women's Volleyball Match

UCSB vs University of the Pacific

7:30 pm • Events Center

Bonfire Pep Rally

following Women's Volleyball • Lagoon Lawn

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Gaucho Gala

12:30 - 2:30 pm

Food and Game Booths, Music

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Skydiving Exhibition

2:55 pm • Harder Stadium

Football Game

UCSB vs Cal Poly Pomona

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# UCSB's #1 Target

UCSB Wide Receiver Brian Fleming Tops the Gaucha Record Books

By Jonathan Okanes, Staff Writer

**U**CSB wide receiver Brian Fleming may play professional football next season, but he has some other things on his mind right now.

"I'd like to come back and be able to watch football here after I graduate," said the senior, who has shattered almost every Gaucha receiving record at UCSB. "There's no reason to have just a useless stadium — I think that stadium was built for football."

This Saturday's Homecoming game may be the last football contest that Harder Stadium hosts for a while, as the Gouchos wrap up their season against Cal Poly Pomona. Unless UCSB students vote to have the football program advance to the Division I level, Gaucha gridirons will become a thing of the past, meaning that future Homecoming weekends like this one will not have football games included in its festivities.

That's something that Fleming finds hard to swallow.

"Homecoming without football — I've never heard of anything like that," Fleming said. "When you look back to high school, the football game was always the focal point of homecoming. The kids that we bring into our program here are good kids — they deserve a chance to play football some more."

Despite what happens to the program, Fleming will have definitely left his mark on Gaucha football. He became UCSB's all-time leading receiver during his junior season, and with every catch he makes this year he simply adds on to his own record. With 61 receptions in 1991, Fleming now has 186 career catches and needs just two in Saturday's game to break his own record of most receptions for a single season that he set last year. Fleming is also UCSB's all-time leader in pass receiving yardage.

Now Fleming's success has had people talking about a chance for a professional career. A great inside receiver with excellent hands, Fleming has realized that football life can be a reality for him after his days at UCSB are finished.

"I'd like to get a chance at the NFL," Fleming said. "I think I could go legitimately, even though I'm from a Division II school. I would just like to play football — wherever I may land. I don't want to stop playing football. In high school, I didn't have a last football game because I knew that I was coming to play here. I don't want to this to be last game — I want to go play somewhere else."

UCSB receivers trying their luck in the NFL is starting to become somewhat of a trend. With such formidable prospects such as Johnny Ace and tight end Khaled

Shahbo garnering NFL interest in recent years, Fleming figures to become another exhibit of UCSB Offensive Coordinator Steve Marks' plan to send at least one Gaucha receiver to the ranks of the professionals each year.

"My goal is to send one player, one time a year, to the NFL," Marks said. "If there is one position on the field that would have a chance at UCSB, it would be the receiver spot. I've coached (fellow wide receiver Amahl) Thomas and Fleming since day one, and that was my goal — to send them to the NFL."

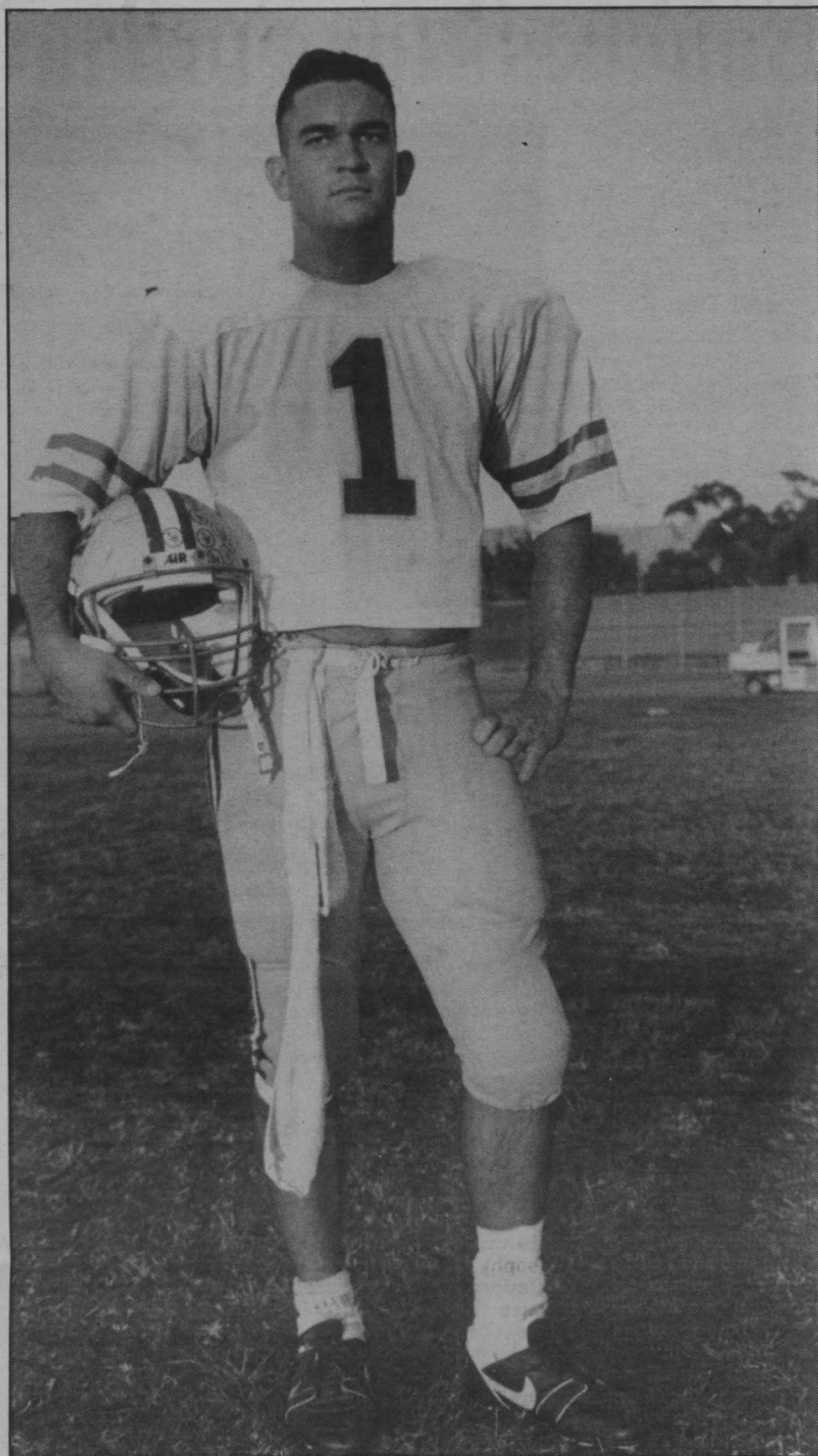
While Thomas and Fleming have teamed up to be a pretty wicked tandem this season, at one time Thomas, who is great friends with Fleming, was in position to overshadow Fleming as UCSB's marquee receiver. Thomas was ahead of Fleming in the Gauchos' rotation during his freshman season, and looked to be in that position as well the next year. But when Thomas suffered a collarbone injury that healed slowly, Fleming emerged as Santa Barbara's primary receiver. It could have turned out to be a tense situation between the two friends, but the turn of events actually served as a positive for both Fleming and Thomas.

"Amahl and I are the best of friends — we've never had any bad feelings," Fleming said. "We always do have a little competition going every year, but it's just to make sure one of us doesn't slack off. If one of us drops a ball, we'll get on each other, but it's fun. We have great respect for each other."

Fleming, who played for Laguna Hills High School in Orange County, grew up always wanting to play for UCLA. But playing for a small school that didn't put up winning seasons hurt his recruiting potential, and UCSB became the only place that he could make an immediate impact upon. That impact was good news for UCSB, and bad news for the schools that passed him up during high school. After he emerged as a pro prospect, transferring to a school that would grant him more exposure would seem like a good idea, but Fleming acknowledged the commitment that he made to UCSB.

"I came up here and I was committed to this program," Fleming said. "We have great coaches and great people up here. Every time I turn on a game on the weekend, I think that I could be doing that, but, then again, sometimes I think I could also just be on the sidelines and be a nobody. I've come here and have had great success. I have no regrets."

Neither does UCSB.



CHRIS FITZ/Daily Nexus

Star wide receiver Brian Fleming (left) could own a school record of 62 catches if he gets two more in this Saturday's Homecoming game.

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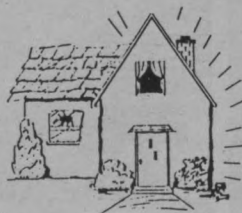
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# NCAA Rule Spells Trouble

New Litigation  
Could Result in  
End to Football

By Andrew Paul  
Staff Writer

Everyone around UC Santa Barbara has now faced the fact that this could be the final season of Gaucho football. It will either be Division I-AA or bust.

But why is there such a strict demand put on the Gaucho football program? Why isn't there a compromise of some sort? Why not Division II anymore?

These questions cannot easily be answered, although the NCAA has some ideas as to why.

Under Proposal 53 of the Multi-Division Classification for football, the NCAA recently passed legislation that requires universities like UC Santa Barbara — ones that compete at the Division I level in all other intercollegiate sports besides football — to move the football program to the Division I level by 1993 or face extinction.

The current legislation:

"A member of Division I may petition to be classified in football in Division I-A, Division I-AA, Division II or Division III. If the petition is granted, the institution should be entitled to vote in that division on legislative issues."

The new legislation, effective in 1993:

"A member of Division I may petition to be classified in football in Division I-A or Division I-AA. If the petition is granted, the institution should be entitled to vote in that division on legislative issues."

The difference between the two is quite obvious, but why would the ruling have been made? What's wrong with the way it is now?

The NCAA manual lists reasons given during the floor debate both for Proposal 53 and opposed to it.

In favor of Proposal 53: "It is believed that each institution should have a



Nexus file photo

**TIME'S UP?** — Wide receiver Brian Fleming has had a successful career at UCSB, one that may stand the test of time if the NCAA's new legislation effectively ends the football program.

consistent philosophy of athletics governing all of its sports. Further, adherence to such a consistent philosophy is essential in a truly federated membership structure."

Sounds like a bunch of legislative jargon to you and me, but to sum it up, the NCAA believes that what it comes down to is "a consistent philosophy."

According to the NCAA: "The intent of the legislation is to prohibit a member of Division I from being classified in Division II or Division III in football, and to prohibit a member of Division II from being classified in Division III."

"There are approximately 37 schools in Division I with over 3,000 football players playing in

either Division II or Division III. Each institution will have to make decisions that affect those 3,000 athletes."

Not everyone was pleased with the new proposal, especially those schools that are being effected.

Opposed to Proposal 53: "We are a Division I-AAA institution with a Division III football program. More than 100 student-athletes participate in our program, which is in strict compliance with Division III rules and philosophies. Our objection to Proposal 53 centers around the fact that our program, and programs like ours, will be facing an immediate future with no place to play." So now the students of

UCSB are being penalized by the NCAA — or are they? The students will be asked to pass a lock-in that would require them to pay \$9 per quarter, or \$27 per year, to support the football program at the Division I-AA level next year. In return, the students can see their Gauchos play other schools in the Big West, at a higher level of competition than the current situation.

Regardless of whether or not all that NCAA legislation seems justified, the law is the law, and UCSB has been placed between a rock and a hard place.

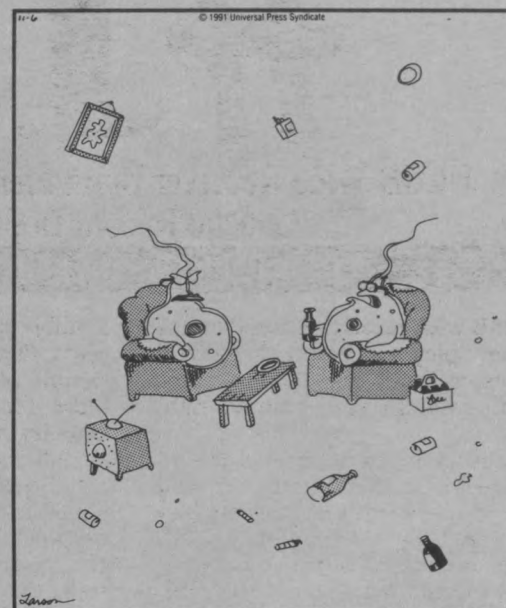
In 1990, the Gauchos played Division III. Now in 1991, they are playing Division II. If there is Gaucho football in 1992, it will be Division I.

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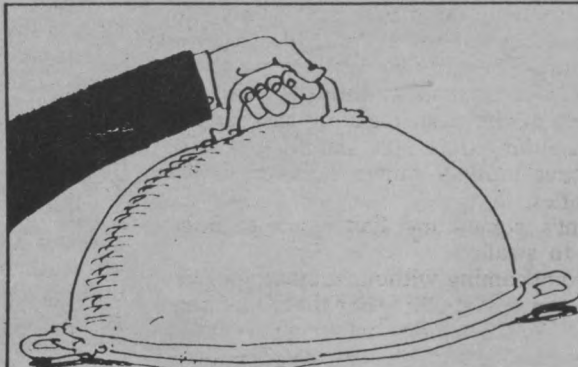
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By GARY LARSON



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## MARKS

Continued from p.2A

Much like the Gaucho program, the WLAF struggled for recognition, but Marks sees it as a league on the rise.

"I think that the World League, from day one, is a legitimate thing," he explains. "I don't think after the first year many people watched the World League as much as was expected, but it's always hard the first year. Nothing but goodness can come after this year."

If only the Gaucho football team received the same backing as the WLAF, UCSB would not be in danger of losing the program. Marks, however, is fairly confident that football is here to stay at Santa Barbara.

"There are many people in the community — the students, the administration — that are behind us," he says.

"If we go after the right kind of people, I think we'll have a real opportunity to (keep the program). We have a lot of things going for us."

One of those things is a superb offensive coordinator. But Marks was recently promoted to director of player personnel for the Birmingham Fire, which brings up the question: If the Gauchos stay, will Steve Marks stay as well?

"I have a nice relationship with the owners in Birmingham, and I think they will respect anything I'd like to do," he says cautiously. "I don't know what's going to happen. I'd like to return here, to this school and these people, but I don't know at this moment what's going to happen."

A couple of things are for sure: Marks will be involved with the game of football. And you'll probably think he's the equipment manager.



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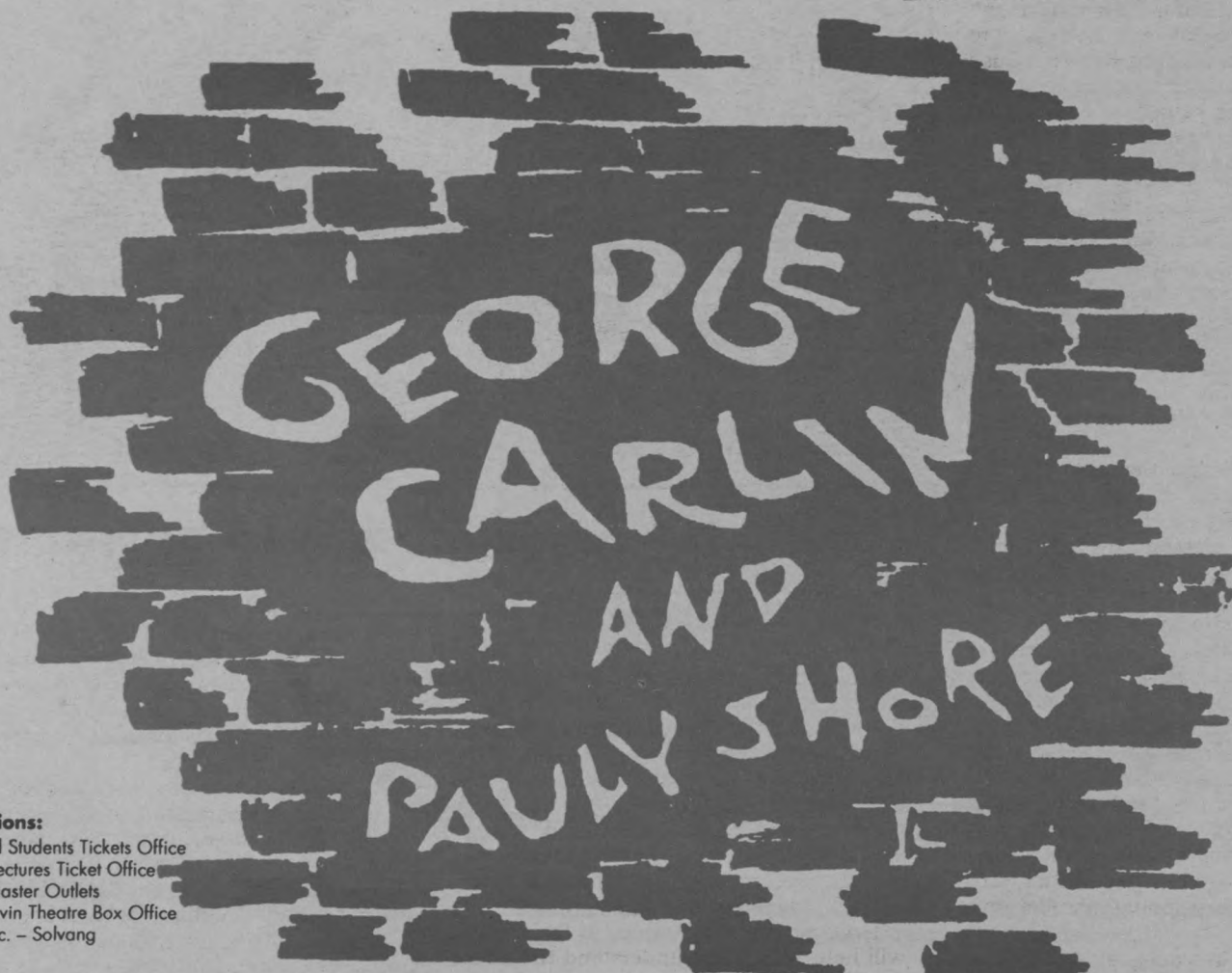
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