

SPORTS

Youthful Gauchos Set to Compete

By Yier Shi
Staff Writer

Los Angeles— Many teams have used youth as an excuse for mediocrity. This year's UCSB women's volleyball team will use it as a motivation for success.

Fielding the youngest team in school history, the Gauchos look to improve on a 26-9 finish last season and a disappointing second round exit in the NCAA tournament.

With a lineup featuring no seniors, one junior, six sophomores and six freshmen, this year's squad will make up what they lack in experience with raw talent and tight teamwork.

"We are a young team with some depth and good size," UCSB Head Coach Kathy Gregory said. "We have great ball control, and good team chemistry has helped a lot early in the season. We'll have to see how we really operate when we begin conference play."

According to Gregory, the key to this year's success will depend on the ability of the players to gel in a short period of time without a clear leader on the team.

Junior captain Jennifer Stroffe tore her anterior cruciate ligament in the second game of the season. This is the second straight season the 6'1" Stroffe has suffered a season-ending injury after a stellar freshman campaign in which she was named to

the Big West Conference All-Freshman team.

"It's a very tough loss for us," Gregory said. "She returned as the unquestioned team leader. She had a successful rehab. She just landed awkwardly during the first point of the second game of the season."

Stroffe described the incident



Jennifer Stroffe as very unfortunate.

"It's one of the hardest injuries I've ever had," she said. "But I have the heart to beat it. If it had to happen to anyone on the team, I guess it's good that it's me. I'll be back next year."

Stroffe will apply to redshirt this season for medical reasons. She has taken the quarter off from school.

Without Stroffe, the team will rely heavily on its only other junior — current captain and setter Maile Mortensen.

"A lot depends on the im-

proved play of Maile," Gregory said. "She has improved physically this year. Her setting and blocking are much better."

Mortensen returns from last year, when she averaged 10.39 assists per game and 2.1 digs per game. Playing perhaps the most important position in the game, she will be responsible for making sets to the formidable Gaucho attackers.

"What I can do for this team is to be more vocal on the court," she said. "I want to lead the team."

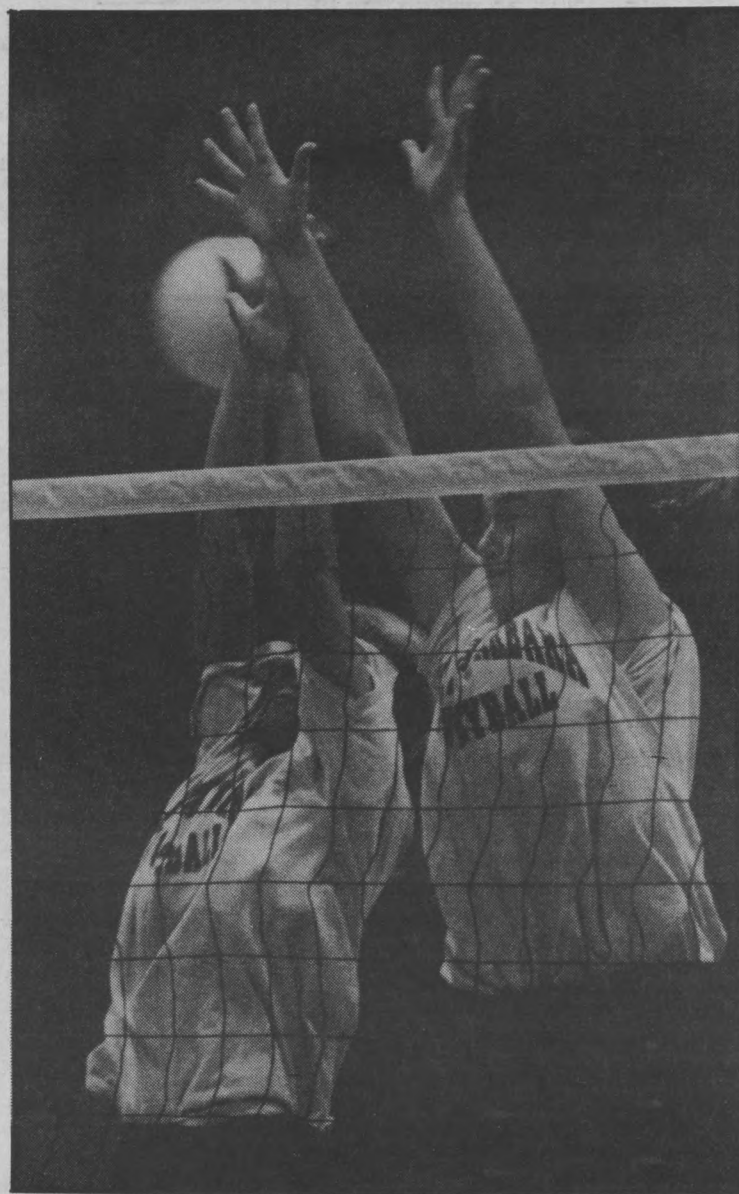
"It's tough to lose such a strong part of the team," Mortensen commented on the loss of Stroffe. "But I think we have players who are capable of stepping up and filling her shoes. With this team, it doesn't matter if you're young or old. We have a lot of potential to succeed. We need to find a spark within us."

Two of the young players the Gauchos will rely heavily on are sophomore Katie Crawford (6'3") and freshman Roberta Gehlke (5'10"). Both outside hitters will be counted on to provide the offensive punch for the team.

"Katie Crawford is a key reason for our early success," Gregory said. "She can be dominating."

Crawford was named National Women's Volleyball Player of the Week last week for

See V-BALL p.3B



LION TAMED: The young UCSB squad (7-3 overall) suffered a disappointing four-set loss Wednesday to Loyola Marymount.

Men's Soccer Starts on Wrong Foot

■ Tough Competition and Nagging Injuries Have Left UCSB Playing catch-up

By Steven Large
Staff Writer

What a difference a year makes.

The UCSB men's soccer team knows that better than most, opening its season with a 1-3-1 record — far shy of the dominating 7-0-1 mark that it took out of the starting gates last season.

But the Gauchos do have time on their side, with just one-fifth of the season completed. And Santa Barbara is not planning to continue down its current path.

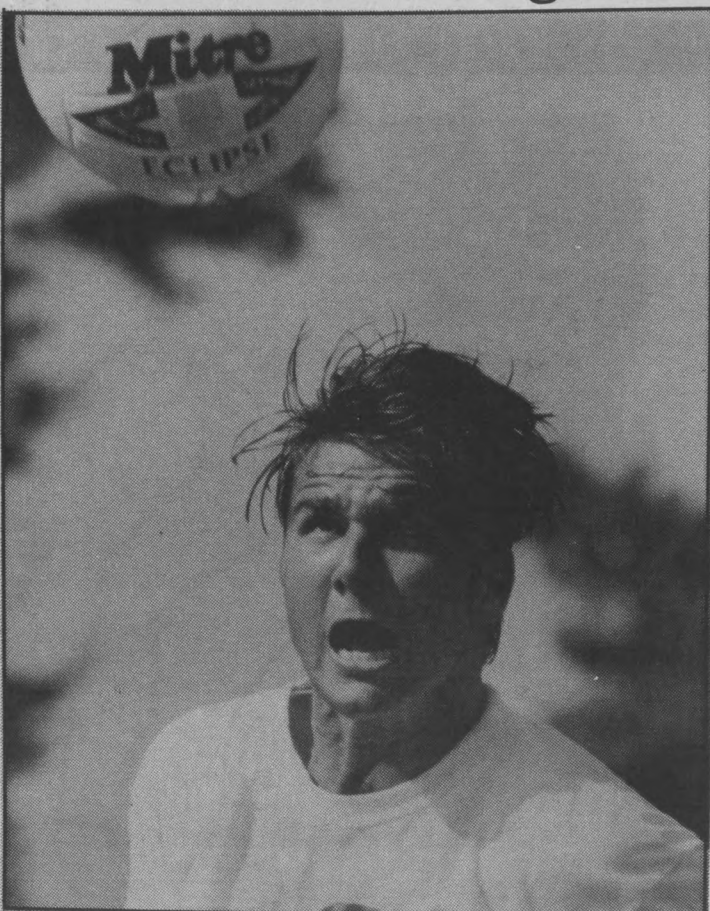
"We will make it through our 1-3 start," sophomore forward Aron Wellman said. "It's tough to say what our strengths are when we're 1-3-1, but the morale of the team is still high and we still have good aspirations of the season to come."

UCSB's struggle can be blamed in part on a plethora of injuries and the strength of its opposition so far this season.

The Gauchos lost starting sophomore goalkeeper Stewart Sanders for the year when he was kicked in the face while trying to block a goal in the second game of the season. Both cheekbones were fractured and his nose broken in the accident.

Last year's leading goal scorer, junior Danny Mann, has already suffered a pulled hamstring. He and senior Ryan Schomberg have continued to play despite nagging injuries.

Santa Barbara's three losses were all against tough teams — Fresno State, UC Berkeley and the University of San Diego.



ALAN JACOBY/Daily Nexus

BOINK: The UCSB men's soccer team is off to a rough start. Hampered by injuries, Santa Barbara is nursing a 1-3-1 record.

Both Fresno and San Diego are top-15 schools this season, and Berkeley has raced out to a commanding 6-0 start on the year.

But UCSB coaches are not looking any farther than their own team in search of the reasons behind the slow start.

"We haven't found our scoring punch," Assistant Coach Kent Edwards said. "Right now we don't have the ability to combine and finish scoring opportunities. As a team we haven't found that rhythm."

Wellman agrees, noting that Santa Barbara has not been

playing its brand of soccer on the field as of yet.

"We're not possessing the ball enough," Wellman said. "We're looking to play long and over the top and we're not

physical enough for that. We need to relax once we gain possession."

The Gauchos have a chance at bouncing back to .500 in the next week when they take on Loyola Marymount today and Westmont on Tuesday. Both games are at home and expectations are high.

Women's Soccer Season Preview

By Michael Hershfield
Reporter

The UCSB women's soccer team (1-4-1) is confident heading into the Big West Conference matches that begin Sept. 24 at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

With a team comprised of 18 underclassmen and only five juniors and seniors, Head Coach John Cossaboon knew before the season began that he would have a difficult time preparing his players for game situations. Cossaboon elected to start the non-conference season against the best teams possible, such as #2 Santa Clara and #17 University of Massachusetts, in order to provide his young team with valuable experience.

Although they dropped four of their first six games, sophomore forward Kristy Witzman believed the games were beneficial to the team.

"Instead of taking on the easier teams, we challenged ourselves in the beginning of the season. We have been improving every game, and we are playing a lot better than our record indicates," said Witzman.

One bright spot for the Gauchos has been the exceptional play of goalkeeper Ilsa Bertolini. Bertolini is a junior transfer from Santa

See WOMEN p.2B

Water Polo Season Preview

By Alex Nugent
Staff Writer

In 1979, in only his third year as head coach and amid doubts of his leadership, UCSB's water polo Coach Pete Snyder led his top-ranked Gaucho squad to a 9-1-1 start with victories over collegiate powerhouses UC Berkeley and UCLA.

The talented '79 squad, which consisted of future Olympians Craig Wilson and Greg Boyer and future All-American Peter Neushul, finished with a 28-2-1 overall record en route to a national championship — UCSB's first and only national championship in any Division I sport.

In his third season as skipper, current Santa Barbara Head Coach Joe O'Brien has found his squad starting the season with an 0-5 record, after surprising losses to Claremont College and UC Davis. This season's team has currently earned a national ranking of 11, one of the lowest in the program's history.

One reason for Santa Barbara's sluggish start could be attributed to its inexperience and lack of senior leadership. The young Gauchos have only two players on the roster with Division I experience, while the remainder of the team has had relatively no playing time at the college level.

Despite having a young team, O'Brien feels that this will be a great opportunity for the younger players to gain valuable Division I ex-

See POLO p.2B

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Project Title:
Tennis Courts Relocation

Project Description:

The proposed project involves the relocation of six tennis courts, a shed and bleachers. The tennis courts will be relocated from their current location, between Parking Lot 16 and University Road, to a site south of Mesa Road, between the Environmental Health and Safety Facility, and the Recreation Center. The relocated tennis courts will be landscaped, lit, fenced, and connected to the campus pedestrian circulation system. The light fixtures will have glare shields and concentric louvers to concentrate light onto the tennis courts and minimize glare. The capacity of the bleachers will not be expanded by the Relocation Project. The purpose of this Project is to consolidate recreational facilities consistent with the 1990 LRDP. The LRDP land use designation for the site is Recreation.

For Additional Information:

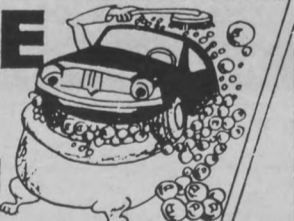
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Season Preview

Gauchos Pick Up Pace

By **Bryan Pon**
Reporter

With both the men's and women's cross country teams coming off of strong performances last year, UCSB Head Coach Pete Dolan's crew of runners are hoping to maintain speed as the fall season gets under way.

Men

With the loss of their top three runners to graduation, the men's team is in need of strong leadership if they hope to repeat as conference champs. Junior captain Ben Flamm has risen to the occasion, leading the squad as its top runner.

After a summer of training together, the men's team — led by Flamm, Liam Jones and Nate Jobe — won their first meet and finished second in the second race of the season.

"I thought we did surprisingly well in our first two meets," Dolan said. "We've already taken

down a lot of strong teams so far."

On Sept. 28 the Gauchos will host the Big West Challenge Cup. "We are expecting to dominate the field ... because we're racing on our own course and should be able to perform well," top-six runner David Blum said.

Women

After winning the title two years in a row before finishing second last year, the women's team is looking to recapture the coveted Big West crown. Despite a lackluster performance at their first meet, the team stepped up its intensity and ran well at the UC Irvine Invitational on Sept. 14.

"Talentwise, this is as good a team as I've ever had," Dolan said. "Although we had a rough start, the women turned it around and really impressed me at UC Irvine."

The women's squad is led by senior captain Eliza Alexander and junior Gabriela Rodriguez.

WOMEN

Continued from p.1B

Rosa Junior College, where she earned First Team All-American honors as a goalkeeper. She is the only person on the team to play all of UCSB's 570 minutes thus far. Bertolini has decreased the team's goals-against average, from 2.53 last year to 1.89, while recording 37 saves.

Coach Cossaboon said, "Ilsa combines good, sound skills with a high level of athleticism. But the most unique thing about Ilsa Bertolini, and the reason I recruited her, is that she has the ability to come up with the game-winning save. She can completely take over a game."

The Gauchos' primary

weakness has been on offense, scoring an average of only .95 goals per game. Sophomore forward Darcie Frounfelter has been involved with four of UCSB's six goals, leading the team with two goals and two assists. Senior Kenna Bertell also has two goals on only four shot attempts.

Cossaboon thinks the team will score more goals once they are comfortable on defense. "Our early-season emphasis has been on team defense, and getting all 11 players to defend as a group of one. Just in recent days have we grown confident with our defense, and we are starting to expand and concentrate on things offensively. We haven't been scoring a large number of goals yet, but I do think that is going to come right around the corner."

POLO

Continued from p.1B

perience early in their collegiate careers, a chance they would not get otherwise.

"Every game is going to be tough for us because we

have a very young team," he said. "I don't think anybody on this team has any illusions that this season is going to be an easy one."

"The situation here at UCSB is better than it has been for a while. I have

See POLO p.3B

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V-BALL

Continued from p.1B her performance at the Santa Clara Volleyball Classic and for her play against #2 Stanford, becoming only the second player in Gaucho history to receive that honor.

Last year, Crawford was named to the Big West All-Freshman team with 1.43 kills per game and .78 blocks per game in conference play.

Perhaps the most pleasant surprise of the season has been the play of Gehlke.

"Roberta Gehlke is by far the best freshman ever to start at UCSB," Gregory said. "She has an all-around game. She's very aggressive and competitive. We look for great things from her."

Coming out of Mater Dei High School in Orange County, Gehlke was considered by many to be one of the three best outside hitters in the country.

However, Gehlke maintained that the high expectations will not hamper her progress and that her contribution to the team is the most important thing this season.

"On this team, it's not

about who's a freshman or sophomore, it's about coming together and playing to win," she said. "There is no pressure on me at all. I don't look at it that way."

Other key players are sophomores Erin McCown, Tanya Yamashita and freshman Heather Bown.

The 5'11" McCown was also a Big West All-Freshman selection last year with 1.7 kpg and 2.67 digs per game.

The 6'3" Bown is currently third on the team with 3.03 kpg.

Former walk-on Yamashita is a defensive specialist who is returning from playing a key role last year as a freshman.

The Gauchos lost three outstanding starters from last year's team. Middle blockers Tammy Stiner and Jennifer Kaylor both had career years, and star outside hitter Kim Keys became the first Gaucho to rank in the top 10 in career kills, digs and blocks.

So far in the preseason, the #15 Gauchos have posted an impressive 7-3 mark with one of the more challenging preseason schedules. Gregory maintains that there is a lot of work to be done.

"We've played very well,

considering our youth," she said. "But we have some weaknesses."

After a tough 4-set loss to #16 Loyola Marymount University Wednesday, Gregory was first to point out the defense as being one of the weaker areas of the game.

"Our passing wasn't good enough and our rhythm was too slow," Gregory said. "It's always been a tradition here at UCSB that we have good defense. Ours will get better. We're just a little soft right now."

The Gauchos have played six of the top 20 teams in the country.

The team posted victories over then-#10 San Diego State and #23 Oral Roberts University. However, they suffered two tough defeats against #13 USC and #2 Stanford.

The USC game was especially tough for Gregory.

"The one disappointment has been a tough five-set loss to USC," she said. "We served the ball into the net twice on match point after taking a two-set lead. We ended up losing in five sets."

The Gauchos will close out their preseason with a home game against Pepperdine on Saturday.

POLO

Continued from p.2B guys that want to play Division I polo. There's nothing better than coaching a bunch of guys who know they have a lot to learn but are willing to work at it."

An off-season controversy last spring left the

team in disarray, as only two of the 15 players from last year's traveling squad have returned for another season.

One of the returning players, sophomore Ryan Peddycord, leads the team in scoring, with seven goals in five games.

In the cage, sophomores Lance Wahlert and

Aaron Withrow have been responsible for the Gauchos' defense, allowing an average of 9.5 and 12.0 goals per game, respectively.

Snyder silenced his critics when he won the only national championship in UCSB history. Will Joe O'Brien be able to silence his?

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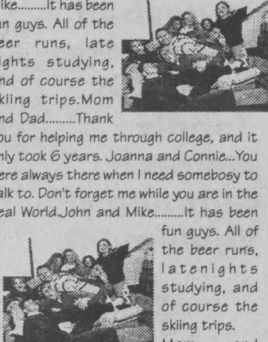
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